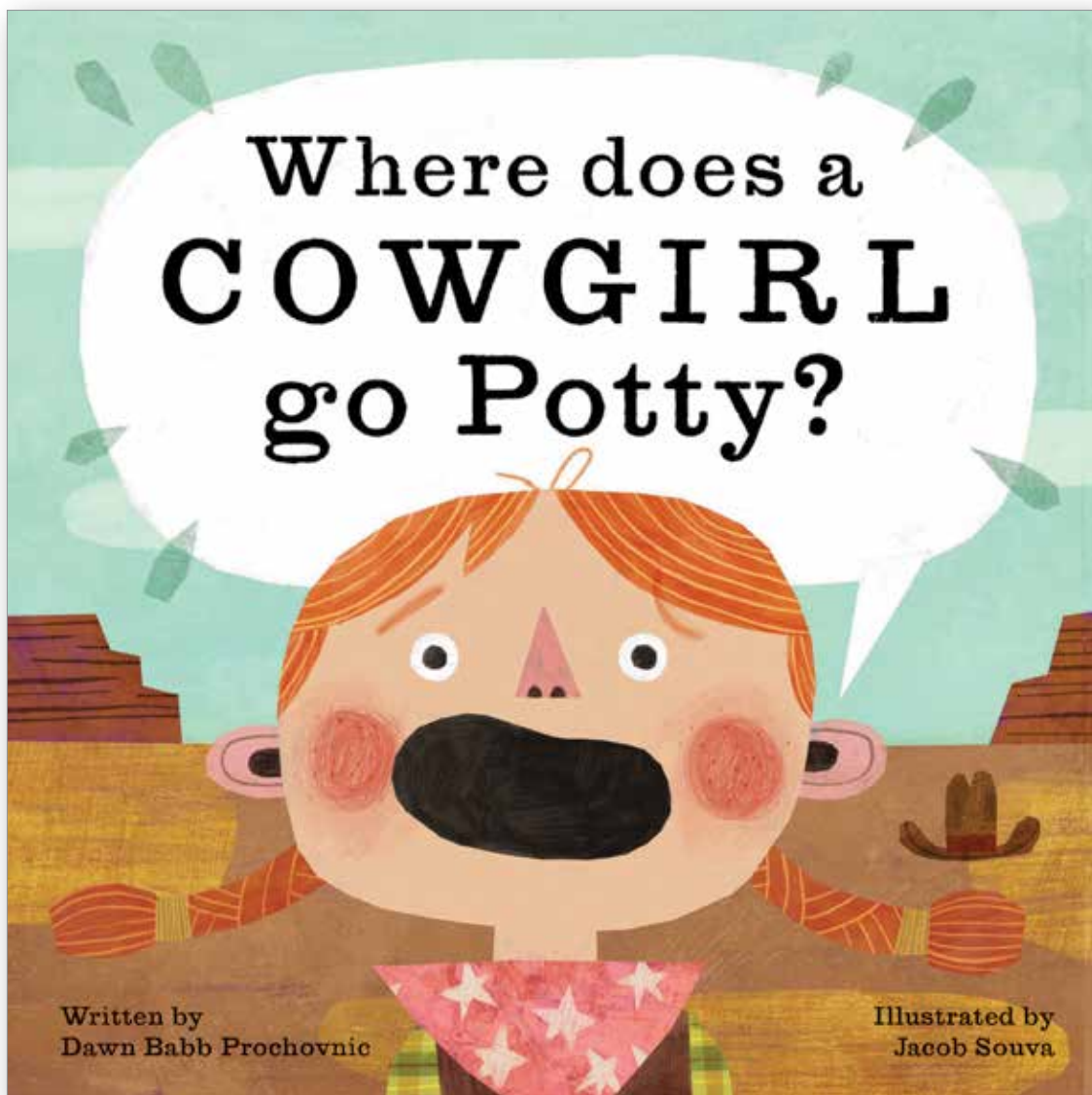


BOOK GUIDE FOR  
***Where Does a  
Cowgirl Go Potty?***

Written by Dawn Babb Prochovnic

Illustrated by Jacob Souva



Fry Readability: 2

Lexile Measure: 470L

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# SUMMARY

“Howdy, pardner! Where does a cowgirl go potty around here?” When a cowgirl’s got to go, she’s got to go! As she walks through open pastures and deep canyons, she learns where the bison, hawk, coyote, and other animals go, but where in the West can this cowgirl go potty?!

This book is a companion to *Where Does a Pirate Go Potty?*

Book trailer: <https://youtu.be/VCC90qkNk7I>

Song credit: Marshall Mitchell, Singer/Songwriter/Performing Musician,  
[www.marshallmitchell.com](http://www.marshallmitchell.com)



## About the Author

Dawn Babb Prochovnic is an author, educator, speaker, and the founder of SmallTalk Learning, which provides American Sign Language education. She has written several children’s books and led workshops to support early literacy. Visit her at [dawnprochovnic.com](http://dawnprochovnic.com).



## About the Illustrator

Jacob Souva is a designer and an illustrator of children’s books, including *Where Does a Cowgirl Go Potty?*, *Where Does a Pirate Go Potty?*, and *Pedro’s Pan*. He finds inspiration in texture and pattern, and loves incorporating his process into his artwork. Visit him at [twofishillustration.com](http://twofishillustration.com).

## Pre-Reading Discussion Questions

- Look at the expression on the cowgirl's face on the front cover. What descriptive words could you use to describe the cowgirl's emotions?
- Turn the book over to look at the back cover. Can you identify all the animals?
- Based on the title and the illustrations on the front and back covers, do you predict this will be a serious story or a humorous story? What clues did you use to make your prediction?

## Post-Reading Discussion Questions

- The main character in this story has a distinct voice. What are some words or phrases that she uses in this story that offer clues that she is a cowgirl?
- Some of the words used in the story are incorrectly spelled because they are slang or cowgirl-speak. Can you find at least five words that are misspelled?
- Create your own cowgirl glossary of terms! You can find a variety of Western-themed glossaries here: <https://www.pinterest.com/dawnprochovnic/where-does-a-cowgirl-go-potty-childrens-book-by-da/cowgirl-lingo-slang-vocabulary-words-jargon-glossa/>
- The cowgirl uses several different exclamations throughout the story. How many exclamations can you find? What is your favorite exclamation in the story?
- There are a variety of different settings the cowgirl visits during the story. How many different settings can you name?
- This story is humorous fiction, but it incorporates some nonfiction facts. What are some examples of factual information that is incorporated into this story? (Hint: think about animal habitat and the settings.)

- The illustrator uses colors and texture to provide visual clues about what is going to happen next in the story. For example, the artwork incorporated into the pony's speech bubble matches the color and texture of the deep canyon that appears on the next page. This technique is called **foreshadowing**. Can you give another example of how foreshadowing was used in the illustrations in this story? What predictions were you able to make because of this foreshadowing?
- Look again at the animals on the back cover. Are there any that you couldn't identify earlier that you can identify now?
- Have you ever experienced a situation when you needed to use the potty, but you had to wait for the right time or place? What descriptive words could you use to describe your feelings or emotions in this situation?

**Foreshadowing** means to predict something or to hint to something that happens later.

## Science

- Make a list of the animals that appear in the story. Based on the clues provided by the words and/or illustrations, make a **hypothesis** about the habitat of each animal featured in the story.
- The story incorporates several animals that can be found in the western United States. Choose one of the animals and research three facts about that particular animal's habitat. Share the facts you learned with a partner.
- Bonus! Compare the facts you discovered during your research to the hypothesis you made. Did the facts you discovered support your hypothesis?

A **hypothesis** is an idea or explanation you make and then test through experimentation.

## Math

- Count the total number of characters in the story. How many are animals? How many are human? (Hint: the page spread near the end where the cowgirl finds "the perfect spot" shows all the characters in one place.)
- How many times does the cowgirl's hat appear in the story? Don't forget the title page!
- How many patches of sagebrush can you find in the story?



# Activities

**Share your experience!** Think about a time you needed to use the potty, but you had to wait for the right time or place. Write about how you felt and what happened, and share your story with a partner.

**Make a comic!** Choose your favorite animals and figure out what sounds they make. Draw and write a story of the animals, incorporating speech bubbles. Read your story to a partner.


**What does the hat say?** The cowgirl's hat appears in many different places and situations throughout the story. Choose one of the pages where the hat appears in the story. On a separate piece of paper, draw the hat and create a speech bubble for it. What do you think the hat would say on that page? Write it down in the speech bubble.

**Say Thank You!** At the end of the book, the cowgirl leaves a Thank You note for the rancher. Think about someone you want to thank. Who is this person, and why do you want to send them a Thank You note? Decorate your own note and give it to that person.

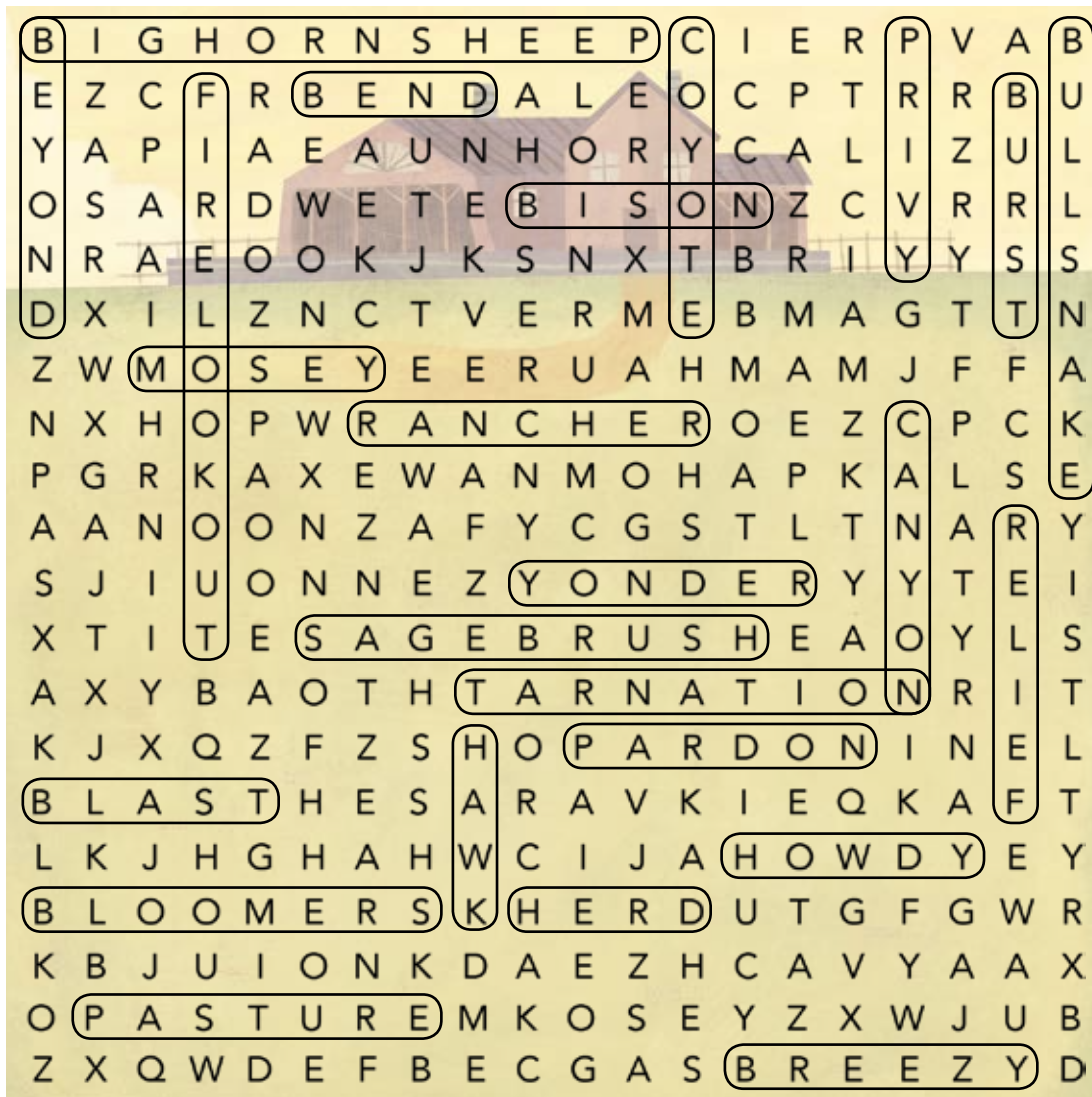


# Word Search



- |               |            |              |         |           |
|---------------|------------|--------------|---------|-----------|
| Bighorn Sheep | Bloomers   | Coyote       | Mosey   | Relief    |
| Bend          | Breezy     | Fire Lookout | Pardon  | Sagebrush |
| Beyond        | Bull Snake | Hawk         | Pasture | Tarnation |
| Bison         | Burst      | Herd         | Privy   | Yonder    |
| Blast         | Canyon     | Howdy        | Rancher |           |

# Word Search Answer Key



- |               |            |              |         |           |
|---------------|------------|--------------|---------|-----------|
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# Perform a Skit or Readers' Theatre

This book is perfect not just to read out loud, but also to act out!

Follow these steps to put on a great show.

1. Assign roles for the following characters:

- Cowgirl
- Ranch Dog
- Pony
- Coyote
- Bighorn Sheep
- Bull Snake
- Bison
- Hawk
- Chorus



2. Print a copy of the script provided below for each performer.

(Consider laminating the scripts so they will last longer).

3. Practice reading through the script several times until each character's lines flow smoothly.

4. Arrange for costumes, if desired (not required).

5. Invite an audience of parents and/or other students.

6. Deliver your very best performance to your audience.

7. Take a bow!

If you choose to record your performance, share it on social media and tag

@westmarginpress, @dawnprochovnic, and @twofish/@jacobsouva.

Author Dawn Prochovnic will occasionally select student performers to recognize with a brief Skype author visit.



## Script for Skit/Readers' Theatre, Page 1

**Cowgirl:** Howdy, pardner! Where does a cowgirl go potty around here?

**Ranch Dog:** You can let 'er loose anywhere in that grassy pasture, little lady.  
Just follow yer nose.

**Cowgirl:** Thanks! I'll get right to it.

**Chorus:** Naaaaayyyy!

**Pony:** This is where a pony goes potty!

**Cowgirl:** Beg your pardon. I'm lookin' fer a place a cowgirl can go potty.

**Pony:** You can leave yer load in that deep canyon, missy.

**Cowgirl:** Good idea. I sure am ready.  
Oh my, it's breezy down here.

**Chorus:** Yip-yip-yow-ooooh!

**Coyote:** This is where a coyote goes potty!

**Cowgirl:** No need to holler. Where in tarnation do you expect me to go?

**Coyote:** Head fer the hills!

**Cowgirl:** This looks like a purdy nice spot.

**Chorus:** Baaaaaaah!



## Script for Skit/Readers' Theatre, Page 2

**Bighorn Sheep:** This is where a bighorn sheep goes potty!

**Cowgirl:** Well ring my bell! Where can a cowgirl get some relief?

**Bighorn Sheep:** Mosey thattaway. Just past the sagebrush.

**Cowgirl:** Whoo-ee, I gotta go!

**Chorus:** Hisssssss!

**Cowgirl:** Yipes!

**Bull Snake:** Thisssss isssss where a bull ssssssnake goessssssss potty!

**Cowgirl:** Dad-gum! Where can a poor cowgirl go potty?

**Bull Snake:** The open range is the bessssst sssssspot.

**Cowgirl:** Blazin' buckaroos! This better be the right place.

**Chorus:** Snooorrrrt!

**Cowgirl:** Holy cow!

**Bison:** I'm a bison, ma'am. And this is where a bison goes potty!

**Cowgirl:** Good golly. I reckon I might lose it right here. Where does a cowgirl go potty?



## Script for Skit/Readers' Theatre, Page 3

**Bison:** Try that fire lookout up yonder.

**Cowgirl:** Part the herd. I'm comin' through!  
Whew! I'm fixin' to burst!

**Chorus:** Splaaaat!

**Cowgirl:** What in thunderation?!

**Hawk:** This is where a hawk goes potty!

**Cowgirl:** Horse feathers! If I don't find a potty soon, I'm gonna blast my bloomers!

**Hawk:** The place yer lookin' for is beyond the next bend.

**Cowgirl:** Glory be! I've found the perfect spot!

**All the Animals and Chorus:** Not the Rancher's private privy?!

**Cowgirl:** Yee-ha! Now THIS is where a cowgirl goes potty!



# Resources

Although *Where Does a Cowgirl Go Potty?* is a humorous story, it can be tied to the study of more serious, science-related topics and provide an opportunity to raise awareness about serious issues, such as the importance of water sanitation. The story can also be linked to a variety of Western-themed activities and explorations. Here are some related resources to support reader interest:

**Cool science:** Link to a YouTube video playlist featuring fascinating stories about toilets, animal poop, and related topics:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs4Np20HjD4GwpcTDEunxpP1puOfv4IsE>

**Gross science:** Link to a YouTube video playlist featuring different animals species going potty in their natural habitat:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs4Np20HjD4EBRffKs7sGz8\\_qYJnJyAzx](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs4Np20HjD4EBRffKs7sGz8_qYJnJyAzx)

**Animal science:** Link to a YouTube video playlist featuring some of the species of animals included in this story:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs4Np20HjD4GD5P31Q4HItNeUTb1mF1bR>

**World Toilet Day** is November 19 each year. The purpose of this observance is to raise awareness about the importance of water sanitation. Water1st International is an organization that supports sustainable clean water projects and toilets for the world's poorest communities. Visit their website for curriculum guides related to this topic:

<https://water1st.org/>

**Find a list of rodeo locations across the United States here:**

<http://www.prorodeo.com/prorodeo/rodeo/rodeo-schedule>

**Find a variety of cowgirl/western-themed activity ideas here:**

<https://www.dawnprochovnic.com/2019/04/start-to-finish-story-time-expanded.html>