

MAX'S CHOCOLATE CHICKEN

Max's Chocolate Chicken

by Rosemary Wells (Dial)

Themes: Easter/Sibling Rivalry

Grade Level: Pre K-2

Running Time: 5 minutes, animated

Summary

Max's Chocolate Chicken is a charming story about Max, a curious little rabbit, who spies a chocolate chicken in the birdbath left by the Easter Bunny. Max's sister Ruby, who tends to be a bit bossy, tells Max that whoever finds the most eggs in the egg hunt is entitled to the chocolate chicken. As Max looks about for eggs, he becomes easily distracted by the mud puddles, acorns, and objects he finds on the ground. Meanwhile, Ruby diligently goes about her business of finding eggs.

When it becomes clear that Ruby will find more eggs than Max, Max runs to the birdbath, snatches the chocolate chicken, and begins feasting on its tail and wings. The story ends with Max popping out of his hiding place, only to discover, to his amazement and Ruby's, that the Easter Bunny has replaced the chocolate chicken in the birdbath.

Objectives

- Children will explore Easter holiday traditions
- Children will learn about the advantages of being inquisitive
- Children will investigate sibling rivalry

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Max's Chocolate Chicken with children.

Then ask:

Why do you think Max had a hard time hunting for eggs? What would you do with acorns, a shovel, and a mud puddle?

Discuss the Easter holiday with children. Encourage children who celebrate the holiday to share their traditions with their classmates. Children might want to bring items from home representative of the holiday to share with their classmates.

Talk with children about egg hunts they may have participated in. (If children have not been involved in egg hunts, discuss other kinds of scavenger hunts they may have experienced.) Ask: How did you feel when you discovered the eggs (objects) hidden here and there? How did you know when to stop looking? What did you do with the eggs (objects) that you found? Later, cut out eggs from sheets of construction paper and hide them in the classroom. Supply children with paper bags and have a classroom paper egg hunt!

After Viewing Activities

Try some egg dying experiments with children in

the classroom. Supply hard boiled eggs that children can dip into food coloring and enjoy as a special treat at snack or lunch time when dry. You can also boil onion skins or berries and have children dip their eggs into the water for a "naturally dyed look."

Arrange to have an outdoor scavenger hunt to help children explore nature and to gain skill in classifying. Begin by having children collect as many round objects as they can find within a given time limit. When you return to the classroom, help children draw a large circle on their individual sheets of poster board. Have children glue the round objects within the circle to create a collage. Later, instruct children to look for objects representing other categories, such as rough objects, smooth objects, brown objects, etc.

Encourage the children to think about the differences between the personalities of the two characters Max and Ruby and how their character traits influenced the way they behaved during the egg hunt. Talk about older and younger siblings, and sibling rivalry.

Other book based films and videos about sibling rivalry are available from Weston Woods. These include:

JOHN BROWN, ROSE AND THE MIDNIGHT CAT by Jenny Wagner, illustrated by Ron Brooks
MORRIS' DISAPPEARING BAG by Rosemary Wells
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