

# Chickerella

## Mary Jane and Herm Auch

### Holiday House, 2005

About the Author and Illustrator:



<http://www.auchbooks.com/>

[http://www.holidayhouse.com/titles\\_by\\_author.php?author\\_id=Auch](http://www.holidayhouse.com/titles_by_author.php?author_id=Auch)

Mary Jane and Herm Auch have teamed up to complete a variety of books together. Mary Jane has written nine novels for middle school students. She, along with her husband Herm, have illustrated the picture books she writes. They combine their artistic talents to create attention-grabbing art work. Mary Jane sews the outfits and makes the clay models while Herm creates the backdrops. Herm takes photos and combines the images to get the final product using the computer. This husband and wife team have written and illustrated eight parodies about poultry.

#### Awards:

YHBA Nominee

#### Other Books by this Author/Illustrator:

Beauty and the Beaks

Eggs Marks the Spot

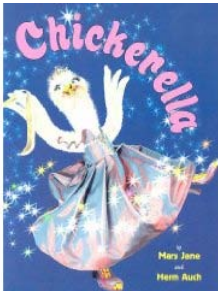
The Nutquaker

Peeping Beauty

Poultrygeist  
Souper Chicken  
The Plot Chickens  
The Princess and the Pizza

### **Annotation:**

Chickerella is a unique version of the classic fairy tale Cinderella. Chickerella's stepmother sends her father off on a "wild goose chase" and turns her world upside down. She is now made to do all of the chores at the home and not even allowed to live there. The invitation for the Fowl Ball comes and she has to make dresses for her stepsisters and is not allowed to go. When the Fairy Goosemother comes to save the day she hears a pep talk from her about taking charge of her own life. She meets the prince and leaves behind a glass egg. When the prince comes to find the owner of the beautiful egg, Chickerella gets the courage to speak up. They realize they both love fashion and neither of them want to get married. In the end, Chickerella, the prince and the Fairy Goosemother create a gorgeous fashion line.



### **Genre:**

Fairy Tale

### **Point of View:**

Third Person

### **Theme:**

Courage/Following Dreams

The title, Chickerella, implies there is a twist to the classic fairy tale Cinderella.

## Conflict:

External Conflict

## Conflict Resolution:

Chickerella has a conflict with her step family and is unable to do any of the things that she loves. When given the chance from the Fairy Goosemother, Chickerella defies her stepmother goes to the Fowl Ball.

## Characters:

Chickerella- main character, spunky chicken who loves to sew and lays glass eggs

Chickerella's father- single father who remarries

Stepmother- unkind, bossy stepmother who interferes with Chickerella's life

Ovumelda- stepsister who is not nice

Cholestera- stepsister who is not nice

Fairy Goosemother- fairy godmother who grants wishes

The prince- rooster who loves fashion especially shoes

## Setting:

fairy tale chicken farm/ castle

## Interest/Reading Level:

IL K-3

RL 3.9

## Booktalk:

Here comes Chickerella, an “eggcellent” retelling of the well known fairy tale Cinderella. Chickerella is a quirky little chicken who likes sewing beautiful dresses and living with her father when along comes a mother hen with her daughters Ovumelda and Cholestera and changes everything. When the invitation to the Fowl Ball comes she can't wait to go just to see how everyone is dressed. Will she make it to the Fowl Ball and marry the prince?

## Discussion Questions:

Pre-Reading: What do you know about the story Cinderella?

pg. 1: What is a rooster?

pg.2/3: What real word do you think "eggcited" takes the place of?

pg. 3/4: Describe the stepmother's attitude toward Chickerella.

pg. 5/6: What do you think caused her eggs to become glass?

pg. 7/8: What was Chickerella forced to do?

pg. 9/10: Do you think Chickerella liked her stepsisters helping with the dresses?

pg. 11/12: How did Chickerella feel when she saw the Fairy Goosemother?

pg. 13/14 Do you think Chickerella will make it to the Fowl Ball on time? Why/why not?

pg. 15/16: Do you think her stepfamily will see her?

pg. 17/18: How does her stepfamily feel when they see her?

pg. 19/20: What will happen to Chickerella when she gets home?

Pg. 21/22: Will Chickerella get up enough courage to stop the prince?

pg. 23/24: What does Chickerella have in common with the prince?

pg. 25/26: What are the drawings in the background for?

pg. 27/28: Why did the author use "New York" as the city?

pg. 29/30: Why is it important to follow your dreams?

Post-Reading: What could have happened if Chickerella did not get the courage to speak up and tell the prince that she was the one he was looking for?

## Language:

cooplife pg. 1- life in a chicken coop

servant pg. 4- someone who does all of the chores

springhouse pg. 4- shed built over a spring (where water comes out of the ground)

clung pg. 6 stuck to

transparent pg. 6 able to see through like glass

frantic pg. 9 a lot of work very fast

commotion pg. 21 a lot of noise

## Standards Met by Book Content:

Language Arts- English k.1.1, k.1.2, k.1.3, k.1.4, k.1.5, k.2.1, k.2.2, k.2.3, k.2.5, k.3.1, k.3.3, k.3.5, 1.1.3, 1.1.15, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.3.4, 2.1.6, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.6, 2.2.9, 2.2.10, 2.3.1, 2.3.5, 2.3.6, 2.3.7, 2.7.1, 2.7.8, 3.1.3, 3.1.6, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.6, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.6, 3.3.8

Art- k.1.1, k.5.2, 1.3.1, 2.1.4, 2.2.2, 3.2.2, 3.1.4

## Anticipation Statements:

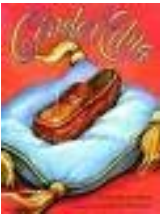
Before		Anticipation Guide	After	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		Fairy tales come true.		
		You need courage to follow your dreams.		
		The prince always gets married at the end of fairy tales.		
		All stepfamilies are not nice.		
		It is okay to make one person do all of the chores all of the time.		

## Art Medium:

Mixed Media- clay, clothing, setting made of objects constructed and found

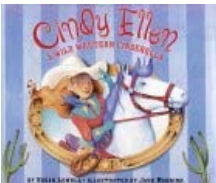
Mary Jane made all of the chickens out of clay and sewed clothes for each of the characters. Herm designed the backdrops out of objects that he either had already or made. He then photographed all of the objects. Using a computer he scaled all of the items and combined them to create the unique pictures. Students can relate to items seen in some of the pictures as they are typically found in homes. I felt that some of the pages were distracting and hard to keep track of the characters.

# If you like **Chickadee**, **YOU'LL LOVE...**



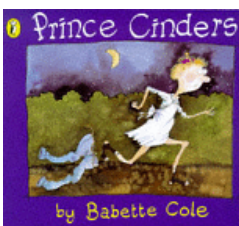
Jackson, Ellen B. **Cinder-Edna**

Cinder-Edna takes a unique approach to her life allowing her to have a different outcome than the original version of Cinderella.



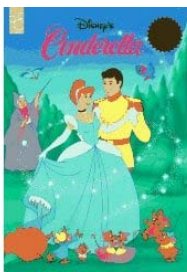
Lowell, Susan **Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella**

All of the magic from the fast talking fairy godmother couldn't help this sweet cowgirl. She would need to get courage!



Cole, Babette **Prince Cinders**

A version to entice all of the boys with a wish to be a He-Man and many more hilarious twists and turns.



Disney, Walt **Cinderella**

The classic Walt Disney version of the prince looking for his princess.

## Curriculum Connections:

Art- k.1.3, k.4.2, 1.4.2, 2.4.2, 3.4.2

Students will observe and respond to the illustrations in the book. They will identify the objects that are seen in their lives and discuss what certain items are typically used for.

Social Studies- k.2.4, 1.2.4, 1.2.5, 2.2.5, 3.2.5

This book can be linked to a unit on respect for others and being a good citizen. Students can be taught that individuals should respect the right of others and be a responsible member of their communities. Reference can be made to how *Chickerella* is mistreated by her stepfamily and how the prince and Fairy *Goosemother* give her the chance to follow her dreams.

## Book Activities:

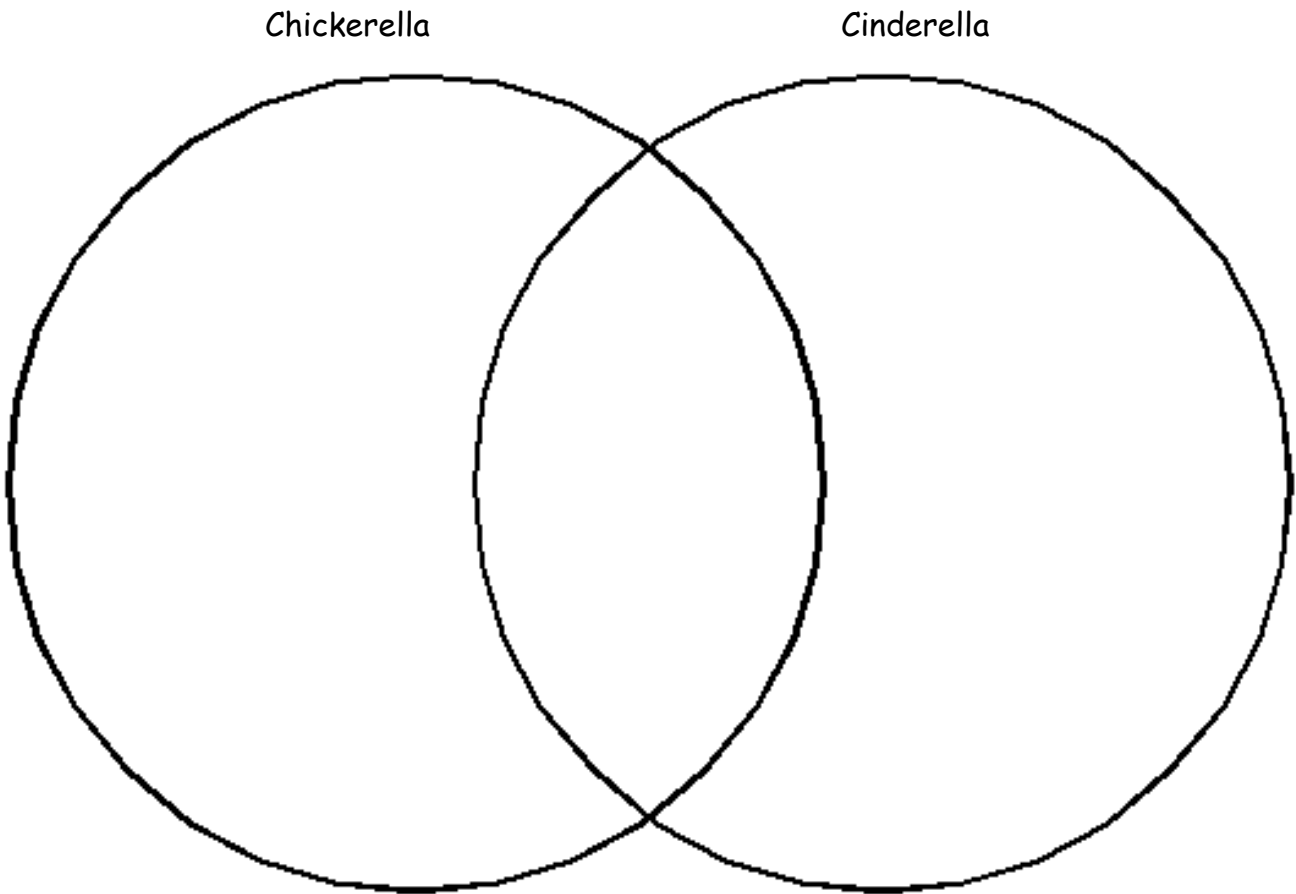
Art- K.7.4, 1.7.5, 2.7.4, 3.7.4

Using clay students will create their own character for *Chickerella*. They can model it after one of the characters in the book or create a new character.

Language Arts: k.3.3, 1.3.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.3, 3.3.2

Students will listen to or read the books *Chickerella* and *Cinderella*. With a partner they will complete the attached Venn Diagram comparing the two picture books. A minimum of four facts should be in each of the sections of the diagram.

Venn Diagram  
Chickerella/ Cinderella



## Bibliography:

Chickerella by Auch, Mary Jane and Herm

<http://dc.doe.in.gov/Standards/AcademicStandards/index.shtml>

<http://www.auchbooks.com/>

[http://www.holidayhouse.com/titles\\_by\\_author.php?author\\_id=Auch](http://www.holidayhouse.com/titles_by_author.php?author_id=Auch)