

Reading Focus: Phonemic Awareness

**Information from Reading Rockets (2012)*

Have you ever danced to the “Hokey Pokey” and clapped to the words “That’s what it’s all about!” If so, you were practicing phonemic awareness. What is it? It is the ability to recognize and work with sounds, rhyming words and syllables (parts) of words. These skills come through hearing. Children learn these skills **LONG** before they are reading independently!

Here are a few tips to help your child learn how to take apart words and sounds:

Tip #1: Focus on one sound at a time. Drag a sound out in a word.

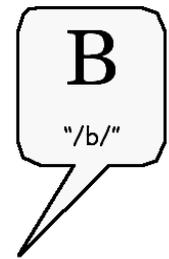
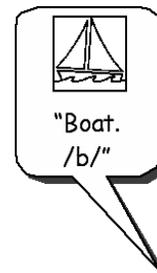
Example: “Look there is a ssssssssnake!” “Please pass the mmmmmilk.”

Tip #2: Make the learning memorable. Have fun making up sentences with words which all start with the same letter.

Example: “Billy bats baseballs before breakfast.”
The sillier, the better!

Tip #3: Rhyming and reading. Identifying rhyming words is an important skill for children to master. While reading, point out and emphasize rhyming words.

Example: “The three little kittens lost their _____(mittens).” Have your child fill in the missing word.



It's
SMOOTHIE
Time!

Avocado Blueberry Smoothie

Ingredients:

- 1/4 avocado
- 1/4 cup blueberries
- 1/2 banana
- 1/4 cup baby oatmeal or regular oatmeal
- 1/4 yogurt
- 1/4 water
- 2-3 ice cubes

Directions:

Puree all ingredients in a blender until smooth.
Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to 48 hours.

Our Parents Are Talking!

Participants in our 2020 Parent Survey had great things to say about Ferst Readers of Muscogee County.

Here’s just one comment from a happy parent:

“Every month we get the book in the mail. It is like Christmas for her. She gets so excited to go inside and open her book right away. It really does brighten her day to see the book and it helps us bond as a family to read together. She loves getting to spend that little extra time with me.”

Thank you to all of our parents!

Community Partner

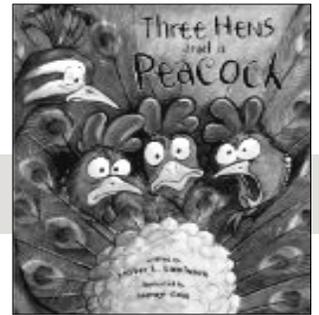


Reading Guide



Three Hens and a Peacock

Author: Lester L. Laminack; Illustrator: Henry Cole
Peachtree Publishers



R Repeat the Book: Repeating gives more chances to learn the vocabulary.

First Read (events): Look at the cover, read the title, and say, “*I wonder why these three hens are in the tail feathers of a peacock? Let’s read and find out.*” As you read, talk with your child about the problem in the story. Stop and talk about the solution offered by the dog. Let your child predict if the dog’s solution will work. Use the kid-friendly definitions for any of the words your child might not understand. Ask the first read question in the “Ask Questions” section.

Second Read (emotions): Look at the cover and say, “*Do the three hens and the peacock in this story always get along? Let’s read and find.*” Talk about how the three hens become jealous of the peacock, how they feel when they switch places, how they feel when no one stops, and how they feel going back to laying eggs. Ask the second read question.

Third Read (retell): Follow the instructions for this book’s monthly activity (on the next page) and retell the story using the characters from the story. Ask the third read question.

Vocabulary

Use these words when you talk with your child this month.

shriek - a loud cry, as from a bird

mope - wandering around sadly

glamorous - enchanting

whiz - move quickly without stopping

squirm - wiggle or twist

gussied - dressed in your best clothes

E Engage and Enjoy: Using these activities keeps your child’s interest in the story.

The animals make many different sounds to express their emotions in this book. As you read, make some of the sounds. Use a voice that matches the emotion of the characters, such as when the hens are all excited about getting gussied up (high pitch, happy voice).

A Ask Questions: After talking about the book, ask questions to promote deeper thinking.

After the first read, ask, “*Why are the hens so upset with the peacock?*”

After the second read, ask, “*What do the hens and peacock learn from switching jobs with each other?*”

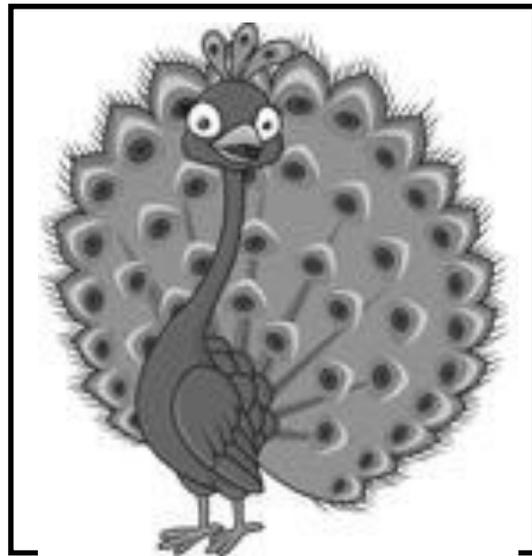
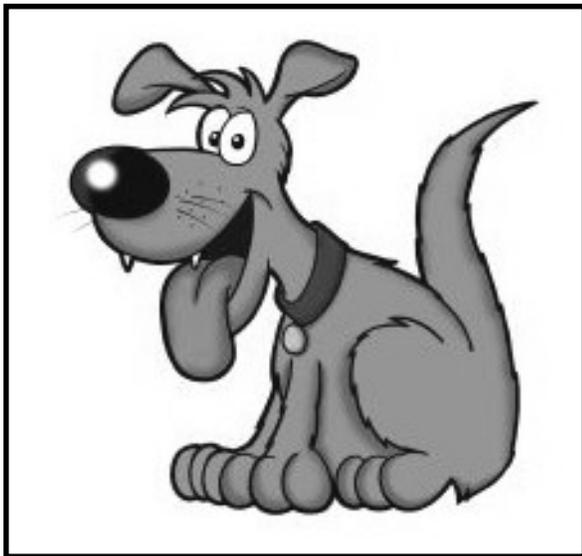
After the third read, ask, “*Why is the farmer’s family happier after the hens and peacock settle their problems?*”

D Do More: Use other activities to help your child connect vocabulary to their world outside of the story.

On the next page, there are some additional activities which you can do with your child.

Things to Do

This month's book is full of fun characters who do silly things and is a great book to retell using stick puppets. Below are the main characters from the story. Color and cut out their pictures, then tape them on a pencil or a stick. Now use the stick characters for you and your child to retell the story. (Think about videotaping it so you can share it.)



Ferst Readers has adopted and adapted the READ guide format courtesy of:



See the
R.E.A.D.
video here

Rollins Center
for Language & Literacy

A Program of the Atlanta Speech School

Read Right

From the Start

Read with your child every day.

Fun with Reading on Facebook Live!

Join us Thursday, Oct. 29th, for a special Facebook Live reading of Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away, written by award-winning author Meg Medina. The book is a celebration of friendship that lasts forever.

This special event is part of Jumpstart's Read for the Record. It "brings together millions of adults and children around the world each year to read the same book on the same day in order to raise awareness about the critical importance of early literacy and access to high-quality books," according to Jumpstart's website.

This is a collaboration of Ferst Readers, Chattahoochee Valley Libraries, the Literacy Alliance and The Basics™/United Way.

What: Live reading of Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away, presented by Greta Browder of Chattahoochee Valley Libraries

When:

Thursday, Oct. 29th at 10 a.m.

How to Watch: Visit Chattahoochee Valley Libraries' Facebook page or Ferst Readers of Muscogee County's Facebook page. The reading also will be recorded and posted to Facebook.



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