

Interrupting Chicken



READ ALOUD

Themes: Bedtime, Humor, Parent and Child, Patience and Self-Control, Storytelling

Book Brief: It's bedtime, and Papa reminds his little red chicken not to interrupt the story. But she can't help herself. Each time Papa reads a fairy tale, the chicken leaps in to rescue the characters from danger. When Papa runs out of stories, the chicken tells one of her own, and the roles are gently reversed.

Author(s):

David Ezra Stein

Illustrator(s):

David Ezra Stein

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the title. Ask students what it means to interrupt, and have them predict what the chicken might do.

The Pictures: Take a picture walk. Point out how the artist draws the calm "home" pages differently from the fairy-tale pages. Ask students what they notice.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Which fairy tales do you know?" Preview Hansel and Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, and Chicken Little, which all appear in this book.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [vocabulary guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "Let's read to find out why the little chicken keeps interrupting, and how she and Papa feel."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why does the chicken jump into each story? What is she trying to do?
- How does Papa feel after each interruption? What clues tell you?
- The chicken warns the characters not to make a mistake. Is she being helpful, or making it harder for Papa? Why?
- What do you notice about how each fairy tale ends after the chicken interrupts?
- At the end, the chicken tells a story and falls asleep first. How have things changed between the chicken and Papa?



Think Aloud: "When the chicken shouts, 'Don't go in — she's a witch!', I stop and think: the chicken isn't trying to be naughty. She cares so much about the characters that she can't stay quiet. That tells me she is kind-hearted, even when she interrupts."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Why couldn't the chicken stop interrupting? How did Papa feel, and how did that change by the end?

Extending Our Thinking: Have students use [RIF's Five Finger Retell](#) and have students retell one of the three fairy tales in their own words adding the little red chicken's interruption.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more titles about fairy tales from other perspectives.
 - [The True Story of the Three Little Pigs](#) (1989)