



The Chicken Doesn't Skate

By Ron Leduc



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Unit Overview This novel study provides teachers with a highly structured format for teaching language arts, as students develop a love for reading longer materials, like novels. Various areas such as reading comprehension, vocabulary development, spelling, grammar and writing are all entwined in this integrated approach, eliminating the need for teaching these skills separately. Activities are divided into three main sections: 1. Chapter Questions - For each chapter, students answer a thorough set of questions requiring answers in complete sentences. Reading comprehension is a key as students must read and understand the entire book, in order to answer the questions. (One major strength of the novel study approach is that students must understand the novel or they will be unable to do the required assignments.) 2. Vocabulary and Language - Each chapter also includes activities dealing with such things as word meanings, use of the dictionary, spelling, parts of speech, syllables, antonyms/synonyms, punctuation and grammar. 3. Writing and Creativity - In this section, students apply what they have learned about language and grammar skills to write more effectively. Creative writing is the focus of this less-structured segment, allowing teachers more opportunity to incorporate their own ideas into developing creative writing skills. A puzzle activity is incorporated into this section to add more variety to the lessons. **ASSIGNMENTS** With the assignments, teachers can photocopy entire booklets for each student or only the portions that the teacher wishes to use. One possible method of reducing this large amount of photocopying, is to have the students write down the chapter questions and answers in their notebooks. Teachers are free to pick and choose assignments as they see fit, as well as adding in any optional lessons they develop. **STORY SUMMARY** It began when Mrs. Baggio announced this year's science fair. Milo Neal's project was The Complete Life Cycle of a Link in the Food Chain. The link was a chicken named Henrietta. All the children took turns looking after her. When Zachary Gustofson had his turn, Henrietta escaped. Adam Lurie, the hockey team captain, found her and took her to the arena. The Rangers won their first game and Henrietta became the mascot. The Rangers continued to win and Henrietta continued to mature. When Milo revealed that Henrietta was destined to become a chicken dinner, everyone was stunned! What was worse, was that the dinner was to be before the championship game against the Canadian team - the Rebels. Henrietta is chicken napped by Zachary and brought to the game in a duffel bag. The Rangers have another big problem - a pourous goalie. Adam notices that Zachary is a natural wonder at blocking projectiles thrown at his computer. Zachary is put in the net and the Rangers win! Zachary goes from being a dweeb to a sport celebrity. And Henrietta is saved from the roasting pan by laying an egg - thus completing the food chain.

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