

Can I take a well-known person's name (living or non-living) and invent a take-off on that name?

Q: Can I take a well-known person's name (living or non-living) and invent a take-off on that name? I am writing a fictional story using a cow as the main character. I want the main character to interact with other cows. Example: Cowly Zymand for Carly Simon?

According to Jane Yolen, SCBWI Board member and author of more than 250 books, "Satire is protected speech, and this gentle kind is done all the time." 3:4/04