

Integrating Literacy: Books about Chickens and Eggs



Fiction

Souper Chicken by Mary Jane Auch. Illustrated by Herm Auch. Holiday House (March 1, 2003). **ISBN: 978-0-8234-1704-9**

Henrietta loves to read, so much so that she forgets to lay eggs. When the farmer sends her aunties on vacation, Henrietta doesn't get to go. But when she sees the sign on the truck, Henrietta knows she has to save the day. Mary Jane Auch has written several books featuring chickens, including *The Plot Chickens*, *Chickenrella*, *Beauty and the Beaks*, *Peeping Beauty*, and *The Nut Quacker*.

Medio Pollito/Half-Chicken by Alma Flor Ada. Illustrated by Kim Howard. Dragonfly Books (August 11, 1997). **ISBN: 978-0-4404-1360-8**

Traditional Mexican folktale told in English and Spanish. A remarkable half-of-a-chicken hatches from an egg and sets out on an adventure to share his unique gifts with the world.

Tillie Lays an Egg by Terry Golson. Illustrated by Ben Fink. Scholastic Press (January 1, 2009). **ISBN: 978-0-5450-0537-1**

Tillie is an adventurous hen who does not like to wait her turn to lay her eggs in the chicken coop. Youth will enjoy finding the egg hidden in each photograph documenting Tillie's explorations around the farm. Golson has written several other farm themed books as well as recipe books: www.hencam.com.

Chick-o-saurus Rex by Lenore Jennewein. Illustrated by Daniel Jennewein. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (July 23, 2013). **ISBN: 978-1-4424-5186-5**

Little Chick wants to play in the treehouse, but the farm bullies say he isn't mighty enough to join their club. Everything changes when Little Chick and his father do some digging into their family history.

The Great Hoboken Chicken Emergency by Daniel Pinkwater. Illustrated by Tony Auth. Aladdin (September 25, 2007). **ISBN: 978-1-4169-2810-2**

Arthur is supposed to pick up his family's Thanksgiving turkey, but the store has lost the reservation. There are no turkeys, chickens, ducks, or geese to be found, except for Henrietta, a 266-pound chicken. What could possibly go wrong? Youth love this hysterical, classic chapter book, also available as a script and a film.

The Surprise Family by Lynn Reiser. Greenwillow Books (May 31, 1994). **ISBN: 978-0-6881-1671-2**

A chick hatches from an egg to discover that her family is a boy, rather than a hen as she had expected. The boy cares for her as she grows into a hen. She hatches some unexpected eggs, which turn out to be ducks, and her family continues to grow.

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The Stinky Cheeseman and Other Fairly Stupid Tales by Jon Scieszka. Illustrated by Lane Smith. Viking Books for Young Readers (October 1, 1992). **ISBN: 978-0-6708-4487-6**

This hilarious collection of twisted fairy tales includes ridiculous new takes on the classic stories of Chicken Little and the Little Red Hen as well as other childhood favorites.

Interrupting Chicken by David Ezra Stein. Candlewick (July 11, 2016).
ISBN: 978-0-7636-8903-2

Little Red Chicken wants a story before bedtime. Papa tries to read some fairy tales, but Little Red Chicken keeps interrupting him and changing how the story ends. Book 1 in a series.

Sonya's Chickens by Phoebe Wahl. Tundra Books (January 9, 2018).
ISBN: 978-1-7704-9790-0

Sonya raises three chicks into well-loved hens. But one night, a fox breaks into the coop and kills one of her chickens for food. This gentle book deals beautifully with difficult questions of life and death in a way that is accessible and appropriate for young children.

Nonfiction

An Egg Is Quiet by Dianna Hutts Aston. Illustrated by Sylvia Long. Chronicle Books (March 4, 2014). **ISBN: 978-1-4521-3148-1**

Non-fiction book that teaches characteristics of many different types of eggs. Youth can compare and contrast eggs from different classes (e.g., birds, reptiles, amphibians) and different species (e.g., kiwi, ostrich, chicken, hummingbird).

Chicks & Chickens by Gail Gibbons. Holiday House (March 1, 2005).
ISBN: 978-0-8234-1939-5

Rich introduction to chickens and eggs. Complex vocabulary terms are supported with detailed drawings, diagrams, pronunciation guides, and glossaries. Youth will also enjoy the chicken trivia.

A Chicken Followed Me Home! Questions and Answers About a Familiar Fowl by Robin Page. Beach Lane Books (May 19, 2015). **ISBN: 978-1-4814-1028-1**

This book uses clear language and an easy-to-follow question-and-answer format to provide youth with a lot of information about chickens and chicken care.

Egg: Nature's Perfect Package by Robin Page and Steve Jenkins. HMH Books for Young Readers (March 3, 2015). **ISBN: 978-0-5479-5909-2**

Nonfiction book that celebrates the diversity of eggs, their importance in many different ecosystems, and adaptations that different organisms have evolved to produce, protect, or consume eggs.

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First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seegar. Roaring Press Books (September 4, 2007). **ISBN: 978-1-5964-3272-7**

Deceptively simple book that can provide rich discussion about life cycles and story structure. The text and illustrations show life cycles for a chicken, frog, plant, and butterfly. These are overlaid with the creative process and woven into a circular story structure that ties back into “chicken versus the egg”.

Where Do Chicks Come From? by Amy Sklansky. Illustrated by Pam Paparone. HarperCollins (February 1, 2005). **ISBN: 978-0-0644-5212-0**

Book that explains in detail how embryos grow and change from inception to hatching.

The Hen Who Sailed Around the World: A True Story by Guirec Soudée. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (October 2, 2018). **ISBN: 978-0-3164-4884-0**

Photographs trace the journey of Soudée and his red hen Monique, who became the youngest person and first chicken, respectively, to navigate through Canada’s Northwest passage through the Arctic.



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