



*Meet Eric Seltzer*  
**Author of The Really Silly Animals Collection**

**About the Books**

**What are space cows or diner dogs or roller bears? Find out in this series of six delightfully silly Pre-Level 1 Ready-to-Reads by Eric Seltzer and Tom Disbury.**

Beginning readers will be giggling over animals doing silly, unusual, or out-of-this-world things. Meet cows that live in space, pigs that throw a party, owls that are knights, sheep that swim in the sea, bears that roller skate, and dogs that have a diner.

With Ready-to-Read no matter what level you are, you're always a star! Ready-to-Read is designed to turn every child into a reading star with five levels that help develop young readers. From nonfiction series to original stories and everything in between, Ready-to-Read has something for everyone.

**Q&A with Eric**

**Q: With books like *Diner Dogs*, *Roller Bears*, and *Space Cows*, where does your inspiration come from when creating a new character?**

A: I get my inspiration from other authors and illustrators. The list is long and it seems I discover new writers and illustrators all the time. Some of my favorites include Ted Geisel, PD Eastman, James Marshall, Sandra Boynton, Mem Fox, Ian Falconer, Melanie Watt, Mo Willems, Cythia Rylant, Harriet Ziefert, and many others.

Getting an idea can be really, really hard—but once I find a character that can sustain a story, the fun begins. Often the story writes itself to a great extent. It's almost like I'm not writing it, but that the story is just coming through me.

**Q: Could you describe your creative process for us and share how you go about writing this series for those young readers who are just beginning to learn to recognize letters and words alongside an adult?**

A: My creative process includes reading, reading, and more reading. Constantly discovering wonderful authors and illustrators. I think that using humor adds likability to stories. I think that if kids enjoy the experience they will want to read more and more.

**Q: What would you say to teachers and librarians who are looking for ways to introduce the Really Silly Animals Collection in their classrooms and libraries?**

A: I would hope that teachers and librarians will give The Really Silly Animals Collection a chance. I think it will give kids a giggle and that in turn will open up the wonderful world of reading to them.

The publication of *Diner Dogs* marks the tenth book I've written or illustrated with Simon and Schuster. This includes The Doodle Dog series and *Arf, Buzz, Cluck*—a rather noisy alphabet. So, happy anniversary to us! It's been a wonderful experience, and I look forward to making more fun books for children.

## Extension Activities for *Space Cows*

- *Space Cows* is filled with many different kinds of cows. Discuss the characteristics of the cows in the story, and review some of the shapes that the illustrator used to draw them. Ask students to create their own space cows. Offer construction paper, crayons, craft sticks, glue, and children's modeling clay.
- *Space Cows* is a fun, fictional story about cows who have adventures in outer space. Ask students what they think the space cows might do when they land on a planet "near you," as the end of the story indicates. After generating some ideas, ask students to draw a picture of their prediction.

To learn more about Ready-to-Read, visit [ReadytoRead.com](http://ReadytoRead.com).

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