



Reading Roundup



Chicken Sunday

Written and Illustrated by
Patricia Polacco

Reading Roundup
Partners



Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share Chicken Sunday, written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco.

Before Reading

This book tells a beautiful story about love, generosity, and faith. Look at the front cover. Notice the woman and three children. I wonder how they know each other. I wonder how they decided to love each other. Let's read together to learn about these four people and how they show love, generosity, and faith in each other.

During Reading

- Begin reading the book by starting on the title page. Hold the book so that students are able to see the illustrations. Give plenty of time for students to “read” and think about the pictures. Continue to read through **page 7**.

- **Page 7 – P** – *“We wanted to get her that hat more than anything in the world.” After reading this, how do the children most likely feel about Gramma (also known as Miss Eula)?* (They love her, and more than anything, want to do something nice for her.)

- **Page 12– T/T** – *Gramma and the children are upset about what has happened. Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? Turn and talk to your partner about how it feels to be accused of something you didn't do.* (Answers will vary. Consider sharing your own story if time permits.)

- **Page 18 – P** – *Mr. Kodinski's feelings toward the children begin to change. What did the children do to cause a change in Mr. Kodinski?* (The children worked very hard to make beautiful pysanky eggs and gave the egg to him as a gift.)

- **Page 24 – T/T** – *Look at the expression on the children's faces. They can't believe what they're hearing and seeing. Turn and talk to your partner about why Mr. Kodinski decided to give the hat to the children. Why did he not want the children to pay for the hat?* (Mr. Kodinski was convinced the children hadn't thrown eggs at his door. He was impressed by how the children made him such a thoughtful gift. He also noticed how they asked for work to make money.)

- **Page 32 – T/T** – *The author describes Miss Eula's voice as sounding like slow thunder and sweet rain. The last line of the book reads, “Sometimes, when we are especially quiet inside, we can hear singing. A voice like slow thunder and sweet rain.” Turn to talk with your partner about what those words mean.* (When the children who are now adults are quiet and remembering Ms. Eula, they can hear her voice and feel close to her.)

After Reading

The beauty of Chicken Sunday is the generosity and love each character shows in her or his own way. – P – *How does Miss Eula show her generosity and love to others? The children? Mr. Kodinsky?* (Miss Eula believes in the children when they're accused by Mr. Kodinsky. The children want to get a job so they can buy Miss Eula the hat she wants. Mr. Kodinsky gives the beautiful Easter hat to the children so Miss Eula can wear it to church.) *By the way, did you know Mr. Kodinsky is Jewish? He celebrates Jewish holy days, but he doesn't celebrate Easter like the children and Miss Eula.*

Remember, the love of people who see everyone as equal is always greater than the fear of people who only see differences.

Vocabulary

solemn – serious, p. 5

babushka – grandmother (Polish, Russian), p. 5

pelting – hit hard, p. 10

glowered – frowned, p. 18

holy – spiritual, p. 31



**WORD
WAGON**

