



Educator Resource Guide

HOW TO HATCH A READER

Written by Kari Ann Gonzalez

Illustrated by Rachel Suzanne

When your chickens start begging for more "BBB-books", it's time to teach them to read. Find a cozy place to rest their chicken cheeks, then help them peck the right story. Readers don't hatch overnight, but with your help, words will begin flying off the pages (as long as there are no foxes around)!

Juvenile Fiction

32 Pages ~ 8.5" x 11"

Grades Pre-K to 2nd ~ Ages 3+

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Key Concepts: Foundational reading skills and tools, humor, fox, chickens and farm life.

About the Author: Kari Ann Gonzalez is a writer of children's fiction and informational fiction with a heaping helping of humor and STEAM concepts. When she is not regaling her family with tall tales or creating colorful characters for her stories, you will find her reading voraciously. Two cats and six chickens are kind enough to share their home with Kari and her family in California.

About the Illustrator: Rachel Suzanne graduated from Birmingham City University, England with First class honours in Visual Communication, specialising in illustration. She lives with her family, pet parrot Maggie, and two cats. She enjoys creating work through the process of crossing traditional printmaking, digital art, and experimental mark making.

Using this guide:

This educational resource guide can be used by anyone interested in sharing enthusiasm about *How to Hatch a Reader* with children of all ages. If you are a teacher, librarian, home school instructor, camp counselor, or super cool parent, grandparent or guardian, this guide is for you! Feel free to adapt the suggested learning projects and activities according to your needs, interests, time, audience, and goals.

We have done our best to provide information, discussion points, and resources that may be useful for you and your learning participants. However, this is not an exhaustive list of ideas or topics. Also, website content and accessibility is subject to change. Please review all suggested resources and websites prior to sharing them in your learning environment to ensure they meet with your individual standards and contain age-appropriate content for your participants.

This guide is broken down into two general categories: 1) learning opportunities (with associated activities) related to reading skills and development, and 2) learning opportunities (with associated activities) related to humor and chickens. These are broad categories with overlap between subjects, and each activity will vary in complexity depending on the age of the participants. Please modify as you see fit.

Suggested learning activities can be found for each category and are intended to align with appropriate Common Core, NGSS and/or National Core Arts Standards. To inquire about additional materials or if you have questions about this guide, please view our website at: www.gnomeroadpublishing.com.

PART 1: READING SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT

Learning Opportunity #1: Let's Talk About Learning to Read!

- *How to Hatch a Reader* is packed with tips and tricks to help with learning to read. What were some of the learning tools you have seen before? Were there any new tools you discovered? What other ideas do you have that could be used to teach *your* chickens to read?
- Reading isn't always easy, and a good mindset can help you push through tough times. What strategies can you find in *How to Hatch a Reader* to stay positive about reading? (Hint: Revisit those pages with the cozy chicken cheeks and the funky chicken dance party. Those chickens really know how to relax and celebrate. You can try that, too!)
- Learning to read and continuing to read is an activity that can be shared with others. You don't have to do it alone! At the end of *How to Hatch a Reader*, what do the chickens do? (Hint: The fox gets to join in, too.)

Suggested Activities ~

Find A Book / Share a Book

- Show off what you have learned about reading by choosing a favorite book and putting your skills to use. Find a group of reading friends, or if you are already in a classroom or group setting, start a book club! You can take turns sharing what you love about each book and practicing your reading skills. If you are having a tough time with a page, ask for help from others. (You can also do the next activity in this resource guide and choose one of your reading tools to overcome an obstacle you might be facing!)

My Box of Reading Tools

- Sometimes it helps to keep our tools in a place we can find them whenever we need them. The same goes with reading tools! Find a box – any small box, like a tissue box will do – that you can decorate. Get out those crafting supplies and make it great! Now fill that box with your tools by asking an adult to write them out or by drawing a picture of that tool on a piece of paper and placing it in the box. When you're facing a reading obstacle, pull one of the papers out of the box and try using that tool! Some of your tools might include:
 - Tracing letters
 - Pointing out the common words or ones you already know
 - Read like a turtle! (slow it down and sound out each letter)
- Websites are provided at the end of this resource guide for additional ideas!
- If you don't want to decorate a box, you can use a chalkboard, bulletin board, paper bag or fish bowl! You choose what works for you.

Learning Opportunity #2: Let's talk About Reading Practice!

- Do you think the chickens in *How to Hatch a Reader* learned to read overnight? No way! They practiced reading every day. How often do you practice reading? Who helps you with reading? What other times can you find to practice reading? (Hint: Bedtime is a great time to relax and cozy up with a good book.)
- To practice reading, you are going to need . . . books! Actually, you can find words everywhere. Can you point out all the places you see that have words? And if you want to find words that are put together in books, where might you go? (Hint: Shhhh! You will want to be quiet when you go inside. People are reading and we don't want to disturb them.)

Suggested Activities ~

Celebrate Reading Tools and Milestones!

- Whew! It sure is hard work to practice reading. And you know what that means? It's time to celebrate. Here are a few tips on how to do that:
 - First, keep track of your reading work. Make a chart and check off each day that you practice.
 - Second, create a weekly reading goal. You can use the practice check-off sheet and the reading goal reminder handouts found at the back of this resource guide to make it easy.
 - Third, decide on a reward. We suggest having a funky chicken dance party!

Play Your Part!

- Just like the chickens in *How to Hatch a Reader*, learning to read unlocks the door to a lot of other adventures. Would you like to put on a play like they did? Grab a couple of reading buddies and get ready for some fun. Here's what you do:
 - Have an adult help you choose a script with parts that you can read and memorize. If you would rather make up your own play, talk this out and have your adult help write down each part.

- Next, practice your parts. Take turns reading with the group.
- Perform your play for your chosen audience. Make sure to celebrate when you're done!

PART II: HUMOR AND CHICKEN LIFE

Learning Opportunity #1: *Let's Talk About Humor and Books*

- Who doesn't like to laugh? Humor is a good story-telling technique because it helps readers stay focused on a story and feel happy after reading it. That makes people want to read a book over and over again.
- What are some ways to add humor to a book? (Hint: The author of *How to Hatch a Reader* liked to play with language. Did you catch some examples of how she did that to make the story funnier?)
 - Can you use the author's example and apply it to other things or animals? For example, if you love dogs, come up with sentences about reading using dog-themed words like:
 - I am paws-atively good at reading.
 - Let's sniff out a new book in the library.
 - Hot-diggety dog, it's time to celebrate.
- Sometimes (a LOT of times) humor is shown through art. Even though the fox isn't mentioned until the end of the story, the illustrator of *How to Hatch a Reader* showed you what the fox was trying to do all throughout the book. The reader sees it all happening while the chickens don't. This makes it more funny for the reader. Can you think of other books that do this, too?

Suggested Activities ~

A Laugh a Day Keeps The Doctor Away

- Technically, that may not be true. But laughing, smiles and humor do make people feel better. That's why you should practice being silly just like you practice your reading. Let's find some ways to do that using these links!
 - **Laughing Exercises**
 - **Silly Games and Activities**
- If you are with a group of friends, take turns making silly faces to surprise each other. If you have an adult who can take a photo, make silly faces together and take a picture to keep in your activity room. You can look at it every day to practice and remember your silly faces!

Let's Make A Funny Book

- Now that you've practiced the art of being funny, you can make your own funny book. Have an adult help you create a book out of sheets of paper using this **Mini Book Tutorial** to help you get started. Choose your characters, draw what funny things happens to them, and make an ending to your story. If you want to make someone laugh, share your book with them!

Learning Opportunity #2: *Let's Talk About Chickens*

- The author of *How to Hatch a Reader* has several chickens at home. She enjoys reading to them with her family, which is one reason she wrote this book! Do you like chickens, too? What animal would you like to read to at home?
- Chickens can come in many shapes, colors and sizes. Have an adult help you research more about chickens and try to answer the following questions:
 - Where do chickens live?
 - What colors are chickens? What colors are their eggs?
 - How long does it take a chick to grow up? How big can it get?
 - What do chickens like to eat?

Suggested Activities ~

Chickens, Chickens Everywhere!

- It's time to make your own chicken. Use the chicken template provided in this resource guide and start adding details. You can use supplies like crayons, markers, buttons, feathers, leaves - just about anything you like to get creative. Get your flock of friends together and make a chicken coop for your chickens (maybe on a bulletin board).

Chicken Scratch!

- Can you find all the chicken-themed words on the word search activity page found in this resource guide? All of these words can be found in the book, too. Get your copy of *How to Hatch a Reader* and see if you can peck them out!
- You can take your reading practice skills one step further by writing out these words on the dot writing activity page included in this guide.

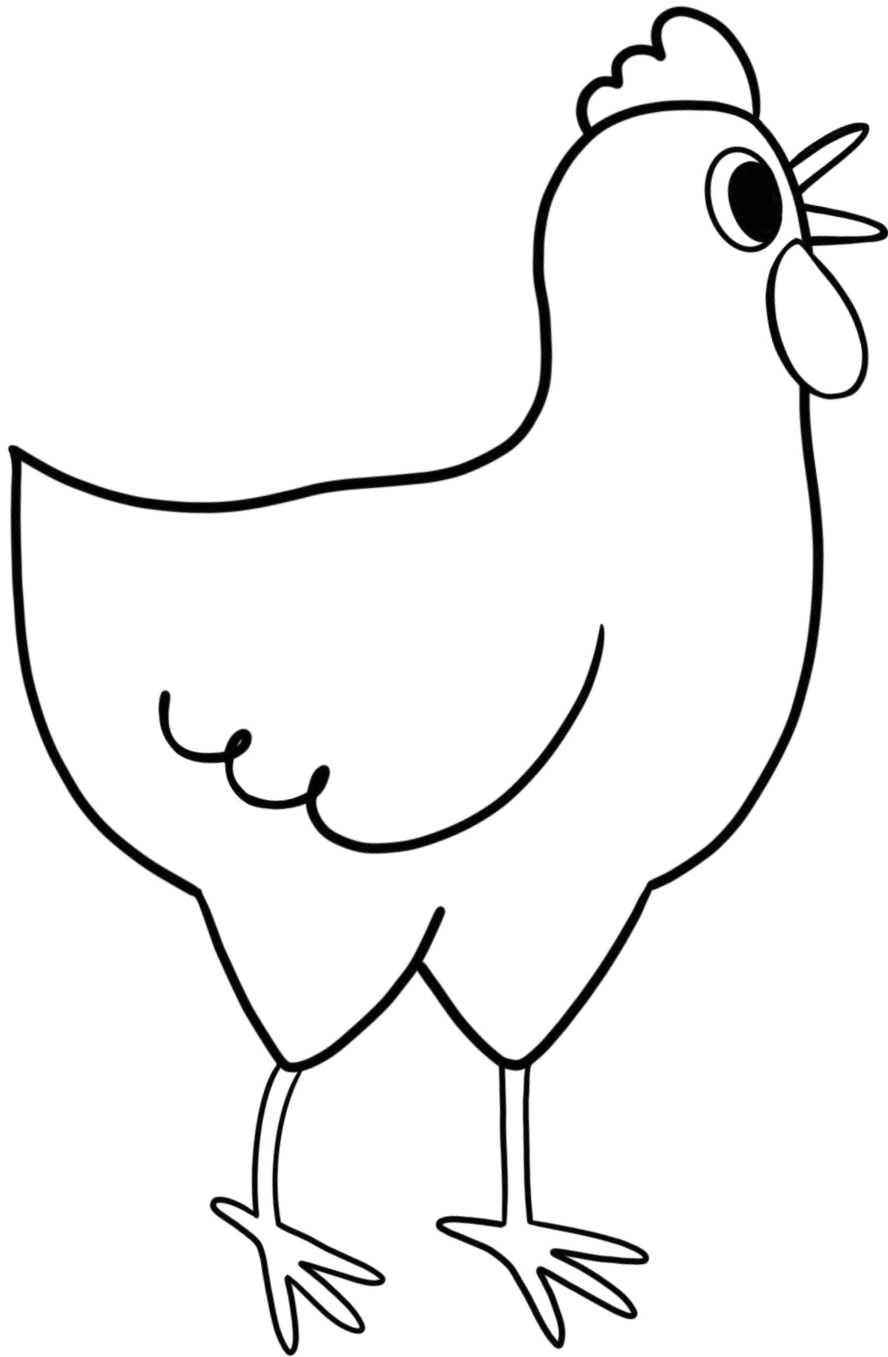
Wonderful websites about reading development (in addition to those provided at the end of the book):

- **[11 Ways To Foster Reading Development](#)**
- **[Stages of Reading Development](#)**

Wonderful websites about chickens (and chickens as pets):

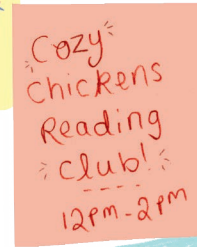
- **[Games For Kids and Chickens](#)**
- **[Getting To Know Chickens](#)**

Decorate Your Chicken!



Name: _____

A Week of Reading Practice



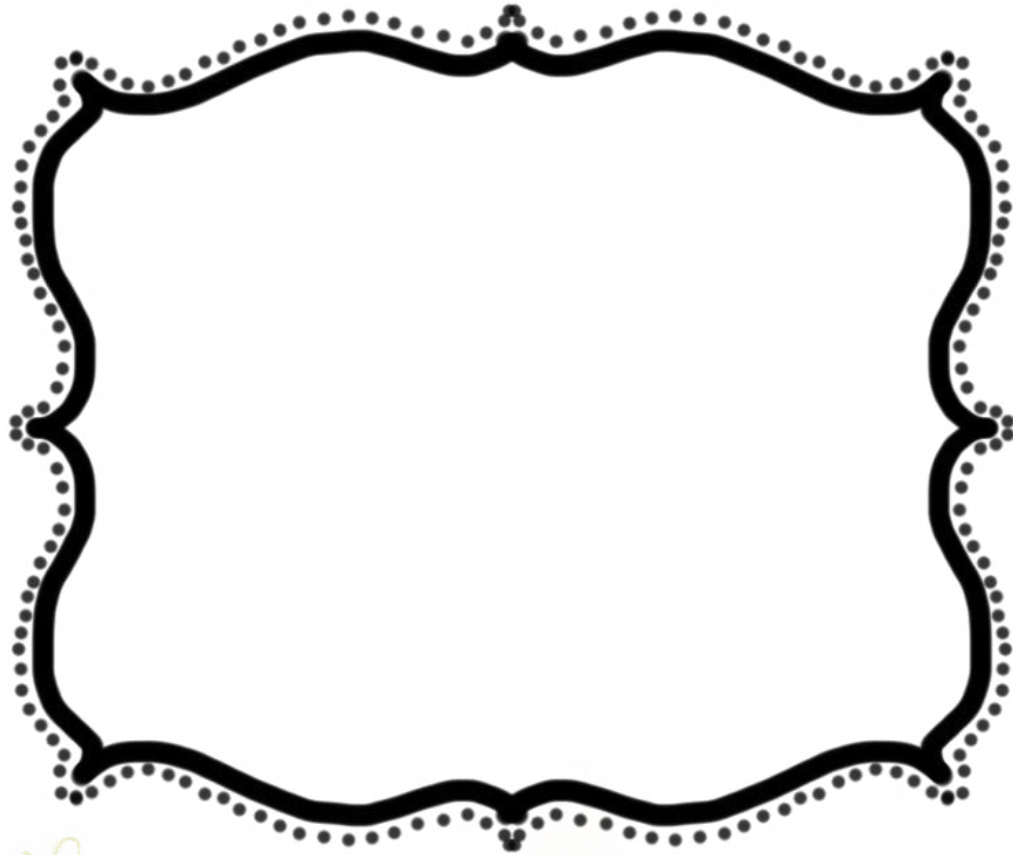
Today I read...

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	





My Reading Goals



How to Hatch a Reader



Kari Gonzalez & Rachel Suzanne



Writing Practice



egg

chick

coop



peck

duck





Word Search

K J H N E C W Q P V
Z Q A B F N H T L E
X J C H E M O I U G
H S C R A T C H C G
J B J X T P E C K K
C O O P H C I C J V
F J S Z E L S F C Z
A N K M R U I E B D
R A H O Y C T R E B
M Z N S I K B W S D

egg

seed

chick

scratch

feather

farm

pluck

peck

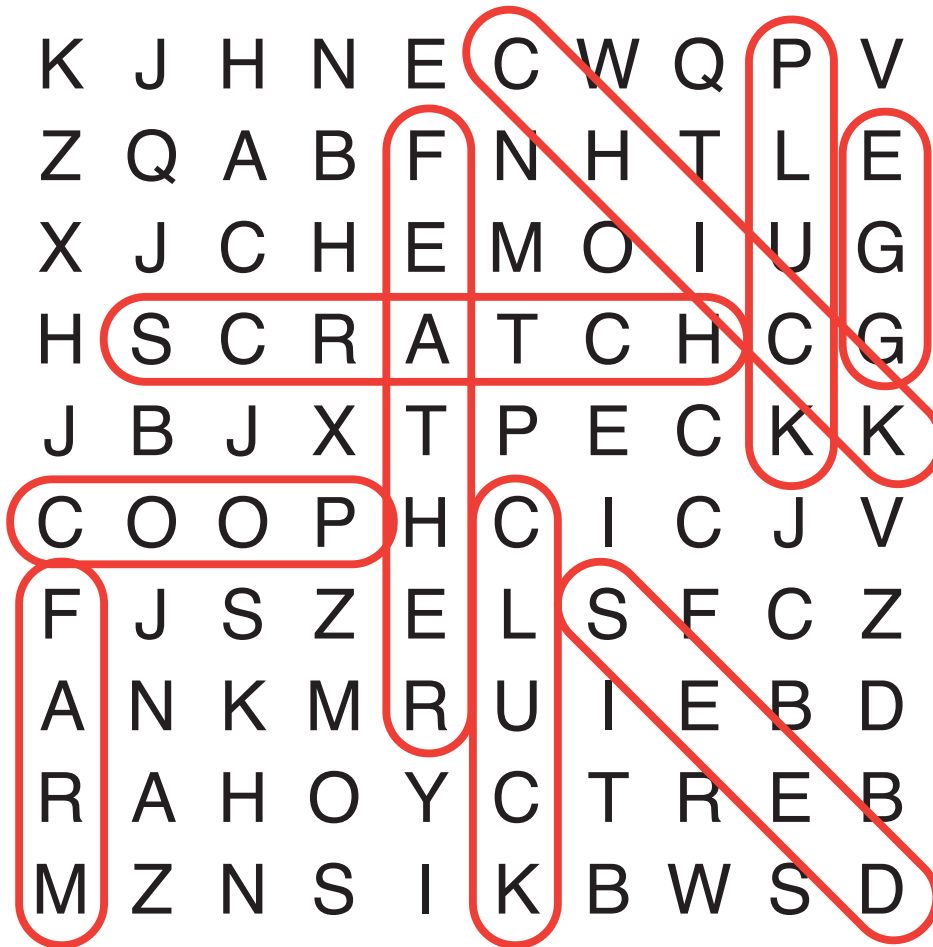
coop

cluck





Word Search



egg

seed

chick

scratch

feather

farm

pluck

peck

coop

cluck



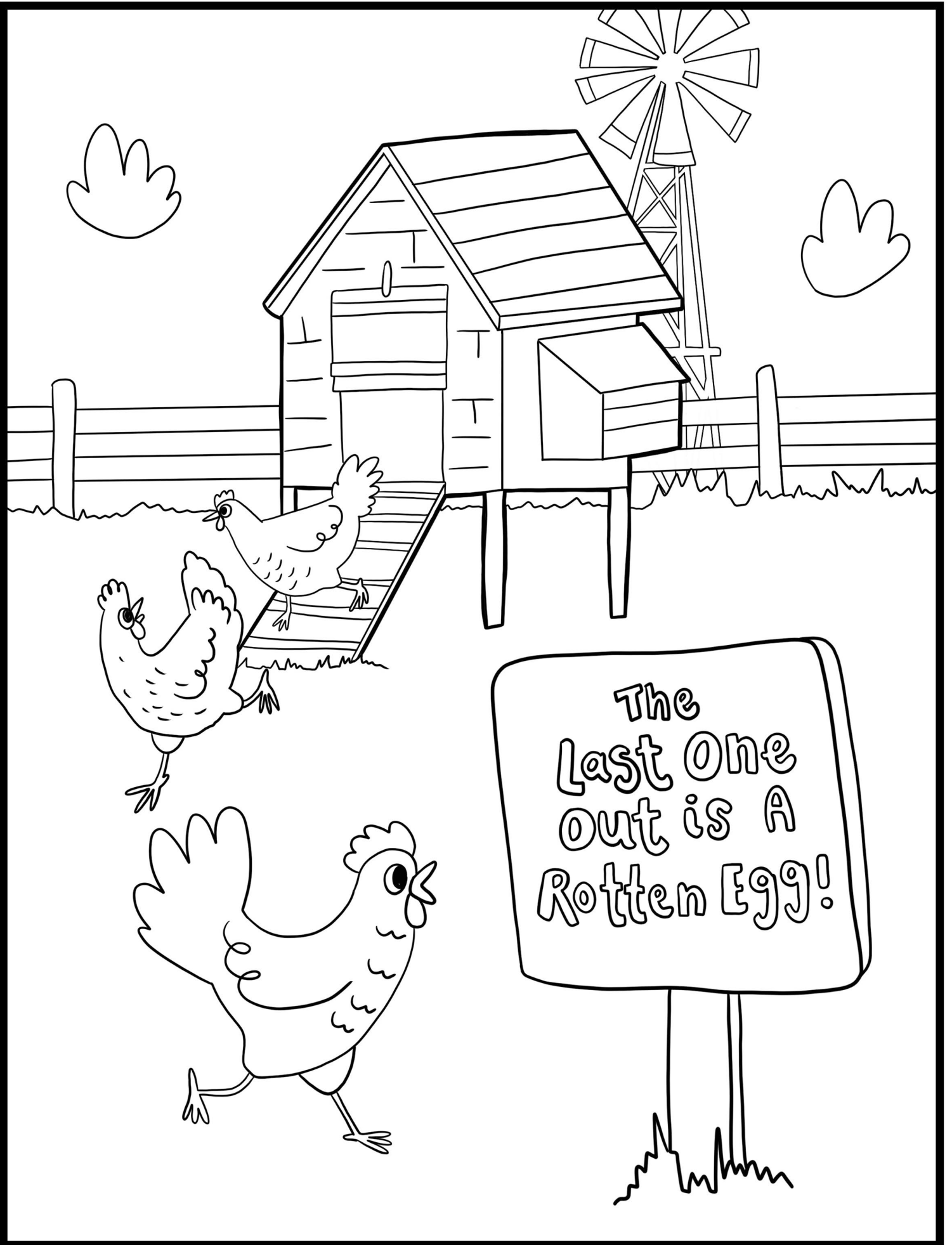
How to Hatch a Reader



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Rachel Suzanne





The
Last One
Out is A
Rotten Egg!