



Chicken Lily

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Henry Holt, 2016
Rhyming Picture Book
Hardcover, 32 pages, Children's, Ages 4-8

ISBN-10: 1627791205
ISBN-13: 978-1627791205

Educational Activities for Teachers and Librarians

ABOUT THE BOOK

Chicken Lily was a lot of things--a careful colorer, a patient puzzler, and a quiet hide-and-seeker (she never makes a peep!)--but *brave* was not one of them. When her teacher, Mrs. Lop, plans a school-wide poetry jam, Lily is terrified. She doesn't want to stand in front of everyone and sound like a birdbrain!

With encouragement from her friends Baabette and Pigsley, Lily decides to hatch a plan. Can she put her best claw forward and prove that even chickens aren't chicken all the time?

THEMES

- Poetry
- Rhyming words
- Puns
- Chickens
- Character Education: fear, talents, creativity, and bravery.

BEFORE YOU READ

- Discuss the meaning of fear and bravery.
- Have students discuss situations or activities that could be scary at first.

AS YOU READ

- Discuss why Chicken Lily is afraid.
- Chicken Lily was unsure about writing poems, but she had other talents. Discuss her strengths and weaknesses.

AFTER YOU READ

Art

- Chicken Lily had many talents. Have students draw pictures of what Lily's other talents might be.
- In this story, Chicken Lily is yellow. Have students draw their own picture of Chicken Lily.
- Chicken Lily tried to get out of writing her poem by writing a list and turning her home into a "poem-free" zone. Have students draw some other fun

and creative ways Lily could evade the Grand Slam Poetry Jam before her final success.

- Lily's friends tried to encourage her even though she was afraid. Invite students to draw other ways her friends could encourage her to write a poem and participate.

Character Education

- Chicken Lily was not brave at trying new things. Ask students to discuss things they've been afraid to try and how they felt once they succeeded.
- Lily's friends encouraged her to join them while they wrote their poems, but Lily refused. Is it good to follow the crowd? Why or why not?
- Lily thought she'd be awful at writing poetry and even worse reading it. Ask the students to share a time they thought they'd be awful at something, but happily discovered a new talent instead.

Geography

- People raise chickens all over the world. Use a map to show which countries raise the most chickens.
- Chickens have adapted to different environments around the world. Owners breed them for different qualities. Using a map, show where different breeds live and how they have adapted. (For example, chickens in Africa have feathered legs to protect them from the sun.)

Language Arts

- Chicken Lily and her friends all wrote poems for the Grand Slam Poetry Jam. Ask students to write their own poem for their own Grand Slam Poetry Jam.

- Chicken Lily contains a lot of puns. What are puns? Ask students to pick three puns in the story and write a new Chicken Lily story using them.
- Chicken Lily's poem started with the alphabet, "A, B, C, D, E, F, G." Have students write their own poem starting with the alphabet.
- Chicken Lily has a lot of friends, such as a sheep, pig, ladybug, etc. Ask students to write the sort of poem one of Lily's friends might write for the Grand Slam Poetry Jam.

Research

- There are many kinds of rhyming poems. Lily and her friends' poems use end rhymes. What other kinds of rhyming poems are there? Ask students to write a poem using a different rhyming structure.
- What kind of chicken is Chicken Lily? Have students research breeds of chicken and figure out what kind of chicken Lily could be.
- Do all chickens lay white or brown eggs? What other colors of eggs do chickens lay?

Social Studies

- Chicken Lily's friends tried to encourage her to write her poem, but Lily wouldn't listen. Ask students what they would have said to help Lily participate if they were one of Lily's friends.
- At first, Lily was scared to write a poem and stand up in front of everyone at the Grand Slam Poetry Jam. Ask students: 1) Why do you think Lily changed her mind? 2) What do you think Lily realized in the end? 3) How did Lily feel once she overcame her fears? 4) Is there

something you're afraid to try? How could you overcome your fears?

Fun Chicken Facts

- Chickens can fly--but only well enough to fly over a fence.
- There are 25 billion chickens worldwide. That makes them the most common bird in the world.
- Experts believe chickens were domesticated over 10,000 years ago in the Far East.
- A hen can lay more than 300 eggs a year.
- The largest chicken egg weighed nearly 12 ounces--that's close to a pound!
- Chickens molt once a year. It's a way to replace old feathers with new ones.

Holidays and Observances

January

5 - National Bird Day

March

9 - Panic Day

19 - Poultry Day

April

2 - Children's Book Day

8 - Draw a Picture of a Bird Day

14 - Reach as High as You Can Day

16 - National Eggs Benedict Day

23 - Take a Chance Day

27 - Tell a Story Day

28 - Great Poetry Reading Day

May

4 - Bird Day

14 - Dance like a Chicken Day

14 - International Migratory Bird Day

August

9 - Book Lover's Day

18 - Bad Poetry Day

September

6 - Read a Book Day

October

14 - World Egg Day

November

2 - Deviled Egg Day

27 - Pins and Needles Day

BIOS



Lori Mortensen admits it--she was pretty chicken as a kid at Gregory Gardens Elementary School. Raise her hand in class? Forget it! Eat something new for lunch? No way! Nowadays, this not-so-chicken author has published over 70 books and 350 stories and articles. Recent releases include *Chicken Lily*, (Henry Holt 2016), *Mousequerade Ball* (Bloomsbury, 2016) illustrated by *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Betsy Lewin, and *Cowpoke Clyde Rides the Range* (Clarion, 2016) a sequel to *Cowpoke Clyde & Dirty Dawg*, one of Amazon's best picture books of 2013. When she's not letting her cat in, or out, or in--she's tapping away at her computer, conjuring, coaxing, and prodding her latest stories to life. To learn more about Lori's books and other activity guides, visit her website at www.lorimortensen.com.



Nina Victor Crittenden is a proud graduate of Birchview Elementary School. Her favorite subjects were art and recess. She lives in Minnesota with her husband and daughters and shares popcorn every Saturday night with a cute little pug named Gordy. Learn more about Nina at www.ninacrittenden.com.