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Mary Jane Auch , Herm Auch

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When Chickerella's new stepmother and stepsisters move in, life in the chicken coop takes a turn for the worse. Chickerella won't even be able to attend the Fowl Ball, that is, until her Fairy Goosemother appears. The unusually stylish Chickerella dazzles the prince in her eggsquisite gown, but at the stroke of midnight, she must race home before the spell is broken.

Chickerella Details

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From Reader Review Chickerella for online ebook

Kristie Wurglitz says

Chickerella's single father marries a hen from another hen. At first things seem great, until her new family turns her into a servant. She is no longer allowed to live in the main coop anymore or eat with her step family, but must cook and clean and do all the work at her new home lifestyle; she isn't even allowed to go to the Fowl Ball, that is, until she meets her Fairy Goosemother who helps her make a gown and go to the Fowl Ball. She gets to dance and meets the prince. Upon leaving she leaves behind one of her "glass eggs" which is how the prince finds her in the end.

One thing I loved about this story was the books play on words. Multiple times, the author incorporates the word "egg" into specific words within the story: eggcited, eggcesories, eggcelent, eggstravaganza.

The illustrations within this book were hysterical. Mary Hane and Hern Auch made clay models with posable legs and designed and sewed the outfits. Herm found or made the furniture and took pictures of everything, then put the pictures together on the computer adding in special effects to enhance the illustrations even more. This truly amazed me that they put in so much work to make such unique and hilarious pictures to go along with the already hysterical picture book. It was a funny spin on the true original story of Cinderella. Definitely an interesting take on this fairy tale but it did make me laugh. I'm not sure if I would select this for a good example for students, I feel there might be better examples out there, (this one was a bid odd overall, although funny).

(NS) Laura Jackson says

Chickerella's single father married a hen, who had two daughters, from another farm. The stepmother sent Chickerella's father on a wild goose chase and he never returned. The stepmother then sent Chickerella to live in the springhouse and do all of the chores. While living in the springhouse, her eggs were becoming transparent and were made of glass. Then the stepsisters announced that the prince had invited them to a ball. Chickerella helped the stepsisters get ready for this ball, wishing she could attend as well. After they left, her Fairy Goosemother greeted her. She gave Chickerella a new sky blue pink dress to wear to the ball.

Chickerella and the prince danced until she realized she had to leave. As she was departing, she left behind one of her glass eggs. When the prince came around the next day, he wanted all of the hens to present their eggs so that he could find the hen that the glass egg belonged to. When he found Chickerella, her eggs were the only glass eggs he could find. They both decided they didn't want to get married, but instead wanted to start a new fashion business with the help of the Fairy Goosemother. They all lived happily ever after.

I thought this was an interesting spin on the original Cinderella story. I have to admit that I did not enjoy this book as much as the others I read. I thought the illustrations were a little different, and not to my liking. I also did not like that the prince and Chickerella did not get married. I think this took away the tradition of the fairytale for me. I think this is probably the most modern version of Cinderella, especially because of the fashion aspect. Children may enjoy reading this in the classroom for enjoyment and compare the similarities and differences among stories.

NS-Christine Johnson says

This is an interesting take on the classic story of Cinderella! All of the main characters are chickens and roosters, and Chickerella's stepsisters are named Ovumelda and Cholesterla! Chickerella is forced to do chores and make clothes for her two evil stepsisters. She doesn't even sleep in the coop anymore. When the prince announces he is having a ball to find a bride, the two stepsisters put Chickerella to work. When they finally leave for the ball, Chickerella gets a surprise from her Fairy Goosemother!

Students will enjoy this twist on the classic tale of Cinderella. The unique pictures are a collaboration between the two authors, who used clay models and handmade outfits and furnishings. Students also might like some of the slang terms like "doncha" or "coulda" found in the book. They can listen for fun plays on words like "eggsquisite" or "eggcited". This is definitely a modern version of Cinderella, her Fairy Goosemother sends her to the ball in a cab!

Eunice says

My school librarians helped me locate this book amongst the folktale and fairytale section in our school library. This story is an example of a fractured fairytale based on the popular Cinderella story. The authors used a mixture of materials to create the illustrations such as stuffed chicken mannequins, clay, copper and wire as well as computerized special effects.

I would describe this story as the farmhouse version of Cinderella: all of the characters are chickens. Similar to the familiar U.S. version of Cinderella, Chickerella loses her mother due to a fox kidnapping which leaves her father a widower. The language in the story is interesting and may be fun for young readers because the authors incorporate word play using words such as "eggsquisite," "eggscissors," and "cluck naked." One interesting twist to this story is that rather than get married, the prince and Chickerella bond over their love for fashion and they go on to start their own fashion line in "New York." This story would be appropriate for children in 1st - 3rd grade. I think that young readers would be delighted by the word play in the text as well as the unique illustrations.

E.M. Kaplan says

One of the most unintentionally disturbing renditions of the Cinderella tale ever. Picture this -- Cinderella fleeing the ball at midnight with no time to stop for the glass egg she's laying. Makes me think of Kids in the Hall.

Jordan Schwab says

Chickerella is a fractured tale based on the fairy tale Cinderella. I have always liked the tale of Cinderella and I am from the country so when I saw this title, naturally I picked it up. The illustrations are not really illustrations, but rather "sets". This aspect also caught my eye.

When you pick up the book there is a dust jacket with Chickerella in her favorite color dress striking a pose on a dark blueish purple background. The title is in pink and is in a rather girlish font. When you open up the book and look at the end pages there is another lighter blue background with images of the characters and aspects of the story spread along the pages. The title page has a purple background but has Chickerella in a regular dress with cutouts of chickens and spools of thread along with some other tools.

The "sets" are made of mannequins and miscellaneous items found and constructed with wires and such to make them stand up. I thought this aspect was pretty cool because it was new to any book I had read. Normally in books I have seen before the images are typically illustrated/drawn. They are often full-bleed with few exceptions being in borders.

The font is rather simplistic throughout the book and is always on a simple background either on the top or bottom of a page where it is easy to read. I'm not sure I would say they are in a border themselves due to the fact that the background often continues behind the text.

Overall the story is pretty cute especially when there are egg puns within the words. There is definitely a different twist on the end of the book and I'm not sure if I like it more or less than the original ending. This version is a good one to read to little kids who might not grasp the concept of love yet or for those parents who are not ready to explain why the prince and the princess get married.

RLL22017-Mary says

Chickerella is a fractured tale of Cinderella. The main characters are the step mom, evil step sisters and of course the chicken. It starts off by Chickerella's father getting remarried to a hen from a different farm. The father goes away and the chick is stuck with the step mom and evil step sisters. She did all the chores and was always made fun of. One night as the evil step sisters went to the Fowl Ball; where the chicks fairy goose mother showed up and granted her wish of going to the ball. There she was dancing with the Prince and lost track of time. When she was trying to escape before midnight, the chick lost an egg. The Prince picked it up in hoping of finding who it belonged to. When he finally met Chickerella they decided to work together in making a clothing line. I find the twist of the tale to be interesting because instead of them falling in love with each other, they decided just to make a clothing line. The pictures in this book were interesting but they could have been better.

Dawn says

We may be reading Ella Enchanted for Grade 3 book club. This was a great way to lead into the discussion about different versions of stories. We also have read The Bremen Town Musicians in Open Court. One of the members of our class found a Grimm's Fairy Tales in the library that had it as well. After watching a video, we learned that versions of stories really vary!

The illustrations in this story are amazing! We could have read through this book and pointed out interesting things for 30 minutes or more, I'm sure.

The ending is hilarious - the prince actually doesn't want to get married, just like Chickerella! They actually go into business together instead. :)

Malissa says

Awesome! Because maybe the prince doesn't really want to get married either! ;)

Amy says

This is an "egg-cellent" retelling of the Cinderella story.

Christina says

This is a charming and photographic tale of fowls gone wild. The traditional Cinderella take is retold with myriad feathers and scrap fabric samples. Words like 'eggciting' and " eggzample" are invented to add to the satirical feel. The photographs of hand-crafted chickens that illustrate this fun text are memorable for their unabashed tackiness. Chickerella lays precious, and translucent, glass eggs while the prince, who really wasn't looking for wife (that was his mother's idea--he loves fashion) , falls for the gifted, headlining chick. Even the Fairy Goosemother is in on both empowerment and the fashion angle, and a good business results from her fealty. Fun with feathers and fairytales-- enjoy with your readers who can appreciate a goodhearted spoof on the most beloved of their fantasies, now and then.

Hannah Moles says

Chickerella is an, as you could guess, fractured fairy tale based on the original story, Cinderella. Though I think the idea of recreating stories is fun and adds new renditions of old classics, I'm not sure I really enjoyed this specific story. Mary Jane and Herm Auch did a wonderful job on their illustrations that must have taken forever. With each character made separately and with new emotions, as well as costumes and new backdrops, I can't imagine the effort they put into the book. With that being said, I'm not a fan of the plot, especially the ending, or the humor. I feel as if the humor added into the book may be a bit too mature for elementary students to grasp.

Another thing that I was confused on was the abrupt interruptions and plot changes. I felt as if the story had been written to be a post-modern picture book, with the characters semi-aware of the plot, but fell short because of the fact that it was so similar to the original, but all at the same time a completely different story.

Melissa says

Genre: Fantasy

Review:From School Library Journal

Grade 1-3—"Chickerella had a wonderful chickhood until one night when a fox got into the coop and carried off her mother." Thus begins a new fractured fairy tale in which Chickerella lays glass eggs and everyone wants to go to the prince's Fowl Ball. Though Chickerella has no interest in getting married and only wants to see the fancy gowns, her stepmother will not allow her to go. To the rescue comes the Fairy Goosemother, who has a penchant for fashion design and gives good pragmatic advice such as, "Don't wait for someone else to fix things, dearie. You take charge." Unfortunately, the showy artwork tends to overwhelm the punchy story line. Handmade chicken mannequins with heads of polymer clay were dressed, adorned, and positioned on sets made from found objects and photographed. The artist then used a computer to generate

scale and special effects. While full of clever details, such as Chickerella's bright orange "Chickenstock" sandals, the photographs are quite jarring. Still, this is a pun-filled story for libraries in which fractured fairy tales are popular, and the ending will satisfy children who like "eggstravaganzas."—Julie Roach, Watertown Free Public Library, MA

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Recommendations: I recommend this book for students ages 5-8. It is a modern spin on an old fairy tale. Students will like the real looking illustrations

Notes: More for independent reading than a read-aloud

Amy says

[Chickerella, the prince, and the fairy goosemother start their own fashion business together. (hide spoiler)]

Katie F says

This book was so cleverly written! The word choice was very attentive to detail and fitting the theme of "chick". A few of my favorite lines from the entire book were almost immediately when the authors Jane and Auch write "Chickerella was eggscited to have a new family" and then "Before long, the stepmother sent Chickerella's father off on a wild goose chase. Then she proceeded to redecorate". These lines are both comical and clever and they stick to the typical plot of Cinderella in which the father leaves (or dies in some cases) and the stepmother takes over. In this version, initially Chickerella has no interest getting married at the ball, but simply in seeing the different dresses. Once the stepsisters leave for the Fowl Ball the Fairy Goosemother shows up and she is very quirky as well. There are moments in the story when Chickerella recalls the story of Cinderella within her own story. She says "'Now, I remember the story!' Chickerella exclaimed. 'You'll turn a pumpkin into a coach'". The Fairy Goosemother's modern response is that she doesn't do transportation but can call a cab instead. Instead of a glass slipper, Chickerella lays a glass egg on her way out of the ball (which is unique to her for having to drink the water her stepmother provided her with). Once reunited (after the initially the stepmother tries to hide Chickerella) both the Prince and Chickerella express they have no interest in marriage, but both attended the Fowl Ball for the fashion and dresses. The Fairy Goosemother arrives back when she hears fashion and the story ends not in marriage but in friendship as the Fairy Goosemother, Chickerella, and the Prince all head off to New York to create their own fashion line.

The illustrations to this book were very wacky and unique much like the theme in which the book was written. It appears as though each page is a collage of different photographs laid together to produce each scene. It's very appealing and eccentric at the same time. My favorite illustration in this story is the two-page spread in which two stepsisters are trying on very odd dresses. The illustrator does a very humorous job of depicting this scene in the plot.

Overall, this book is very humorous and entertaining. I found myself chuckling at multiple points in the story with the clever and well-written word choice. It appears to be a story written for younger children with the bright and vivid illustrations, however, the language and humor makes me believe that this story would actually benefit older elementary students. I would love to see fifth graders that may understand the humor

respond and create lists of what they found humorous. In addition, they could compare and contrast this story to that of the traditional Cinderella story. The theme of the story is also worth having the students look at. This is not a traditional love and romance theme, but more of independent wants, friendship, and strength. These are great conversation pieces of older elementary students to discuss.
