

CHICKEN, PIG, COW'S FIRST FIGHT

written and illustrated by Ruth Ohi

Genre: Picture book, fiction

Themes: Early Readers, Exploration, Friendship, Teamwork, Animals, Problem-Solving

Suitable for: Grade 1 – 2

Summary

This picture book explores the friendship between a toy chicken, pig, and cow. The trio get into their first fight and learn that being a good friend is more important than winning an argument.

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 do you think gets into a fight in the story? Which character do you think is not part of the fight?
2. Have you ever had a fight with your friends? What was it about?
3. When you get into a fight with a friend, how do you solve the argument? What strategies do we use in the classroom to help us solve problems?
4. How do you feel when something you built gets broken? What would you say to the person who broke what you built so that they do not do it again?
5. Tell students to do a picture walk of the story. Ask them, “Do you think Chicken, Pig, and Cow will solve the fight by the end of the story?”

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. In the story, Pig “zipped,” “zoomed,” and “zapped” around Chicken’s statue. Close your eyes and say those three words. What pictures pop into your head when you think of Pig moving in those ways?
2. What do the words, “wham” and “whoosh” mean when you read about Chicken’s statue breaking apart? Why are these words special?
3. In the argument, who do you agree with more? Was it Chicken’s fault because he didn’t look out, or Pig’s fault because he wasn’t careful?
4. In the beginning of the argument, Cow is described as “standing still” as Chicken and Pig fight. How do you think Cow feels? Have you ever been in the middle of two friends fighting?
5. How do you think Pig feels when he runs off? Do you think he realizes that he has made a mistake?
6. What happens to Pig when he runs away from his problem?
7. What advice did Cow give Pig to help him solve his problem with Chicken? What did Pig do to finally solve the problem with Chicken?

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. If there is a problem between two students in our class, what lessons from this story could we use to help the students solve the problem?
3. In the story, Pig was in a bad mood and that made the problem worse. What can you do to calm down when you are in a bad mood?
4. Even though this was the first fight between Chicken, Pig and Cow, do you think they will have another fight? Is it normal to have disagreements with friends?