

An Accidental Rooster (Poppy and Pipsqueak #2)

AUTHOR

DEBORAH KELLY

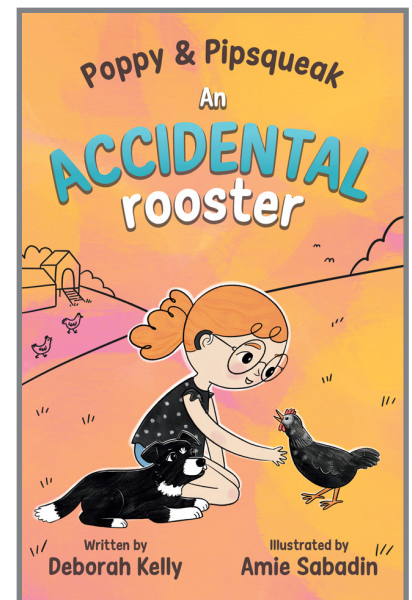
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

When Poppy's mum gets some hens for her new chicken coop, one turns out to be ... a rooster. Dad says that Mr Penny is the rowdiest rooster he has ever known. He never stops crowing, ever! Poppy asks her friends for help. Nothing works. Poppy is worried about what will happen if they return Mr Penny to the hatchery, but her mum and dad need some sleep! What can she do?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Deb Kelly is a multi-award winning, internationally published author of picture books, junior fiction, middle grade and young adult titles. *The Thing about Oliver* (Wombat Books) was shortlisted in the Younger Readers category of the Children's Book Council of Australia Awards, shortlisted for Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year and won the Australian Association of Family Therapists book of the year award in the younger readers' category. Her picture book *Me and You* (Penguin Viking) won Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year award (3-5 year olds) in 2017. Her recent releases include *Little Horses* (Wombat Books, 2024) and *Skin* (Rhiza Edge, 2025). Deb visits schools, libraries and festival events to share her books with children. Many of her books are included in Premier's Reading Challenge lists around Australia. She is a Role Model for Books in Homes and reviews children's books for Reading Time magazine.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Amie has been scribbling and splashing paint since forever. With a background in design and a handbag always stocked with art supplies, she finds inspiration everywhere. She works in traditional and digital mediums to create joyful illustrations. Amie lives in Queanbeyan, NSW with her husband, their two children and miniature schnauzer. When she's not drawing, she enjoys organising her art supplies, walking, and spending time with her family.

THEMES

- Animal welfare
- Farm life
- Family relationships
- Creative problem solving
- Disability inclusion

CURRICULUM LINKS

Australian Curriculum

- English
 - Year 1: AC9E1LE01, AC9E1LE02, AC9E1LE03, AC9E1LY05
 - Year 2: AC9E2LA08, AC9E2LE01, AC9E2LE02, AC9E2LY05
 - Year 3: AC9E3LA01, AC9E3LA02, AC9E3LE01, AC9E3LE02, AC9E3LE03
- Humanities and Social Science
 - Year 1: AC9HS1K03, AC9HS1K04, AC9HS1S01
- Health & PE
 - Year 1: AC9HP2P02, AC9HP2P03

STUDY NOTES

KNOWLEDGE AND LITERAL UNDERSTANDING

Pre-reading questions

- Give the students a moment to analyse the cover and ask them if there are any interesting details they can see. What makes these details interesting and what do they think it will mean within the story?
- Read the back cover blurb and ask the students to guess what the story is about.
- Ask them if they have read other books that might be similar.

After-reading questions

- How was Mr Penny different from the other pullets?
- Which character do you relate to the most and why?
- Have you ever worked with your family to solve a problem?
- What do you think is the main message of the story?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Animal welfare

- Mrs Hart cares for animals in need on her farm. Have you ever taken care of a sick or injured animal or given a home to an animal who needed it?
- Do you think Poppy did the right thing in taking Mr Penny to live at Hart's farm? Why/ Why not?
- Mum and Poppy spent a lot of time preparing the coop for the chickens. What do chickens need to be healthy and happy?

Farm life

- Why did Mr Penny behave the way he did?
- Why was Poppy worried about Mr Penny being returned to the hatchery?
- Why did Poppy's family get the chickens in the first place?
- Why is Mrs Hart's farm important to the community?
- Why is a farm a better home for a rooster than a city house?

Family relationships

- How did Mum and Dad feel about the rooster box? How did Poppy feel?
- Why is it important for families to work together to solve problems?
- How did Poppy and her parents work together?

Creative problem solving

- Can you remember all the ways Poppy tried to keep Mr Penny quiet?
- Can you think of anything else she could have tried?
- Have you ever found a clever way to solve a problem?

Disability inclusion

- What was Poppy's idea after meeting Mrs Hart at the hearing clinic?
- How does Mrs Hart experience Mr Penny's noisy behaviour differently from Poppy and her family?
- What does Poppy learn from Mrs Hart about living with hearing loss?
- What are some ways friends and classmates can help someone with hearing loss feel included?
- Why is it important to understand that everyone experiences the world differently?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

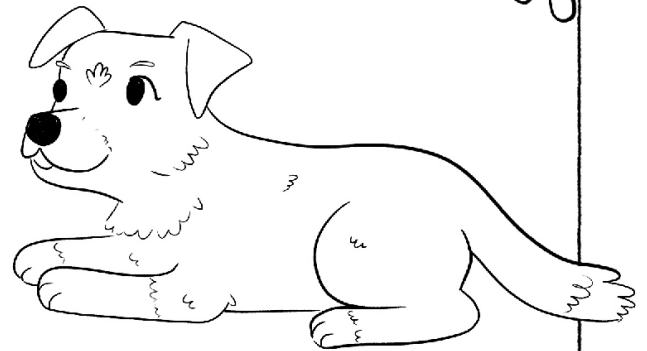
- Book illustrator for a day: Imagine you are the illustrator for *An Accidental Rooster*. Choose a scene in the book to illustrate.
- Interesting pets: At the end of the book are some interesting facts about chickens. Choose an animal you would like to have as a pet and find six interesting facts about that animal to share with the class.
- Design a chicken coop: Draw a picture of a chicken coop that has everything that chickens need. Label features such as water, food, roost and space to roam.
- Farm versus city: Create a chart with the differences between farm and city living. Think about things like noises, animals, and responsibilities.
- Write a letter: Pretend you are Poppy and write a letter to Mrs Hart, thanking her for all her help. Think about how Penny felt and write about those feelings.
- A sequel: Write a short sequel or follow-up story about when Poppy visits Mr Penny in his new home. What happens when she sees him and he sees her?



Poppy & Pipsqueak

Colour in and find a word

CAT FARM
CHICKEN GOAT
COW GRASS
DOG ROOSTER
DONKEY SHEEP



R	O	O	S	T	E	R
F	M	R	A	F	A	Y
T	R	O	W	M	P	E
A	G	G	O	D	E	K
C	H	I	C	K	E	N
N	B	O	O	T	H	O
G	R	A	S	S	S	D



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rooster