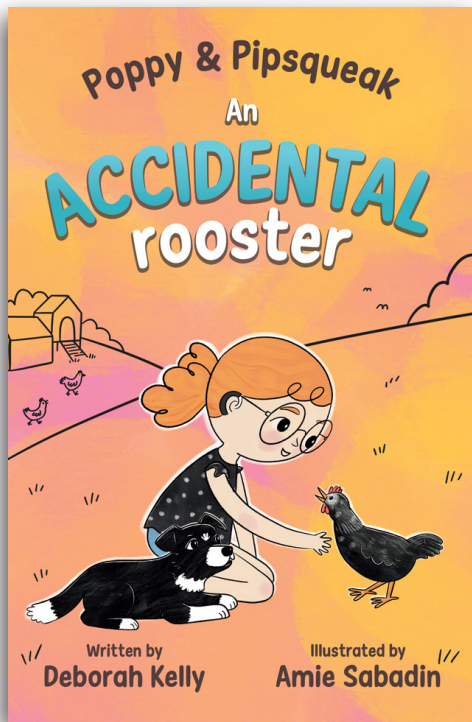

Teachers' Notes



POPPY & PIPSQUEAK 2: AN ACCIDENTAL ROOSTER

Deborah Kelly / Amie Sabadin

ISBN: 9781761113031

Recommended retail: \$11.99

Reading level: 6 to 9 years

BOOK SUMMARY

When Poppy's mum gets some hens for her new chicken coop, one turns out to be ... a rooster. Dad says that Mr Penny is the rowdiest rooster he has ever known. He never stops crowing, ever!

Poppy asks her friends for help. Nothing works.

Poppy is worried about what will happen if they return Mr Penny to the hatchery, but her mum and dad need some sleep! What can she do?

THEMES

Animal Welfare • Farm Life • Family Relationships • Creative Problem Solving • Disability Inclusion

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**Deborah Kelly is available for author talks and workshops.
Contact Wombat Books for more information.**

Poppy and Pipsqueak Teachers' Notes can be used in schools (independent learning, small groups, and whole classes); at home with caregivers; and as part of mental health support programs facilitated by counsellors, psychologists, children's charities, etc.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Deb Kelly is a multi-award winning, internationally published author of picture books, junior fiction, middle grade and young adult titles.

The Thing about Oliver (Wombat Books) was shortlisted in the younger readers category of the Children's Book Council of Australia awards, shortlisted for Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year and won the Australian Association of Family Therapists book of the year award in the younger readers category. Her picture book *Me and You* (Penguin Viking) won Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year award (3-5 year olds) in 2017. Her recent releases include *Little Horses* (Wombat

Books, 2024) and *Skin* (Rhiza Edge, 2025). Deb visits schools, libraries and festival events to share her books with children. Many of her books are included in Premier's Reading Challenge lists around Australia. She is a Role Model for Books in Homes and reviews children's books for Reading Time magazine.

AUTHOR NOTE

I grew up on a farm in NZ. My days spent in nature and with the animals there are some of my happiest childhood memories. I wanted to write a series set rurally to give suburban and city kids a taste of rural life and to provide representation for kids who live rurally. Poppy's hearing difference is inspired by the hearing lectures I attended as part of my recently completed speech pathology degree- I wanted readers with hearing differences to see themselves represented in books they read. I hope kids who don't have hearing differences gain some insight and understanding also. I had to research a bit more about roosters which was fun because I learned many interesting facts!

The character of Mrs Hart was based on a real person by the same name that I remember from my childhood in NZ. Like Mrs Hart in the story, she had a heart of gold. She used to take in stray cats and care for them in her backyard until she could find them new homes. My family ended up adopting two of her kittens - Columbus and Tabby - who we loved for many years.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Amie has been scribbling and splashing paint since forever. With a background in design and a handbag always stocked with art supplies, she finds inspiration everywhere. She works in traditional and digital mediums to create joyful illustrations.

Amie lives in Queanbeyan, NSW with her husband, their two children and miniature schnauzer. When she's not drawing, she enjoys organising her art supplies, walking, and spending time with her family.

ILLUSTRATOR NOTE

Illustrating the *Mighty Pipsqueak 2* was a joy! Since it's the second book in the series, I had already set the overall style and it was fun to focus on creating some new characters and scenes.

After reading the story many times, I worked on a storyboard, choosing the key scenes to illustrate and sketching out their compositions. Adding all the textures, values and finishing touches was the best part—there's nothing quite like seeing it all come together.

Materials wise, I began with pencil sketches in a traditional sketchbook, I then experimented with and created textures using paint, ink, and pastels. The rest of the process took place digitally, using my iPad and laptop.

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

Poppy & Pipsqueak 2: An Accidental Rooster is a sweet and engaging story that introduces young readers to rural life while exploring themes of empathy and creative problem solving. Students can explore what animals need to live healthy, safe and comfortable lives. Through Mr Penny's situation, they can consider ethical decision making and develop understanding. This links to learning about how humans interact and care for living things.

Students can reflect on Poppy's determination to consider the needs of others - animals and humans. This story encourages students to think beyond their own immediate needs by considering how both people and animals might feel.

Students can examine how families work together to solve problems. The tension between needing sleep and caring for the rooster provides a relatable context to discuss compromise and shared responsibility.

Poppy's endeavor to solve the noisy rooster problem provides a rich model for flexible and creative thinking. Students can use different strategies to find solutions such as brainstorming and trial and error and reflect on persistence in the face of failure.

The inclusion of a character with hearing differences will help grow students' understanding of diverse experiences. Students can develop their understanding of different sensory experiences and consider how different environments affect different people.

This text is rich in farm life that may be unfamiliar to many students. It supports learning of different environments, how urban and rural life styles differ, linking concepts of place and environment.

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS & LEARNING OUTCOMES

YEAR ONE

English, Humanities and Social Science, Health & PE

AC9E1LE01 - discuss how language and images are used to create characters, settings and events in literature by First Nations Australian, and wide-ranging Australian and world authors and illustrators

AC9E1LE02 - discuss literary texts and share responses by making connections with students' own experiences

AC9E1LE03 - discuss plot, character and setting, which are features of stories

AC9E1LY05 - use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising and questioning when listening, viewing and reading to build literal and inferred meaning by drawing on vocabulary and growing knowledge of context and text structures

AC9HS1K03 - the natural, managed and constructed features of local places, and their location

AC9HS1K04 - how places change and how they can be cared for by different groups including First Nations Australians

AC9HS1S01 - develop questions about objects, people, places and events in the past and present

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AC9HP2P02 - identify and explore skills and strategies to develop respectful relationships

AC9HP2P03 - identify how different situations influence emotional responses

YEAR TWO

English

AC9E2LA08 - understand that images add to or multiply the meanings of a text

AC9E2LE01 - discuss how characters and settings are connected in literature created by First Nations Australian, and wide-ranging Australian and world authors and illustrators

AC9E2LE02 - identify features of literary texts, such as characters and settings, and give reasons for personal preferences

AC9E2LY05 - use comprehension strategies such as visualising, predicting, connecting, summarising, monitoring and questioning to build literal and inferred meaning

YEAR THREE

English

AC9E3LA01 - understand that cooperation with others depends on shared understanding of social conventions, including turn-taking language, which vary according to the degree of formality

AC9E3LA02 - understand how the language of evaluation and emotion, such as modal verbs, can be varied to be more or less forceful

AC9E3LE01 - discuss characters, events and settings in different contexts in literature by First Nations Australian, and wide-ranging Australian and world authors and illustrators

AC9E3LE02 - discuss connections between personal experiences and character experiences in literary texts and share personal preferences

AC9E3LE03 - discuss how an author uses language and illustrations to portray characters and settings in texts, and explore how the settings and events influence the mood of the narrative

TEACHING POINTS AND ACTIVITIES

This book may be used in whole class, small group or independent learning activities in schools.

Please note, the following suggestions and activities are suited to a variety of year levels spanning Foundation to Year 6 primary aged children.

KNOWLEDGE AND LITERAL UNDERSTANDING

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Give the students a moment to analyse the cover and ask them if there are any interesting details they can see. What makes these details interesting and what do they think it will mean within the story?
2. Read the back cover blurb and ask the students to guess what the story is about.
3. Ask them if they have read other books that might be similar.

AFTER-READING QUESTIONS

1. How was Mr Penny different from the other pullets?
2. Which character do you relate to the most and why?
3. Have you ever worked with your family to solve a problem?
4. What do you think is the main message of the story?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ANIMAL WELFARE

- Mrs Hart cares for animals in need on her farm. Have you ever taken care of a sick or injured animal or given a home to an animal who needed it?
- Do you think Poppy did the right thing in taking Mr Penny to live at Hart's farm? Why/ Why not?
- Mum and Poppy spent a lot of time preparing the coop for the chickens. What do chickens need to be healthy and happy?

FARM LIFE

- Why did Mr Penny behave the way he did?
- Why was Poppy worried about Mr Penny being returned to the hatchery?
- Why did Poppy's family get the chickens in the first place?
- Why is Mrs Hart's farm important to the community?
- Why is a farm a better home for a rooster than a city house?

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

- How did Mum and Dad feel about the rooster box? How did Poppy feel?
- Why is it important for families to work together to solve problems?
- How did Poppy and her parents work together?

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

- Can you remember all the ways Poppy tried to keep Mr Penny quiet?
- Can you think of anything else she could have tried?
- Have you ever found a clever way to solve a problem?

DISABILITY INCLUSION

- What was Poppy's idea after meeting Mrs Hart at the hearing clinic?
- How does Mrs Hart experience Mr Penny's noisy behaviour differently from Poppy and her family?
- What does Poppy learn from Mrs Hart about living with hearing loss?
- What are some ways friends and classmates can help someone with hearing loss feel included?
- Why is it important to understand that everyone experiences the world differently?

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CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

BOOK ILLUSTRATOR FOR A DAY!

Imagine you are the illustrator for *An Accidental Rooster*. Choose a scene in the book to illustrate.

INTERESTING PETS

At the end of the book are some interesting facts about chickens. Choose an animal you would like to have as a pet and find six interesting facts about that animal to share with the class.

DESIGN A CHICKEN COOP

Draw a picture of a chicken coop that has everything that chickens need. Label features such as water, food, roost and space to roam.

FARM VERSUS CITY

Create a chart with the differences between farm and city living. Think about things like noises, animals, and responsibilities.

WRITE A LETTER

Pretend you are Poppy and write a letter to Mrs Hart, thanking her for all her help. Think about how Penny felt and write about those feelings.

A SEQUEL

Write a short sequel about when Poppy visits Mr Penny in his new home. What happens when she sees him and he sees her?

Further resources can always be found on our website.

Poppy & Pipsqueak



Poppy & Pipsqueak

Colour in and find a word

CAT

FARM

CHICKEN

GOAT

COW

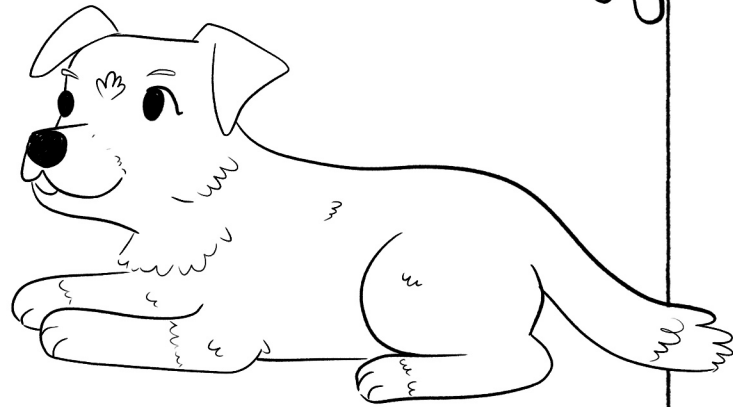
GRASS

DOG

ROOSTER

DONKEY

SHEEP



R	O	O	S	T	E	R
F	M	R	A	F	A	Y
T	R	O	W	M	P	E
A	G	G	O	D	E	K
C	H	I	C	K	E	N
N	B	O	O	T	H	O
G	R	A	S	S	S	D



An
ACCIDENTAL
rooster