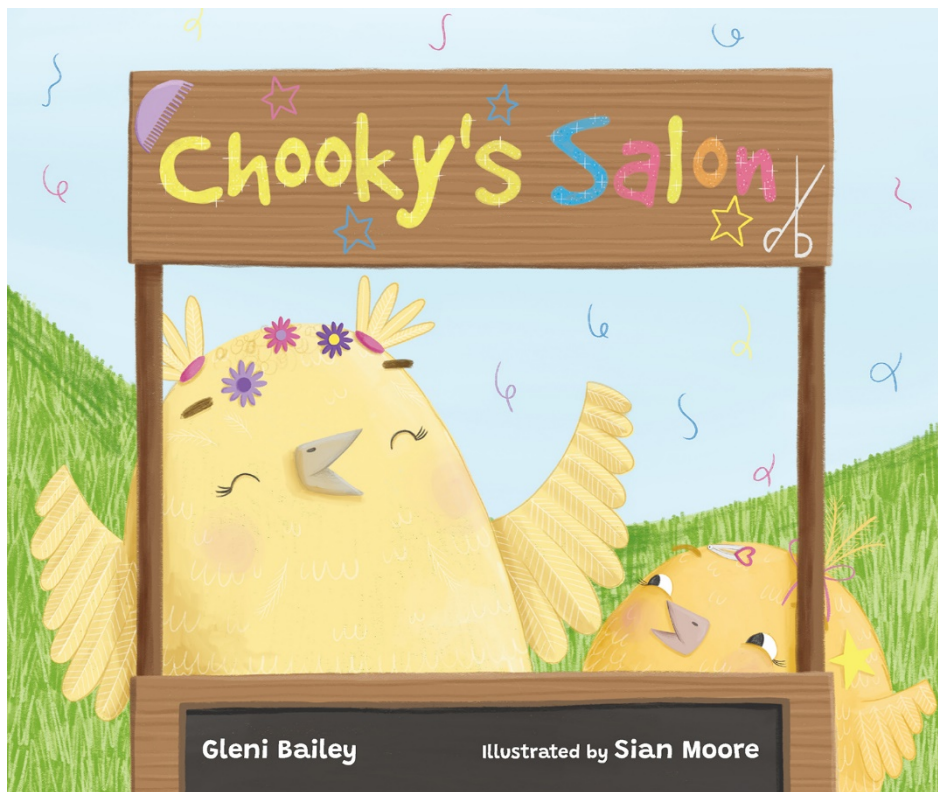


Chooky's Salon

Teaching Notes

Author: Gleni Bailey

Illustrator: Sian Moore



Synopsis:

Disappointed that she can't go to the fair with her friends, Chooky decides to look on the bright side and enjoy time with her sister. Inspired by playing "hairdressers" together, the two set up a modelling show with an entrance fee for other chickens to attend. The show is a great success and Chooky and Summer make lots of money! With the money they have, the pair decide to set up a salon to make everyone's feathers beautiful. A humorous story about teamwork, creativity, and responsibility with delightfully engaging illustrations.

• **CHOOKS**

Chooks were brought to Australia on the first fleet of ships in 1788. Since then, some types have been bred in Australia – in particular Australorps. Australorps make great pets as they are good layers with a pleasant temperament and live about 6 to 10 years.

While there are a lot of different chicken breeds available, some are more suitable to own than others. Some types of chooks like particular situations more than others, and so which breed is best for you depends on such things as the local climate (how hot or cold it gets) and/or the space you have available.

Some chooks are 'Standard' size like Australorps and some are much smaller or 'Bantam' sized.

BREEDING

Chooks incubate their eggs by sitting on them to keep them warm. This makes the chicken inside the egg develop and grow. Chooks sit on their eggs for twenty-one days before their baby chickens' hatch.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Western Australia, people are not permitted to keep roosters in town as they make too much noise when they crow in the morning.
- Some bantams, called Silky Bantams have feathers on top of their heads that look like pom-poms.
- Some bantams, called Feather-foot bantams, have feathers growing down their legs and on their feet.
- Bantams are smaller than Standard chook breeds.
- Aracaunas lay eggs that have blue shells, however the eggs inside is the same as a normal egg.
- Frizzles are curious looking chooks that have unique feathers that curl outwards instead of lying flat. Their feathers give them the appearance of someone who has had an unfortunate blow dry or a 'bad hair' day!
- Some Frizzles are bantam sized and some Frizzles are standard size.

- There are more chooks on earth than humans.
- The worlds' oldest chook lived to 16 years.

BEFORE READING

Introduce the book by looking at the cover and ask the following questions:

- Does anyone live on a farm or farmlet?
 - Does anyone have pet chooks?
 - Do your chooks have names?
 - What are their names?
- What do you think the story is about?
 - What emotions are the two chooks showing?
 - Do you think the two chooks are related to each other?
 - Why do you think that?

AFTER READING

Class discussion

- Does anyone here play 'Hairdressers'?
- What games do you play with your siblings?
- How many roses does Summer loop into Chookys' feathers?
- How many loaves of bread does the Mumma bake?
- What chores does the Mumma chook do?
- Do you think the Mumma Chook is wise?
- Why do you think that?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

- Identify and discuss any values and morals within the story.
 - How many values can you identify?
 - Why are values/morals important?
- Draw one or more of the characters from the book.
- Do the papercraft activity (Chicken Craft) included, to make a paper chook.
- Theatre – Students take on the role of each of the book characters and perform the story to the class.

About the Author:

Gleni Bailey began to write children's stories due to her love of nature and desire to teach from learned experiences. Based at her home farm in Western Australia, Gleni finds motivation from the myriad of characters surrounding her. While the antics of chickens, cats, sheep, other farm animals, and wildlife amuse her, they also inspire, providing the context for her to subtly impart many life lessons while also entertaining readers.

About the Illustrator:

Sian Moore is a freelance illustrator from Wales. She graduated in 2014 after four years of studying illustration and now works from home with "help" from her two young daughters. She works digitally to create her illustrations and over the years has worked with a variety of children's magazines, recently stepping into the world of publishing and realising her dream of illustrating picture books.