

CHICKEN LITTLE

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Ages: 3-6; Grades: PreK-1

Running time: 8 minutes

Themes: Animals, Friends, Problem Solving, Common Sense

SUMMARY

This is a hilarious and fresh retelling of the fable of foolish Chicken Little. Not the brightest chicken in the coop, Chicken Little is alarmed when an acorn falls on his head, and immediately assumes that the sky is falling. He quickly works his equally gullible friends into a frenzy, and together they run for their lives. With no plan in place, the frantic birds, gratefully accept Foxy Loxy's invitation to hide in his safe, dark cave. You'll have to see the movie to find out what happens next!

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make predictions.
- Students will draw conclusions.
- Students will write alternative endings to the story.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Give students a mini-lesson on making predictions. Tell them that strong readers make predictions about what will happen next in the story, based on clues. Make connections by giving students examples of real-life situations where they can make a prediction (*e.g. dark clouds are clues that it might rain*).

Invite students to talk to partners about predictions that they can make about real-life situations. After students have practiced making predictions about real-life situations, read a short section of the book **Chicken Little** or another text and encourage students to make one or two predictions. Then, tell students that they will be watching the movie **Chicken Little**. Encourage students to watch and listen to see if their

predictions are confirmed. Stop the movie periodically to give students time to make several more predictions.

Discuss common sense with students. Define the term and generate a list of examples of using common sense, with class input. Guiding questions:

- Why is using common sense important?
- How can using common sense help keep us safe?
- What are some times that we use common sense in the classroom? At home?

Tell students that they are going to see a movie with some silly characters that don't have a lot of common sense. Stop the movie periodically to ask students what they would do or think instead, if they were using common sense.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Guide students through drawing conclusions at the end of the movie. Ask:

- Why was the floor of the cave wet and squishy? What makes you think that? What clues in the movie give you that idea?
- What was the warm, dark cave? How do you know?
- What do you think happened after the fox sneezed? Why do you think that?
- Do you think that Chicken Little and his friends learned a lesson from their experience? Why or why not? What in the movie makes you think that?

Use students' ideas to drive the following activity.

Do a shared writing activity with the students to write an alternative ending to the story. Ask students what other things could have happened when the birds went into the fox's cave. Reread or replay the part of the story right before they enter the cave: *Without another thought in their tired, feathered heads (oh my gracious!), the flock went forward gratefully into the warm, dark cave.* Write this line on chart paper. Then have

students work together to build the ending. Scribe their answers, adding ideas of your own and thinking aloud as you write. When the ending has been written, give students time to illustrate a scene from their new ending.

Use the art in the movie to inspire students to make construction paper collages of one of the characters in the story. Rip or cut out different shapes from construction paper. Older students may be able to do this on their own. Model how to glue the shapes onto paper to make the shapes of different characters. Encourage students to be creative and tell them that their characters don't have to look exactly like the ones in the movie. Have students write the character's name on their collage, using a model for spelling.

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Chicken Little retold and ill. by Steven Kellogg

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Goldilocks and the Three Bears by James Marshall

Hansel and Gretel by James Marshall

The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney

Rapunzel by Paul O. Zelinsky

Red Riding Hood by James Marshall

The Three Billy Goats Gruff by P.C. Asbjornsen and J.E. Moe

The Three Little Pigs by James Marshall

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs! by Jon Scieszka, ill. by Lane Smith

The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Andersen, adapted by Jerry Pinkney

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