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## Book by Martinsville mother teaches ABCs

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## MARTINSVILLE

For one Martinsville mom. the best way to teach her child to read was by writing a book.

Iodi Scheve wrote the book "The Cow Jumped Over the ABCs" to teach her 3-year-old son Richie the ABCs. Scheve said the book is unique because it teaches upper and lower case letters side by side using adjectives to describe each animal the cow jumped over. For instance, "The cow jumped over the amusing alligator." Scheve said she has also gotten good feedback from teachers about the book.

"There's not many children's books out there that teach both upper and lower case letters of the alphabet," she said. "So, one day, the idea of cows and the ABCs came to my head and it was a work in progress. Then I came up with the idea of using descriptive adjectives for each letter."

To accompany the book, Scheve said she wanted the art to have a "whimsical" nature. That's why she asked Brown County-based artist Kara Barnard to do it. Scheve said she was at a tradeshow with Twisted Wick, the Nashville-based candle and fragarance store she owns with her husband,

"The Cow Jumped Over the ABCs"

BOOK

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when one of her customers recommended Barnard.

"I was telling them (her customer) about my idea for the book - I was looking for a whimsical artist and I found her," she said.

Barnard does many types of art, including city maps, book covers and signs, and is a guitar, mandolin, banjo and dulcimer musician and instructor. Scheve said she was particularly impressed with Barnard's map of Nashville, which Barnard calls "cartoon cartography" on her website. Barnard said she achieved a sense of whimsy in the characters of the book by subtly changing their expressions or eye movements. She said her favorite illustration in the book is when the cow jumps over the snake and how it terrifies

"Whenever I do cartoonish artwork, I tend to find humor in weird, quirky things," Barnard said.

Scheve moved to Martinsville in September 2012 from Greenwood on the recommendation from one of her employees at Twisted Wick. She said the move was a good one.

"It's a great community," Scheve said. "We really think it's a nice, small community of people and everybody is really

Scheve said she plans to work on another children's book, likely next year and likely focused on numbers. "The Cow Jumped Over the ABCs" is available for purchase at Twisted Wick's Nashville store and is also available at Amazon.com at http://tinyurl.com/ ouedksn.

"I'm just happy how it turned out," she said. "It turned out really well with (Barnard's) input. I think it's a fun book for kids and, hopefully, more people hear about it so they can teach their kids the ABCs."

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