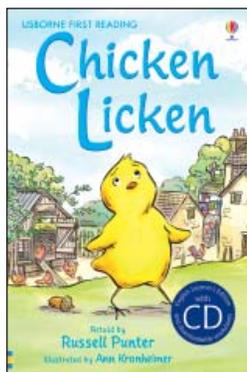


## Chicken Licken • Teacher's notes



**Author:** traditional, retold by Russell Punter

**Reader level:** Lower Intermediate

**Word count:** 632

**Lexile level:** 300L

**Text type:** Folk tale

### About the story

Chicken Licken is scared of anything and everything. One day, he's sitting under a tree when an acorn falls on his head. Chicken Licken doesn't see the acorn and thinks the sky must be falling. He decides he must warn the King. On the way to the palace, he meets Henny Penny, Cocky Locky, Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurkey. He tells each of them in turn that the sky is falling, and they all agree to go with him to the palace.

In the forest, they meet Foxy Loxy, who pretends to show them a shortcut to the palace. The shortcut turns out to be Foxy Loxy's den. Foxy Loxy is just about to gobble them all up when an acorn falls on *his* head. He thinks the sky must really be falling, and runs away in fright. This time, the other animals have seen the acorn and realized Chicken Licken's mistake, so they chase him all the way back to the farmyard.

The story of Chicken Licken may be as much as 2,500 years old, and be based on a Buddhist fable about a hare who thinks that a falling fruit means the end of the world. More and more animals join the panic, until a lion understands and explains what really happened. In some versions of the story, Foxy Loxy does eat some or all of the other animals; in others, they manage to escape.

### About the author

Russell Punter was born in Bedfordshire, England. When he was young, he enjoyed writing and illustrating his own stories. His ambition as a boy was to become a cartoonist. When he grew up, he studied art at college before becoming a graphic designer and writer. He has written over 20 children's books.

#### Key words

Your students might not be familiar with some of these words, which are important in the story.

p4 farmyard	p16 yelled
pond	p18 warn
p5 palace	p19 thump
forest	p28 nest
barn	p32 pecking
p9 oak tree	p38 shortcut
p10 tiny	p39 led
acorn	pointed
dropped	hole
p11 ouch!	p44 scared
p14 cried [meaning "shouted"]	p45 tunnel
p15 ground	p47 chased
rushed	

#### Key phrases

p6	Once upon a time
p13	The sky must be falling! ["must be" to indicate belief or deduction]
p16	Out of my way!
p17	What's the matter?
p18	What shall we do?
p41	to gobble [something] up
p44	All he could see was...
p45	never seen again
p47	all the way home



# Chicken Licken • Teacher's notes

## Before reading

Find a picture of an acorn (or a real one if there are oak trees in your area; the best time to look for fallen acorns is in early-mid autumn) and a picture of an oak tree. Show the acorn to your students first and see if they recognize it, and know its name and where it comes from. Then show the oak tree.

Ask students to imagine an acorn falling from an oak tree onto their heads. What would it feel like? Now imagine how it would feel for a little chicken.

Show your students the cover of this book. The chicken in this story lives on a farm. Which other birds are kept on farms? Encourage the students to list as many as possible. Fill in the gaps if necessary so that the list includes hens, cockerels (roosters), ducks, geese and turkeys. You might search for pictures to show them, or you can look at the illustrations on pp2-3.

## Reading or listening

You can listen to the story on CD or read it aloud to the students, take turns to read or read together silently. Each double page spread in the book is one track on the CD, so that you can pause between tracks or repeat tracks if your students need it. The first reading is in a British English accent, and it is followed by an American English reading. The words are exactly the same. After the story, there is a short selection of key phrases that can be used for pronunciation practice.

## During reading: you might like to ask some of these questions.

- |       |  |     |   |
|-------|--|-----|---|
| pp2-3 | Which of these animals look friendly? Which one looks frightened? Which one might mean trouble?                          | p14 | What would you do if you thought the sky was falling?   |
| pp4-5 | Where do you think Chicken Licken lives? Where do you think the fox lives? Which is the most important place on the map? | p17 | Does Henny Penny believe Chicken Licken?  |
| p7    | How can you tell that Chicken Licken isn't happy? [He looks worried; he is standing apart from the other animals.]       | p27 | Why are they in such a hurry?   |
| p8    | What is Chicken Licken scared of on this page? [A mouse – his shadow – a worm.]  | p35 | The animals are probably scared – but how else do you think they feel [e.g. busy, important]? |
|       |  | p36 | What does Foxy Loxy think when he sees the farm animals?                                      |
|       |  | p45 | What do the farm animals understand when they see the acorn fall on Foxy Loxy's head?         |

## After reading

Imagine that Foxy Loxy didn't stop Chicken Licken and his friends, and that they actually told the King that the sky was falling. How do you think the King would react?

What do you call a story like Chicken Licken's that isn't actually true, but that people keep telling each other until more and more believe it? [A rumour.] How do rumours spread? Can they be a problem? How can you stop a rumour?

## Did you know?

The Ancient Greeks thought that the sky was held up by a god named Atlas. Holding the sky was Atlas' punishment for daring to fight against Zeus, the father of the Greek gods. There's a mountain range in North Africa called the Atlas Mountains and, seen from a distance, it does look as though the mountains are holding up the sky.

