

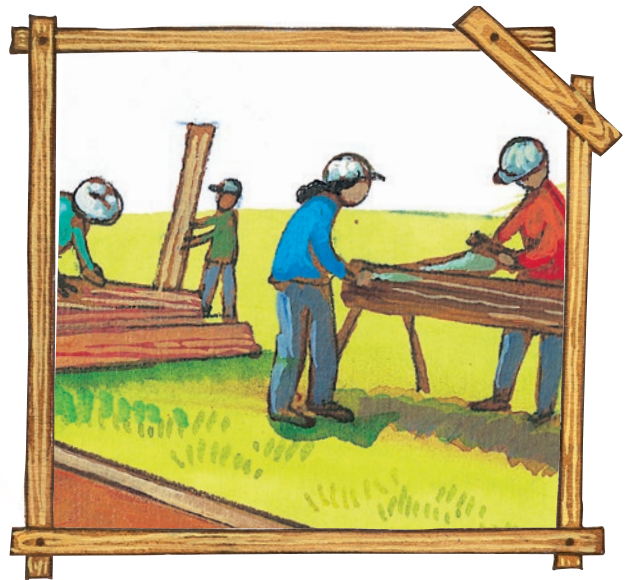
Building a New Barn

by Margaret Maugenest

The farmer looks at her barn.
Once, the barn looked good. The
wood boards were straight. The roof
was strong.

Now the barn is
old. The planks sag.
The roof is sinking in.
The paint is chipped.

The farmer is not
happy. She wants to
build a new barn.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

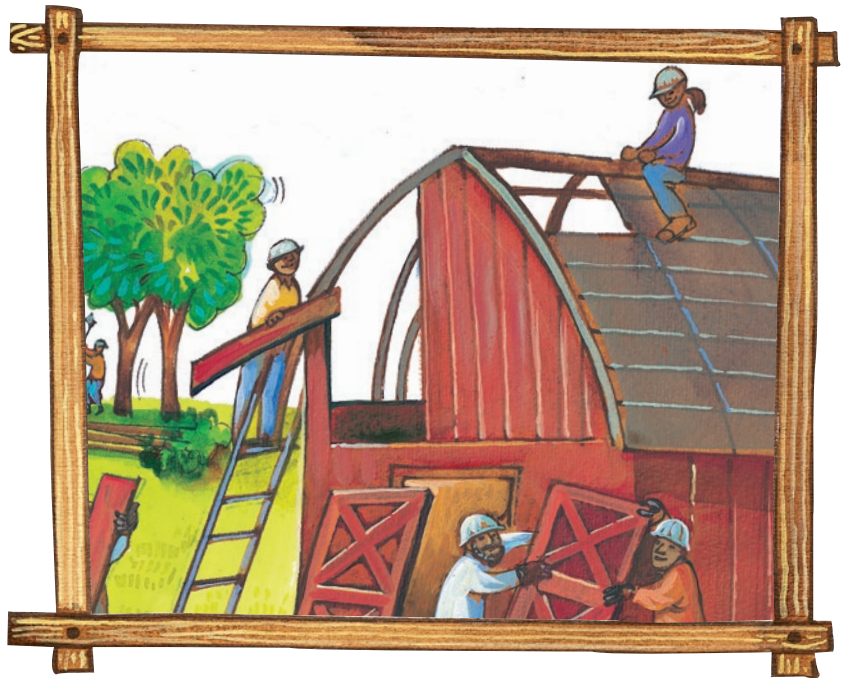
Why does the farmer want to build a new barn?

Getting Started

A crew of helpers comes. Some of the workers are from town. Some of them come from other farms. They are all ready to work!

First, they tear down the old barn. The workers take away the used planks.

Some people chop down nearby trees. They saw the wood into planks. The new planks will be used to build the barn.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Retell

What is the first thing the workers do?

Everyone Helps!

Some people will build the barn. There are other jobs, too.

The workers will get hungry. So some people will make lunch for them.

A few workers brought their children. The children watch. They will see how a barn is built. Some day they may build a barn.



READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

Why doesn't everyone help build the barn?

The Work Begins

To begin, workers place big blocks of stone in the ground. These will make the base of the barn.

Next, the builders make a frame for each wall. They measure the wood. Then they saw it into pieces.

The pieces are joined together. The team uses nails. The nails are metal. Sometimes they use pegs. The pegs are carved from wood.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Retell

Explain how the builders make the frames for the barn.

Step by Step

Soon it is time to raise the barn. Workers lift the frames by hand. It is hard work. They need help. So other workers use long poles to push the frames into place.

The top comes next. Some workers climb the frame. They must be good at balancing on the frame so they do not fall off.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

How are the frames raised and pushed into place?

The workers pull up long planks of wood. The planks stretch across the top of the barn. They fit into slots in the frame.

All the parts are nailed down. Now the roof will be very strong. Some barn roofs are slanted. Others are curved. This roof is curved.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Retell

What happens after the workers fit the wood planks into the frame?

A New Barn!

The workers stop for lunch. Then they go back to work. It is almost dark when the last nail is hammered into place. The workers feel excitement. They are happy and smiling. The barn is finished!

The new barn looks great. The farmer is very happy. She thanks everyone.

The workers are tired. They walk to their cars and trucks, and they go home.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Retell

Explain how to build a barn. Use the story to help you.

Reread and Respond



1 Compare what the children do with what the grownups do.

Hint

For clues, see page 28.

2 How does the farmer feel at the beginning of the story? How does she feel at the end? Why?

Hint

For clues, see pages 26 and 32.

3 How do you think the workers on the team began learning how to build barns?

Hint

For clues, see page 28.