



# StoryTime SPARKS! Best Practices For Holidays & Special Days!

Sponsored By: The CLA Youth Services Interest Group

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**THEME: National Chicken Month (September)**

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Storytime Blog (mostly weekly toddler storytimes): <http://sillylibrarian.wordpress.com/>

**Opening Song:** Pete Seeger. "Let Everyone Clap Hands with Me." *Children's Concert at Town Hall*. (Can also serve as a movement or listening song.)

**(Movement Song:** Jim Gill. "Silly Dance Contest." *Jim Gill Sings the Sneezing Song and Other Contagious Tunes*.)

**Introductions:** "Hello, friends! My name is Miss Jennifer. I'm so happy to see you here at storytime. Some of you might know that September is National Library Card Month. But, did you know that September is also National Chicken Month? (Bring out chicken puppet.) And, did you know that a CHICKEN actually came to see me at the library?!" Tell "Book Book Book". (This is a well-loved librarian anecdote about a chicken that comes into the library. One version, "The Well-Read Frog" can be found in Margaret Read MacDonald's *Three Minute Tales*.)

**Set Expectations:** Eyes up front. Ears listening. Smiling faces.

**Listening Song:** "If You Want to Hear a Story"

## "If You Want to Hear a Story"

Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It"

If you want to hear a story, clap your hands!

If you want to hear a story, clap your hands!

If you want to hear a story,

If you want to hear a story,

If you want to hear a story, clap your hands!

*Other verses:*

"nod your head,"

"rub your tummy,"

"sit real still," etc.

**First Book:** Heine, Helme. *The Most Wonderful Egg in the World*.

To settle a quarrel between three hens, the king must choose which one lays the most beautiful egg.

## Fingerplay: "Chook-Chook-Chook"

### "Chook-Chook-Chook"

Chook, chook, chook  
Good morning, Mrs. Hen.  
(Hold up both thumbs)  
How many chickens have you got?  
Madam, I've got ten.  
(Show ten fingers)  
Four of them are yellow.  
(Show four fingers on one hand)  
And four of them are brown  
(Show four fingers on the other hand)  
And two of them are speckled red  
(Show two fingers)  
The nicest in the town.

## Second Book: Reynolds, Aaron. *Chicks and Salsa*.

Soon after the chickens tire of their feed and decide to make chips and salsa, all of the other animals on the farm start to crave southwestern cuisine.

**Flannel Board or Puppet Song:** Ed McCurdy. "I Had a Little Rooster." *Children's Songs: the Greatest Hits*. (I use flannel animals or have children come up front and use puppets. My flannel figures were purchased from <http://www.artfelt.net/>. I usually use Folkmanis puppets.)

## Third Book: Waring, Richard. *Hungry Hen*.

A greedy fox watches a hungry hen growing bigger every day, knowing that the longer he waits to eat her, the bigger (and tastier!) she will be.

## Movement/Stand-up Song: "Chicken Dance"

**Fourth Book:** *The Little Red Hen*. ( I storytell the tale, using a singing refrain from storyteller Heather Forest's sound recording *Sing Me a Story*. Three children from the audience wear headbands to represent the dog, the cat, and the mouse. The rest of the audience participates as chicks. I wear a chicken hat and act as the little red hen. My hat was purchased from <http://www.anytimecostumes.com/>.) Paul Galdone has a traditional version of the book if you would rather just read the story.

## Closing Song: "We Wave Goodbye Like This"

### "We Wave Goodbye Like This"

Tune: "The Farmer in the Dell"  
We wave goodbye like this.  
We wave goodbye like this.  
We clap our hands for all our friends.  
We wave goodbye like this.

## Simple Craft, Activity or Short Film: "Chick in an Egg" Craft

### Some Other "Egg-cellent" Books

*Wolf's Chicken Stew* by Keiko Kasza, *Chicken Soup* by Jean Van Leeuwen,  
*Cook-a-doodle-doo* by Janet Stevens, *Henny Penny* by H. Zimmerman,  
*Charlie Chick* by Nick Denchfield, *Big Fat Hen* by Keith Baker,  
*The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza* by Philemon Sturges,  
*Chicken Butt* by Erica Perl, *Stuck in the Mud* by Jane Clarke,  
*This Little Chick* by John Lawrence, *Hurry! Hurry!* by Eve Bunting

