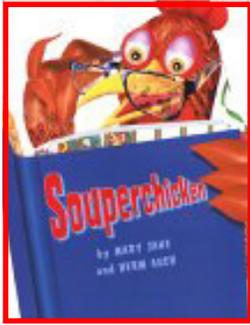




CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary, secondary, and university levels. Her enthusiastically-received and practical workshops include detailed handouts. (H. Diana Cruchley © 2013, dianacruchley.com)



SOUPERCHICKEN

Henrietta loves to read and has hardly any time to lay eggs. The farmer says he is sending all the rest of the hens on an vacation for their hard work. Henrietta reads the words on their truck which say Souper Soup Company and realizes they are heading for the soup. Various other reading skills save the day for all the chickens and some other farmyard animals as well.

Mary Jane and Herm Auch, Holiday House,
© 2003, ISBN 0-8234-1704-20

LITERACY CAN SAVE YOU

Read the story aloud. To develop listening and note-taking skills, during the second reading, have students make note of the ways in which being able to read is important in solving the problems that Henrietta faces:

- She reads the sign about the soup company on the truck.
- She finds the address for the factory on the label of a can.
- She reads the sign on the pigs' truck.
- She reads the sign on the cows' truck.
- She reads the signs in the hallways to find where the chickens are.
- She reads the code to get in the door.
- She reads the magazine covers in the mailboxes to find a good place to live, with a vegetarian.

VERY PUNNY

The book is full of puns, particularly at the beginning. First, explain to the students what a pun is. Then show an overhead of the pages that have puns on them, and ask them to record them and explain the pun:

- Chance to VEG out.
- NOODLE away your time.
- SIMMER down and relax.
- RICE to the occasion.
- CREAM of a chicken.
- EGG DROP all over.
- WONTON to help her.

FAIRY TALE BOOKS

There are several books in the illustrations that are written by fairy tale and nursery rhyme characters::

- Great Eggspectations
by Dahls Chickens
- Could the Sky Fall?
by Chick N. Little
- Pulling Yourself Together
by Humpty Dumpty
- Cure for Insomnia
by S. Beauty

Brainstorm a list of fairy tale and nursery rhyme characters with the students. Ask each student to create titles for 10 books that characters could have written. These may be used in the students' own literacy stories.

SOUPERCHICKEN, P.2

LITERACY TALES

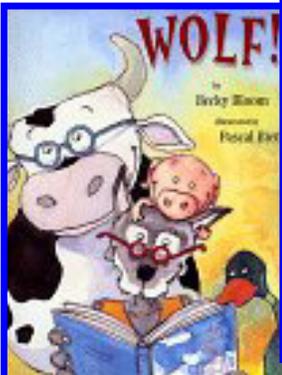
Ask students to make up their own story in which literacy helps to solve the problem of the character. Remind them that the structure of a typical story is to present a problem, make 2-3 attempts to solve it, and then have the last one work.

In *Souperchicken*, the structure is:

- Present the character, Henrietta, as a reader.
- Problem for the chickens (not a vacation).
- Reading makes the problem clear.
- Attempts: chasing the truck, hitch-hiking on trucks, finding them in the factory, finding them a home that is suitable.

When students have finished, you could present some other picture books in which literacy is essential to solving the literacy problems.

JOURNAL RESPONSE IDEAS

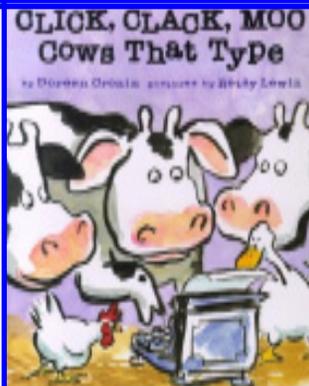


Do you think that literacy can help reduce world-wide violence? Discuss,

Wolf!, Becky Bloom, Scholastic 1999, ISBN 978-0531301555

What might our pets say if they could write notes? Discuss.

In 2 minutes list as many methods of communication between humans as possible? How many of those rely on literacy?



Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That Type, Doreen Cronin, ©2000, ISBN 978-0689832130

RIDDLE DESIGN

Have students design their own riddles, based on the pattern. They could use both HAM and EGG in their riddle designs.

- Step 1:** Select an animal (PIG)
- Step 2:** Brainstorm some short words related to it. (HAM)
- Step 3:** Cut off some letters in front of it to make one syllable (AM)
- Step 4:** Think of words that start with that syllable. (AMBIDEXTROUS)
- Step 5:** Put the letters back on (HAMBIDEXTROUS)
- Step 6:** Make a sentence to lead to that word.
(WHAT DO YOU CALL A PIG WHO USES BOTH HANDS?
(HAMBIDEXTROUS.)
- TIP:** Look in the dictionary for the syllable to find some suitable words, such as ambitious, ambidextrous, ambulance, american, etc.