



## The Happy Hocky Family Moves to the Country

By Lane Smith

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### The Happy Hocky Family Moves to the Country By Lane Smith

There is a new book about the Happy Hocky Family. They have moved. Now they live in the country in a nice old house. Now when it rains outside, it rains inside their house, too. No more alarm clocks! The neighbor's rooster goes "COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO" at 5:30. Look! Henry has made a bird feeder. The squirrels think it is a fine feeder. See Holly make a pretty bouquet of plants with three leaves. See Holly itch. Read the book! Have fun.

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*By Lane Smith*

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## The Happy Hocky Family Moves to the Country By Lane Smith Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-5-Look! The Happy Hocky family is back! Look! They are moving to the country! In little vignettes, Smith shows their trials and tribulations. There's the new house that's really an old house, interesting neighbors, renegade squirrels and rabbits, and, of course, the ubiquitous county fair. The flat '50s style illustrations are printed on tan paper that adds dimension and texture. The art is combined with unusual typeface layouts on half and single pages and double-page spreads. Unfortunately, for all its intended humor, this book will have a tough time finding an audience. The parody of "Dick and Jane"-style readers doesn't work when children don't know the original references, and those who will get some of the humor will find the book "too easy." This is a clever book that is more likely to amuse adults.

*Tali Balas, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, New York City*

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From [Booklist](#)

PreS-Gr. 2. The Hocky family isn't exactly back; they have just moved to the country--with hilariously predictable results. Smith's masterly stick figures on rough, brown paper backgrounds find that words have different meanings in the country ("garbage collector" means a raccoon in the trash can). They also learn that plants (poison ivy) and farm animals (stinky when the wind changes) have down sides. The approach is side-splittingly deadpan. "In the country there are lots of new games to play. This one is called FIND THE DRIVEWAY," reads the text, which is accompanied by a picture showing the Hockys surrounded by snow. Smith does wonderful things with squiggles of ink, matte colors, and a little collage, and the play of text against image is relentless. Ten of the eleven activities on the school calendar are chili dinner fund-raisers for the new cafeteria, which welcomes students by serving--you guessed it. Funny, and oddly comforting.

*GraceAnne DeCandido*

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Review

Lane Smith's books are just plain fun. . . . Your 6-year old [will] love the Hockys. -- *New York Times Book Review*

The amiable, rustic quality of the pages belies the . . . tongue-in-cheek humor of this mock primer. -- *Publishers Weekly, starred review*

### Users Review

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**Mary Todd:**

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**Angeline Stallings:**

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