Continue activities following the story – THE CHICKENS AND THE FOX



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Age Group: **First Grade**

כְּלָלִי

Activities in the Family

1. Follow the worm to tell the story: A little worm is hiding in the illustrations on each page of the book. It accompanies the flock of chickens on their journey to find food and watches what happens. Look for the worm. (You may give hints to children who have difficulty in finding it.)

You might want to use your finger as a "puppet" that talks to the worm about what it sees. You can even draw a little face on your finger and "befriend" the worm.

2. At the end of the story the chicken and the fox meet. Look at the illustrations that depict their encounter. Notice the facial expressions of the chicken and note what happens to the fox's tail. Taking an idea from comics, cut out six "conversation balloons". Using a bit of masking tape attach the "balloons" to the illustrations of the chicken and the fox. Inside each balloon write what the chicken said to the fox and what he answered her. (Parents: Use as little masking tape as possible in order to protect the book.)

3. We part from the brave chicken as she watches the fox run away. In the distance you can see the flock of chickens. They still don't know that their little friend has

saved their lives! It would be interesting to imagine what they do when they learn what occurred. You can act out the meeting between the wounded chicken and her friends by putting on a puppet show. You can make the puppets from cloth material, from boxes or from drawings cut out and pasted to wooden sticks. You can even include the "hidden worm" as the narrator of the story.

4. It is very difficult for the chicken to walk. She can't even manage to hold a stalk of grain in her beak like the others. But when the fox threatens her, she turns her weakness into strength. This is her "hour". Tell or draw a true or imagined story about someone who has his or her shining "hour", an event that changes them from someone who is weak into someone who is strong.

5. The chicken has one weak leg. That's why she needs the help of a crutch. Do you know a person or an animal that has a physical weakness? Discuss with your children what can help those who have trouble moving, hearing or seeing. Look for such examples in your neighborhood (special parking places designated for the handicapped, sign language for the deaf on news programs, floor numbers in an elevator embossed in Braille, etc.).

There are even special bills of money that are particularly suited for people who have difficultly in seeing. Look at two different bills of money of differing denominations. Close your eyes and feel the bills, and you will discover a protruding sign that helps people with poor vision "read" the bills and differentiate between them.

קְרִיאָה

The chickens' "Exodus from Egypt":

Throughout the story "The Chickens and the Fox", Bialik provides hints to stories of our forefathers in the Bible:

The flock of chickens leaves its dwelling place during a year of drought and hunger and arrives at a place where there is food. Once they have satisfied their hunger, the leader gathers them together and asks them to quickly organize themselves for their journey homeward. They are going back to their coop. On their way home a fox lays in wait for them. Like Amalek, he doesn't dare attack the main group of the flock, but aims instead at the weak straggler at the tail end of the camp.

As opposed to the fierce battle in the desert with Amalek, our chicken succeeds in frightening the fox. She does this by telling him that he who plans to harm the "tail of the camp" will lose his own tail. The fox is alarmed by this and flees, and thus the story ends with the chickens winning the day.

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