

CHICKEN, PIG, COW HORSE AROUND

written and illustrated by Ruth Ohi

Genre: Picture book, fiction

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

Suitable for: Grade 1 – 2

Summary

This picture book explores the friendship between a toy chicken, pig, and cow. The trio learn that welcoming a new friend can be tricky at first, but in the end, it's always worth it.

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. Looking at the cover, who are the characters in this story?
2. In the story, Chicken, Pig, or Cow has a tough time welcoming Horse as a new friend. Looking at the picture on the cover, which animal do you predict will have a tough time? Why?
3. Have you ever felt left out of a group of friends? How could you solve this problem?
4. When you always play with the same friends, do you ever wish there could be a new person in your group? What problems might happen when you always play with the same friends?

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. Why did Chicken trick Horse into hiding if he did not want to go and find him?
2. The animals do not speak to each other after Chicken tells Cow and Pig that he does not care where Horse has gone. But Chicken decides to go and look for Horse anyway. What changed for Chicken? What makes him want to look for Horse?
3. The word, "ANYWHERE" is written in capital letters. Why do you think the author chose to write that word in capital letters?
4. On the page where it looks like horse is inside the fishbowl, the word "Horse" is written in a different type and ends with an exclamation mark. How do you think this word should be read aloud? What does the exclamation mark tell us about how the word should be read?
5. There are two times in the story where Chicken looks "up," then "down," then "away." How does Chicken feel during each different look?
6. Why did Cow, Pig, and Horse dive into the fishbowl after Chicken?
7. How did Horse surprise Chicken?
8. Look at the picture of Chicken on the last page. How does Chicken feel about welcoming Fish as a new friend?

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. How do Chicken's feelings about Horse change throughout the story?
2. Can you think of two different ways the animals worked together during the story? How did working together help them to get things done?
3. What does this story teach you about making new friends?
4. If you started in a new classroom and you wanted to join a group of friends, what is the first thing you would say to them?