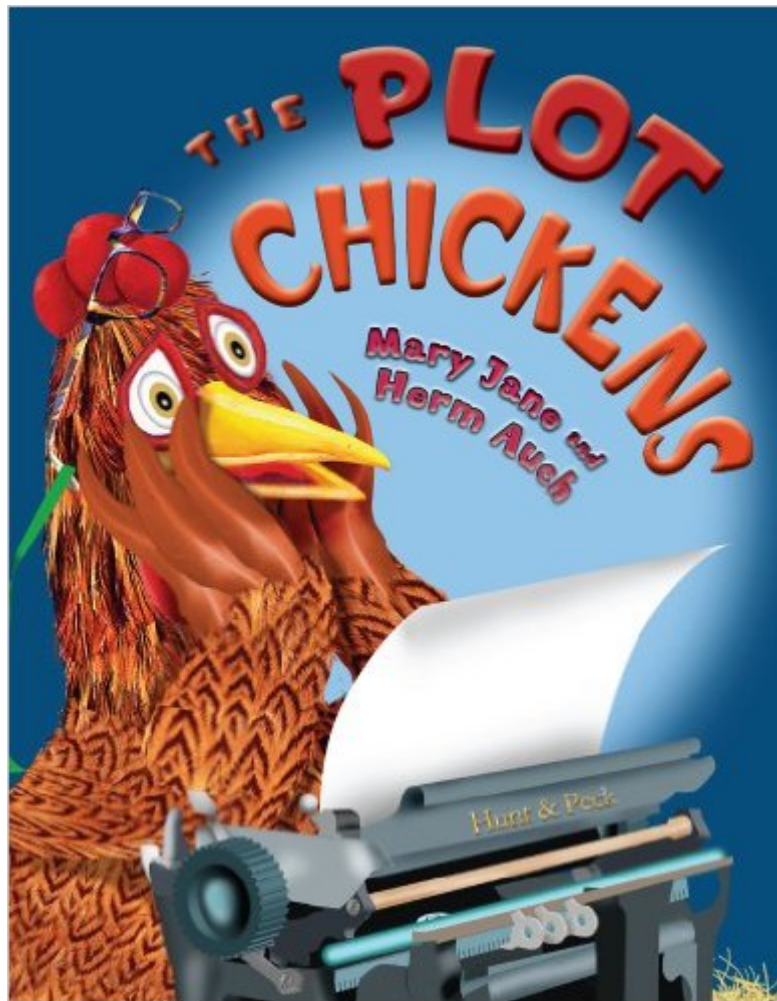




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# The Plot Chickens



## Synopsis

Henrietta loves to read. When she clucks buk, buk, buk at the library, the librarian knows exactly what to recommend. Then Henrietta decides to write a book. With the help of her three aunties, she hatches a plot. But when Henrietta publishes her story, the critics say she's laid an egg! Is this the end of Henrietta's career as an author?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD410L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; Reprint edition (June 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823423077

ISBN-13: 978-0823423071

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #24,694 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries](#) #62 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Farm Animals](#) #89 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Birds](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 2  
Henrietta the chicken, star of *Souperchicken* (Holiday House, 2003), is an avid library user and decides that because reading is so much fun, "writing books must be eggshilarating." She finds a manual of writing rules and creates her own story-with the unsolicited help of the other fowl. When it is rejected by a publisher, Henrietta decides to self-publish. She takes a copy to her librarian, who tells her to send it to *The Corn Book Magazine* for review. Henrietta gets another rejection: "odoriferous." Then she wanders into the library at storytime and sees that her book was chosen best of the year by the children. Henrietta is asked to read it aloud. "She read with dramatic expression. Of course, all the children heard was BUK, BUK, BUK." The illustrations, a combination of oil paints and digital technology, are bold and colorful. The pictures are busy, with Henrietta at her typewriter while her friends cavort around her. There are imagined scenes in cloud shapes, word balloons, and jokes aplenty. A droll chicken with

a repeating line adds to the humor. This offering works on two levels. It's a funny picture book that could be used as a manual on writing. --Leva Bates, Ann Arbor District Library, MI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Henrietta decides that 'writing books must be eggshilarating'....It's a funny picture book that could be used as a manual on writing."

This is an excellent book to teach lower level elementary school students the components of a story: The character naming, creating and developing the plot in a simple, fun script to capture the child's attention on how a story develops.....struck me because I had difficulty with reading comprehension as an elementary school student and this confusion handicapped me all the way through college. Good book to joyfully carry a child through how to develop a story.

Teaching writing is no easy feat. But if Henrietta can, so can fourth graders! I stumbled across this book and checked it out from the library. We are about to take the state standardized test for writing in fourth grade and believe me you, the people that make up the criteria for these tests have no idea what children should be expected to do as writers. Henrietta tells kids about the rules she has learned in order to write her own book. With the help of her aunts, who are a little bit off their rocker, Henrietta provides examples and non examples of what the rules for writing look like. My fourth graders enjoyed this book very much the first time I read it to them and we talked about the rules Henrietta wrote by in an informal, "oh no she's talking about the test again", manner. When I told the class we would be reading it again they were so excited and we created posters with each of the rules Henrietta uses, we looked at our own writing to spot if we were using these rules to be as "cool" as Henrietta and now, we take the advise a cool chicken has given us and it is working better than anything we have tried previously. If you are a teacher or if you are a parent that wants to get their child excited about writing, this book is a must have. My kids love the crazy aunt that says "The End. Good story!"

Great story about writing a story. Good to use in a language arts class. Love the chickens from other stories.

The Plot Chickens by Mary Jane Auch is a wonderful book just for reading and enjoyment as well as

the marvelous play on words throughout the text. The illustrations are vivid and are a definite addition to the story line. This book can readily be used in the classroom as a teaching tool for the writing process. Young writers can easily pick up on the process for their writing as well as the process that an author goes through and endures in trying to have their writing published. This is a great book and I definitely had to order additional titles by this author to not only read but to add to this retired principal's collection of children's books.

What a delightful and fun way to introduce young writers to the process of writing and in particular in writing in the form of story or novel. I will be using "Chickens" as the introduction in my workshops on the teaching of writing.

This book is great for helping students understand plot. It also teaches a very valuable lesson, Never give up! My third and fourth grade ELL students loved the pictures.

I used this book in the classroom when I taught writing to elementary students. I also placed it in the writing center library for students to reread and refer to as they pleased.

Cute book. I use it with my second grade class to teach writing process.

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