Farmers McFitt’s frisky sheep are on the loose. These naughty lambkins think no one can see them frolicking at the circus, on the beach, at the movies— even in the art museum. But Farmer McFitt is on their tails!

Beaty’s smart couplets and Mayer’s retro-inflected pen-and-ink artwork give the story its freshness. The illustrations are filled with enough humor to prompt requests for rereading and include plenty of jokes for adults as well. — Publishers Weekly

Fun Across the Curriculum

Math and Science

Count! In each scenario of this book, a different number of runaway sheep frolic away from the farm. If none of the sheep are in more than one picture, how many would there be altogether?

Okapi cats! The sheep who head to the circus meet an Okapi. Do a little research about this animal with an unusual name. Where do Okapis usually live? In real life, would sheep and Okapi live in the same environment? Why or why not? What about chimpanzees? Kangaroos?

Touch! Feel samples of unprocessed wool. Now touch wool roving and wool yarn (available at craft stores). How are they different? Why do you think that is?

Test! Wool is a fiber made of sheep fleece. Wash pieces of a holey old wool sweater or mitten in very warm water and dry them. What happens? Why don’t sheep coats shrink in the rain? (Hint: find out what lanolin is.)

Language Arts

Word Study: What words rhyme with sheep? Are they all spelled the same way? What about hide? These sheep are described as frisky. What does that word mean? What other animals can be described as frisky?

Writer’s Workshop: Pretend that Farmer McFitt has pigs or some other animal instead of sheep. Write a story in which those animals escape. Where do they go? What do they do? How can Farmer McFitt catch up with them?

Creative Art

Illustrator’s Workshop: The art in this book uses watercolor paint and dark pen lines. Try this technique to make your own art. Draw a picture that shows what the sheep do when Farmer McFitt finally gets back to bed.

Knit Wits! Knitting can be simple or complicated. Try knitting with yarn using finger knitting, a spool knitter, a circle knitter, or big needles and fluffy yarn.

Disguise Yourself! The sheep in this book wear disguises at the movie. Make your own disguise and see if people recognize you.

See ‘em at the Museum! There’s interesting artwork at the museum the sheep visit. Visit a local museum or library and find another piece of famous art you can re-draw or paint with sheep.

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