

CHICKEN, PIG, COW AND THE CLASS PET

written and illustrated by Ruth Ohi

Genre: Picture book, fiction

Themes: Early Readers, Adventure, Exploration, Friendship, Teamwork, Animals

Suitable for: Grades 1 – 2

Summary

This picture book explores the friendship between a toy chicken, pig, and cow. In this adventure, the trio of toys go to school and encounter a mischievous class pet that loves to eat everything, including their popsicle stick house!

ACTIVITY IDEAS

The following activity ideas are only a start. There are many possibilities for helping students construct meaning from text.

Comprehension activities:

- help readers to extend their general knowledge from prior experience
- develop reading strategies for comprehension
- bring relevance to the act of reading
- foster discussion and reflection through response to the text

BEFORE STARTING THE BOOK

Activities to build the context and introduce the topic of the book, and to establish prior knowledge and interest and develop predictions of what the text will be about.

1. Do you have any pets at home? What do your family members have to do to take care of the pet?
2. Take a look at the cover of the book. Do you think Chicken, Pig, and Cow are friends with the class pet, or will they have a hard time getting along?
3. If you brought your favorite toy into the classroom for the day, what would you want your toy to see and do?
4. Tell students to do a picture walk of the story. Ask them, “Do you think Chicken, Pig, and Cow will enjoy their trip to school?”

WHILE READING THE BOOK

Activities to check on comprehension, stimulate interest, involve readers in reflection as they read, and encourage consideration of other readers' reactions.

1. Looking at the pictures on the first two pages, explain how Dog is brave, helpful, and always knows what to do.
2. How does it feel for Chicken, Pig, and Cow to travel to school in their popsicle stick house?
3. What kind of animal is Furface? Look for clues throughout the story to help support your ideas. Why do Chicken, Pig and Cow call the class pet Furface?
4. How do Chicken, Pig, and Cow get Furface back into the cage?
5. Read the following nursery rhyme to students:

Hey diddle diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed,
To see such fun,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Tell them to turn to the page where "cow jumped over the moon." Ask students, "Why would the author choose to make Cow jump over the moon? Did anyone recognize this line from the nursery rhyme?"

6. Who is the teacher talking to when she says, "Excellent work?" What do you think she is talking about?

AFTER READING THE BOOK

Activities to inspire continued reflection and response to the text, bring conclusion to the experience of reading this particular text, and stimulate further extensions.

1. Can you think of two different ways the animals worked together during the story? How did working together help them to get things done?
2. Did Chicken, Pig, and Cow feel the same way about school for the whole story, or did their feelings change as the story developed?
3. How do you think Dog feels after learning about Chicken, Pig and Cow's adventure at school?

4. Which place, school or home, do Chicken, Pig and Cow like more? Do you like home or school more? Why?

5. Should we have a class pet in our classroom? Why would it be a good idea? Why would it be a bad idea? What kind of pet should we have? What would we need to prepare before the pet arrives?