



Interrupting Chicken

David Ezra Stein

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Awarded a 2011 Caldecott Honor!

A favorite joke inspires this charming tale, in which a little chicken's habit of interrupting bedtime stories is gleefully turned on its head.

It's time for the little red chicken's bedtime story —and a reminder from Papa to try not to interrupt. But the chicken can't help herself! Whether the tale is HANSEL AND GRETEL or LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD or even CHICKEN LITTLE, she jumps into the story to save its hapless characters from doing some dangerous or silly thing. Now it's the little red chicken's turn to tell a story, but will her yawning papa make it to the end without his own kind of interrupting? Energetically illustrated with glowing colors —and offering humorous story-within-a-story views —this all-too-familiar tale is sure to amuse (and hold the attention of) spirited little chicks.

Interrupting Chicken Details

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Author : David Ezra Stein

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From Reader Review Interrupting Chicken for online ebook

Kelly says

I've met this chicken, I've tried to read to this chicken, and yep it went about the same for me.

Kathryn says

Here is the story of a little chicken who is so enthusiastic about bedtime stories they hardly lull her to sleep. Her father is happy to read her stories but asks her to please remember not to interrupt and to try to fall asleep. But when familiar stories (Hansel and Gretel, Red Riding Hood and Little Red Hen) are read, the little chicken can't help bursting into the story with a quicker and happier solution to the problems at hand. What will happen when an exasperated and very tired father tries one last resort--having the little chicken read **him** a bedtime story?

This book is getting a lot of buzz right now and is on several best-seller lists. I'm not sure that it's one of my own top books of the year, but it's certainly humorous and holds a lot of charm--especially in the hilarious expressions of the chicken and her father. I think children will enjoy anticipating the chicken's interruptions and parents can relate to the rooster's conundrum: delight that your child is enjoying the reading experience so much, but wishing that she would stop interrupting and go to sleep! ;-p And the last illustration is just perfect!

Katie Fitzgerald says

In *Interrupting Chicken*, the 2011 Caldecott Honor book by David Ezra Stein, a chicken and her Papa sit down to read a series of classic fairy tales before it's time to go sleep. Chicken promises not to interrupt the stories, but then proceeds to do so time and again, unable to help herself. When she finally settles down, Papa reverses the roles by falling asleep and interrupting the last story with his snoring.

When I was reading this, I focused mostly on the art, since that's what won the award, and once I started looking carefully at the illustrations, I realized how truly brilliant they are.

The title page draws us into the story with a spread showing a quiet and empty house, with low lamps burning, and various items left lying around, illustrating how Chicken and Papa must have spent their day. This picture is warm and homey and felt very realistic to me. Especially impressive is the way Stein uses light to indicate that night has fallen, and that the house is dark and quiet.

On the verso side of that first page, there is one full page of gorgeous green wallpaper, followed on the recto side by a field of white with one circle in the center. Inside that circle, Papa helps Chicken into her pajamas. Over the next few pages, the reader is drawn in closer and closer to the bed - the white space surrounding the images slowly disappears with each page turn, until the entire page is filled with color, and it feels like the reader is all tucked in along with Chicken.

From here, we zoom in even further and settle on the pages of the book as Papa starts to read. The pages

themselves have lots of neat details, including food particles and other objects left behind in the crevices. Papa begins reading the standard fairy tale texts, but each time, Chicken explodes onto the pages with warnings for the stories' characters. When this happens, the old fashioned looking illustrations within the fairy tales react to Chicken with annoyance, and rearrange themselves on the page to accommodate her outbursts. She keeps promising not to interrupt, but keeps it up anyway as they attempt to read Hansel and Gretel, Red Riding Hood, and Chicken Little. In the end, Chicken ends up writing her own story, with amazingly child-like crayon illustrations, and truly realistic misspellings, such as "Chikn."

In addition to being visually appealing, this book fills the need for more picture books featuring fathers and daughters, and especially fathers reading to their kids. It would make a nice father's day read for families, and maybe even a nice gift for fathers, since the humor here will appeal easily to adults as well as children. David Ezra Stein's other picture books include: Pouch, Leaves, Monster Hug!, The Nice Book, Cowboy Ned and Andy, and Ned's New Friend. His website can be found at daveidezra.com.

Kit Pang says

The chicken should have been a boy!

Agn? says

4.5 out of 5

I simply loved the story, the illustrations, the COLORS. However, I cannot get over the fact that the chicken that clearly looks like a little rooster is actually a SHE! Sorry, but hens don't have tails like that!

Miriam says

Aww, Little Chicken wants to save the characters in her books from their own stupidity!
I sympathize.

Melki says

Little Red Chicken keeps interrupting his father's bedtime stories by shouting out warnings to the fictional characters. I'm pretty sure this he's the kid who was sitting behind me at the movies a few nights ago.

Laleh says

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Colby Sharp says

Loved this book. I thought it would be fun to try and do something funny (it never works when I try to be funny) for this revi-Out jumped a little red chicken, and she said, "Get off Goodreads and grade some math papers."

Little red chicken is probably right, but grading/planning math is never as much fun as checking twitter and goodre-Out jumped a little red chicken, and she said, "Dude, you really need to vacuum the floors. Seriously get off the computer."

Wow, not sure if this review is working. Feeling a little bit tir-Out jumped a little red chicken, and she said, "The End."

Sarah BT says

This is a cute little story, but I had a couple of problems with it. Interrupting Chicken was a Caldecott Honor Book this year so I think I was expecting some amazing artwork. And while the illustrations are good, they didn't really stand out to me and say "yes, this is a Caldecott Honor!" I did like the varying illustrations to alternate between little chicken and her father and the storybooks they're reading. And the author/illustrator does a good job of expressing emotions in Papa chicken's eyes showing how tiring little red chicken is. I think anyone who has had experience with precocious preschoolers will appreciate that minor detail. I liked the artwork, I just think I was expecting a bit more.

My other problem with the book is probably me just getting on my librarian soapbox. I'm not even sure if the average reader would notice. But when Papa chicken tells a story, little red chicken likes to interrupt (hence the name of the book) and tell her own ending to the story. It's pretty funny and cute, yet Papa chicken seems to be very bothered by this. At one point he tells little chicken "don't get so involved." NO! Isn't that what we want kids to do? Get involved with the story and get them excited about books and stories? I mean, one of the goals of ECRR is narrative skills which is all about kids re-tell stories as well as tell their own stories. So maybe I read too much into it, but that part really bugged me. And OK, maybe it can bring on a discussion with kids about how they can write their own stories. But really, Papa chicken needs to head to a library storytime or something!

It's a cute, funny, quirky book and I think parents will have fun reading it with their kids and I know the kids will laugh and think it's hilarious and love it. Maybe I just need to let go of the librarian mindset sometimes when it comes to reading.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

A 2011 Caldecott Award honor book. Papa can never finish reading a story to Chicken, because she keeps interrupting and finishing the story for him. What is he to do? I'm sure there are parents out there with this same problem. This is a good book to teach kids the meaning of "interruption". I didn't care for the artwork much, which is why I gave it 3 instead of 4 stars. We read it to the pre-schoolers in our last storytime, and

they loved it. Recommended.

Stephanie Calhoun says

This is a fantastic book to use when teaching students about classroom discussion etiquette.

Donalyn says

When animals appear on a book cover, you can predict a lot about the book. If there's a dog on the cover, get the tissue. If a chicken's on the cover, you know the book is funny. I am not sure why we find chickens so amusing, but Interrupting Chicken will make you laugh and remind you of how funny children can be, too.

Kathy says

Am I the only one who thinks that Interrupting chicken needs clear and consistent consequences? Lol! Just saying...

Suzanne says

Little Red Chicken has trouble hearing a whole bedtime story without interrupting her Papa Chicken right at the good part. When he gives up and allows her to tell the story, guess who ends up interrupting with some snores?

This book would be a fun way to introduce writing concepts for fiction including the importance of conflict and resolution.

The stories her papa uses are familiar to her so Little Red Chicken interrupts at every critical point with her own resolution designed to prevent any stress for the main characters. She jumps in to save Hansel and Gretel from the witch, Little Red Riding Hood from the Wolf and even saves Chicken Little from potential humiliation! You have to love this Little Red Hen and her brave editing of beloved classics. Her poor father though, needs her to calm down for bedtime and finally allows her to tell the story. I loved the last picture of father and daughter happily asleep cheek to cheek. Bedtime stories really work! (No matter who tells them.) Stein the illustrator does a great job here of switching from the warm bedroom of Little Red Hen to the pages of the fairytales Papa tells her. I loved the juxtaposition of his realistic fairytales with the sudden appearance of the hen saving the day in all her glorious color!

This book has a great humor to it and would be appropriate for kindergarten through fifth graders.
