

farmer the furrowed brow of somebody with much on her mind.

As Helen worked on *Farmer Duck* and considered “what expression of tiredness the duck should have on its face” she produced a stack of drawings far thicker than the book itself. In the end, the magic of the *Farmer Duck* illustrations lay in the seeming naturalness with which all the various farmyard characters inhabited their unnatural roles.

This too was the theatre of illustration – playful, pointed and a touch surreal – its dramatic impact immeasurably enhanced by the rhapsodic realism of background landscapes bathed in a particular weather and light. In a world so convincingly rendered, the sheer misery of the dogged duck leading a cow through the rain became something the reader could almost feel.



Above, left and facing page: From, *Farmer Duck*, Walker, 1991
Next pages: From, *Farmer Duck*, Walker, 1991

