

UNIT 37 STORIES

# The Chicken and the Eggs

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### Vocabulary Words

	<b>hen</b>	A hen is a grown-up girl chicken.
	<b>rooster</b>	A rooster is a grown-up boy chicken.
	<b>vain</b>	Someone who is too proud of his or her looks is vain.
	<b>lesson</b>	A lesson is something that you learn.



## The Vain Hen

### CHAPTER 1

#### Chuckella

Once upon a time, there was a pretty white hen named Chuckella. Chuckella had gotten many prizes because she was so pretty. This had gone to her head. Each morning she would sing, "I'm so pretty. I'm pretty, and witty, and wise . . ."

The other chickens, however, were not impressed! They would sing, "Cluck, cluck, yuck. She's pretty, and snooty, and vain!"



Who is this story's main character? How does Chuckella describe herself? How do the other chickens describe Chuckella?



Each day, Farmer Brown's wife, Jane, would come to the hen house and gather eggs from the hens. Then she would take the eggs to the market to sell.

What would Jane do each day? Where would Jane take the hens' eggs to sell?



When Chuckella began laying eggs, Jane said, "Chuckella is so pretty. We shouldn't sell her eggs. We should let Chuckella hatch her eggs." Chuckella clucked to the rest of the hens, "I'm so pretty. I will have such pretty chicks!"



Why did Jane think they should let Chuckella hatch her eggs instead of selling them? How do you think the other hens might feel about Chuckella getting to hatch her eggs?

## CHAPTER 2

### Chuckella Needs a Lesson

Who is the main character? A lesson is something that is learned. What do you think Chuckella needs to learn?

The hen house was buzzing. The other hens were very upset when they found out that Chuckella would get to hatch her eggs. "Cluck, cluck, cluck. Did you hear? Chuckella gets to hatch her eggs!"

Chuckella sneered, "What do you expect? I win prizes because I am such a pretty hen. My chicks will be pretty too!"

The hens got together and said, "Cluck, cluck, cluck. We need to teach Chuckella a lesson."

The next day, while Chuckella was out in the barnyard, the hens picked two chicken eggs from Chuckella's nest. Into the nest they set one very small white egg and one big black egg.

When Chuckella came back, she didn't even see that the eggs were different. She just got on her nest and started bragging, "I'm so pretty."

Why were the other hens upset? What did the other hens think Chuckella needed? What did the hens do?



At last, Chuckella had seven eggs in her nest. Not one was a chicken egg, but Chuckella couldn't tell!



How many eggs did Chuckella end up with in her nest?

Chuckella looked at the eggs and asked, "Now what?"

The hens cackled, "Now you sit there until all your eggs hatch!"

Chuckella was not happy. She asked, "Who will see me while I sit on my nest all day?"

The hens cackled, "We will, dear. We will!"



What did the hens tell Chuckella she needed to do? Why didn't Chuckella want to sit on her nest?



## CHAPTER 4

### Until the Dinosaur Hatches

When her eggs started to crack, Chuckella sneered, "Now everyone will see how pretty my chicks are!"

Just then Chuckella peeked at the chick that was hatching. It had a long green snout! Chuckella was speechless. The other hens clucked, "Pretty chick indeed!"

When Chuckella's eggs were done hatching, there was a crocodile-like *chick*, a snake-like *chick*, a robin-like *chick*, and a goose-like *chick*. There was even a little green *chick* that said "Ribbit, ribbit." There were no pretty little chicks. The hens laughed and laughed.

Chuckella said, "So what! There's one egg left. It will be my pretty little chick."

Zeb said, "Chuckella, that egg isn't going to hatch. It's a dinosaur egg."

Chuckella wouldn't listen. To this day, she is still sitting on that big, hard dinosaur egg.

*What hatched from Chuckella's eggs? What did Chuckella say? One egg didn't hatch. Why not? What is Chuckella doing now? Do you think Chuckella has learned her lesson?*



## A Chicken's Life

### CHAPTER 1

#### Life in the Egg

What do you already know about chickens?

Every chicken begins life the same way—as an egg. This is what happens. A hen and a rooster mate. Then the hen lays between seven and fifteen eggs. She lays one egg each day in her nest. Then the hen sits on the eggs until they hatch. She sits and sits for twenty-one days. The mother hen must sit on her eggs to keep them from getting cold. She leaves the nest just to get food and water.

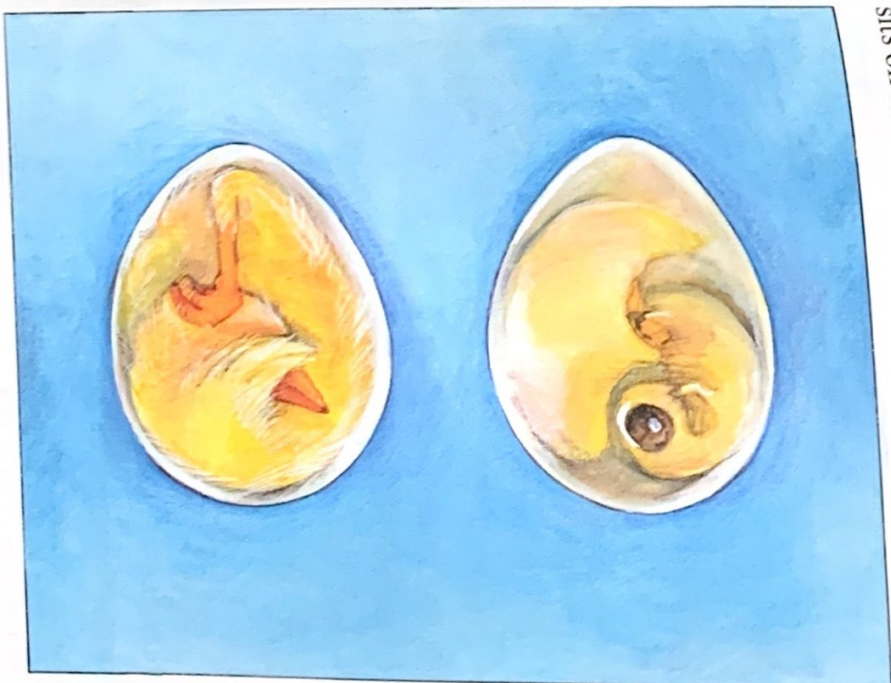


How many eggs does a hen lay? What does the hen do when she leaves her eggs?

Once the hen lays the eggs, little chicks begin to form inside each of the eggs. At the start, the chicks seem to be little red specks in the eggs. In time, the specks get bigger.

Where do the little chicks start to form?

After two days, the heads of the chicks are forming. After seven days, the beginnings of their legs and wings develop—all inside the egg. Soon their beaks develop. All this time, the mother hen sits on her nest, getting off just for food and water.



What does the mother hen do while her chicks are developing in their eggs?



## CHAPTER 2

## Life in the Barnyard

After twenty-one days in the eggs, the little chicks run out of food. They become so big that they need to get out of their shells. They peck, peck, peck.

How many days until little chicks hatch?

All chicks have a tooth called an egg tooth. The egg tooth helps them crack their shells. They peck thousands of times to crack their shells. What does a little chick have that helps it crack open its shell?

When they get out, the chicks are dripping wet and not very pretty. After a short time, they fluff up. Soon they can eat. They can get around by themselves, and say, "Cheep, cheep, cheep." Before long, the little chicks become roosters and hens. What does a newly hatched chick look like? What will a little chick become in time?

Then, just as their mothers and fathers did, the hens and roosters will mate. The hens will lay eggs. Soon another bunch of chicks will develop, hatch, and become hens and roosters. It's all part of life in the barnyard.



### A Chicken's Life

Let's review four of the facts we learned about chickens.



**Fact one:** Where does every chicken begin life?

Start your answer with "Every chicken begins life in . . ."

**Fact two:** How many days does it take for the chick to hatch out of the egg?

Start your answer with "It takes . . ."

**Fact three:** What does the chick have that helps it crack open the shell?

Start your answer with "The chick has an . . ."

**Fact four:** After a short time, what does the chick become?

Start your answer with "The chick becomes a . . ."

### Storybook Decoding Review

Words with the new sounds:

chick	such	time	life
cheep	hatch	while	side
chuckle	each	like	wise

Words you can sound out:

shout	fluffs	ate	buzzing
rain	seven	town	impressed
witty	form	quick	fifteen

Words you have learned:

Once	head	two	laugh
pretty	eggs	any	very

Phrases you can read:

too many cats	on a cloudy day
in my life	short and sweet

Sentences you can read:

- That brown and white dog is so pretty.
- Did you bring prizes for everyone?
- The little chick said, "I want to get out of this egg!"