



Three Hens, a Peacock, and the Enormous Egg

by Lester L. Laminack
illustrated by Henry Cole

ABOUT THE BOOK

Farm animals rescue an enormous egg from the road and then must figure out how to care for the mysterious creature. What could possibly be inside this egg and why is it taking so long to hatch?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Study the cover art. How do you know this book is funny? What puzzles the animals? How does the illustrator create a puzzled look on their faces?
- Conflict is the problem to be solved in the story. Take a hint from the cover and discuss the conflict of the story.
- Discuss the meaning of “business as usual.” What happens to change the animals’ routine on the Tuckers’ farm? Describe the look on the animals’ faces when the crate falls from the truck. Why do you think the enormous egg didn’t break?
- Point out the first time in the book when the animals work as a team. In what other ways are they a team? Who appears to be the leader of the team? Theme is what the book is about. Discuss whether teamwork is the theme of this book.
- The animals imagine what the big chick inside the egg will look like (p. 27). How are the imaginations of each animal different? Explain how the illustrator reveals what they imagine.
- The hound is sitting with the egg when an enormous chick hatches. How does the chick change life on the farm?
- The end pages play an important role at the beginning and end of this story. What are the lines on the front end pages? Foreshadowing is a literary term that gives a hint to something that happens later in the story. What do the lines foreshadow? Discuss the illustration on the back end pages. How does this reveal another change on the Tuckers’ farm?

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Lester L. Laminack is compared to a Mister Rogers for teachers. A tremendous speaker, he draws large audiences and uses this popularity to encourage the daily use of picture books, poetry, and spoken words in the classroom. An expert in childhood literacy, Lester is the author of many professional books for teachers in addition to his popular picture books, including *Three Hens and a Peacock*, *Saturdays and Teacakes*, and *Snow Day!*



Henry Cole has published almost 150 books for children, including those he has both written and illustrated, including *Homer on the Case* and *The Somewhat True Adventures of Sammy Shine*, and those he has illustrated, including bestsellers such as *And Tango Makes Three* and books by Julie Andrews Edwards and Harvey Fierstein. A former fourth-grade science teacher who grew up on a farm, he is a popular presenter who dazzles audiences of all ages.