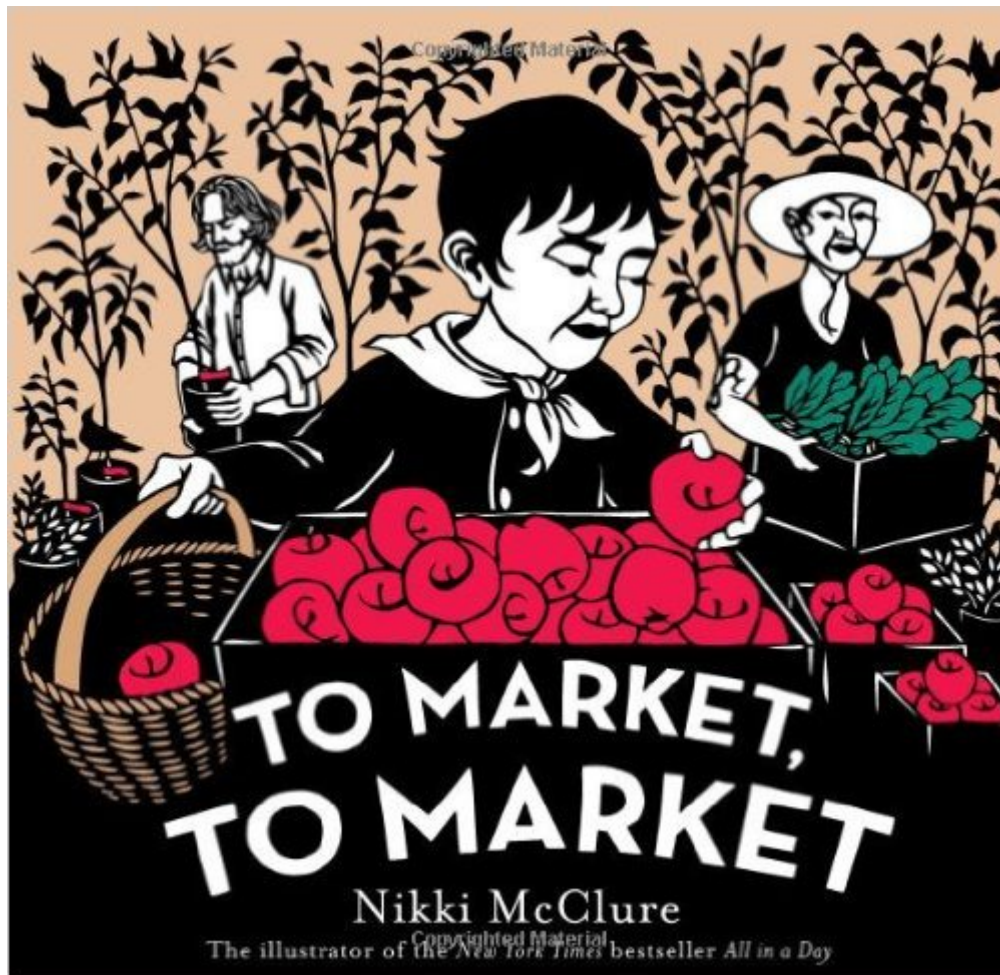


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# To Market, To Market



## Synopsis

Known for art that celebrates the virtues of community, hard work, and living gently on the planet, Nikki McClure here explores a topic close to her heart: the farmers market. Alternating between story and fact, this lovingly crafted picture book follows a mother and son to the weekly market. As they check off items on their shopping list, the reader learns how each particular food was grown or produced, from its earliest stages to how it ended up at the market. To Market, to Market is a timely book that shines awareness on the skill that goes into making good food. Praise for To Market, to Market: **STARRED REVIEW** "These soulful images never feel static" an amazing feat for such a deliberate, painstaking medium." — Kirkus Reviews, starred review **AWARD: WINNER: 2012** Washington State Book Award, Children's Picture Books

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (April 1, 2011)

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Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews — (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #514,488 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Farming & Agriculture #360 in Books > Children's Books > Children's Cookbooks #6659 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

My six-year-old and I enjoyed reading Nikki McClure's descriptions of a farmer's market. Even more so, we enjoyed the beautiful cut-paper illustrations generously scattered throughout the book. A young boy and his mother visit the local farmer's market to purchase produce for a family dinner. On the list - apples, kale, smoked salmon, honey, blueberry turnovers, napkins, and cheese. As the pair visits each stall, readers are provided a glimpse into how each stall vendor produced or made his/her wares. There's Michael the apple vendor who uses the grafting method to grow apple trees.

My daughter (both of us love gardening) liked reading about the care that goes into maintaining a healthy apple tree. We then read about Colin and Genine the kale growers. It was interesting to read that there are different variations of kale with interesting names like Dinosaur and Red Russian! Steve the smoked salmon vendor explains the process of making smoked salmon with three essential ingredients - healthy, fresh fish; rock salt; and, alder smoke. We also learned how honey is procured, how blueberry turnovers are baked, the process of making napkins using traditional Japanese methods, and how a mother-daughter pair makes cheese. This picture book is a delight on so many levels - the text is informative but not dense or full of jargon (which makes it a great read for children) and the vivid and unique cut paper illustrations render each picture a wonder to look at and peruse. The final scene of a happy family settling down to a simple yet hearty meal puts a nice finishing touch to the book. Highly recommended!

Nikki McClure's woodcuts are beautiful, as they are in all of her work. This is the story of a young child who goes to the farmers market. Each "chapter" of the book is about one of the farmers/artisans and what they do to grow or make what they sell at the market -- e.g. the couple who grows kale, the family who makes goat cheese, the guy who raises honeybees and sells honey, etc. At the end of the book the child has a big meal with his family/friends incorporating all of the items purchased at the market. Each chapter thanks the farmer and the animals for their hard work. This is a wonderful book for maybe 4-6 year olds, and also a great book for the Montessori classroom. The text is basically matter-of-fact, realistic portrayals of what people do to make cheese, grow vegetables, etc. combined with those gorgeous illustrations. Be warned though that this is NOT a quick read -- there is a lot of text in each chapter, so don't expect to be able to polish this off quickly at your kid's bedtime!

I bought this book after finishing my Montessori training because I was looking for books that had realistic topics and real, specific vocabulary. I love this book as an educator and mother because it describes the growing, preparation and selling process of food products using technical terms (rootstock, scion, alder smoke) which is great for young children who are little sponges for this kind of information. I've read this to children from 2 - 10 years old and they all love it, but the age that loves it most seems to be about 2-7. The pictures are stunning, the story is nice ( I like the fact that the smoked salmon and honey sellers trade their products, and that the author thanks the beekeeper, as well as the bees for the honey) and it's a great way to promote an appreciation for local products and small farmers in young children.

The illustrations are wonderful works of art, but you must be ready for, in all the market scenes, for only one M-F couple. Every possible variety is illustrated here. It is SO-o-o-o politically correct for a liberal college town (i.e. Olympia, Washington). It comprises a very nice, if uninspired, factual explanation of many experiences to be had at the farmer's market. I really appreciated that it covered the vagaries of what may be available at different times, and how that depends on both nature and the people who make up the marketplace. All in all, a delightful book that for once in the children's picture book market place deals with reality instead of imaginary realms of fancy.

Quick! Where does food like fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs, and cheese come from? Of course, silly, from the grocery store. Well, not always, and there's more to it than just that. More and more people are turning to local farmers markets to find fresher and healthier foods. In this book, a young boy and his mother go on Market Day to shop for Michael's crisp apples, Colin and Genine's kale, Steve's smoked salmon, Benjamin's maple honey, Evan and Emma's blueberry turnovers, Heather and Katelyn's goat cheese, and even Yukie's hand-dyed napkins. What will they do with all this good stuff? Author Nikki McClure, whose cut-paper art nicely illustrates the story, visits the Olympia, WA, Farmers Market every week. All of the people pictured in the book are real vendors at her local market. In addition, McClure did extensive research on who makes the food she eats and how it gets to market. So as the boy and his mother shop, they tell the reader how each item is grown or made so that it can grace their table and fill their stomachs. Did you know that there are over 6,000 farmers markets in the United States alone? To Market, To Market will encourage people to buy locally, eat healthy, and discover new foods. It is a unique and fascinating way to introduce youngsters to how food is grown, prepared, and brought to market. Perhaps the "way it used to be" is the wave of the future.

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