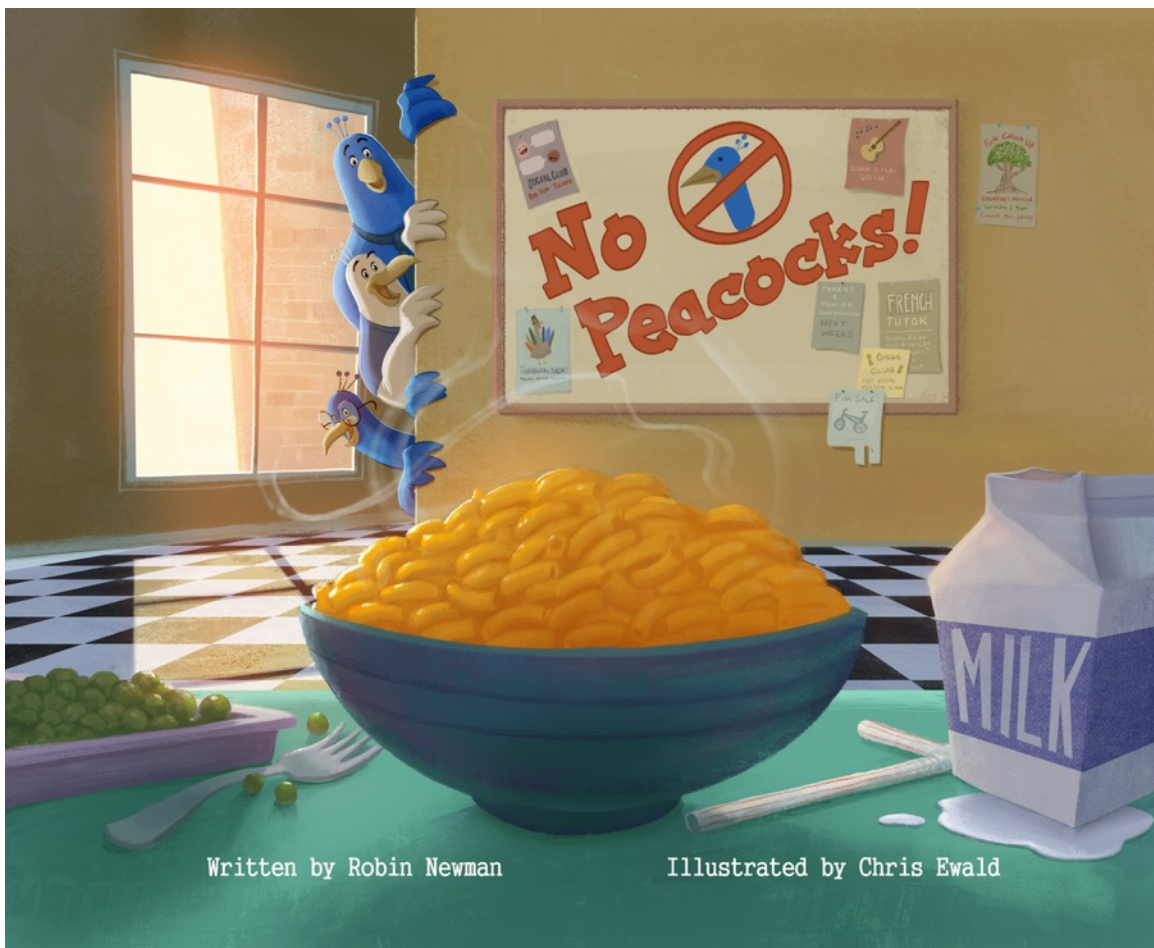


No Peacocks!

A Feathered Tale of Three Mischievous Foodies

A teacher's guide created by Marcie Colleen
based upon the picture book
written by Robin Newman and illustrated by Chris Ewald



Written by Robin Newman

Illustrated by Chris Ewald

Published by
Sky Pony Press

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Robin Newman was a practicing attorney and legal editor, but she now prefers to write about witches, mice, pigs, and peacocks. Her previous book with Creston Books, *A Wilcox and Griswold Mystery: The Case of the Missing Carrot Cake*, earned a starred review from Kirkus and was selected a best middle-grade book of 2015. She lives in New York, with her husband, son, goldfish, and two spoiled English Cocker Spaniels, who are extremely fond of Phil, Jim, and Harry. Visit her at www.robinnewmanbooks.com.



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Chris Ewald studied art at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. He spends his days designing and illustrating for video games and avoiding broccoli. He spends his evenings immersed in making picture books and avoiding sleep. Chris currently lives in Austin, Texas, with his action figures and a steady stream of tacos. Visit him online at <https://chrisewald.carbonmade.com>.

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How to Use This Guide

This classroom guide for *No Peacocks!* is designed for students in kindergarten through third grade. It is assumed that teachers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own students.

It offers activities to help teachers integrate *No Peacocks!* into their curricula.

All activities were created in conjunction with relevant content standards in English Language Arts.

Title: *No Peacocks!* A Feathered Tale of Three Mischievous Foodies

Author: Robin Newman

Illustrator: Chris Ewald

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Synopsis: Every day Phil, Jim, and Harry are fed sunflower seeds by the staff who care for them at The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. But one day, they decide they're sick of seeds. They make a break for the New York City streets in search of pizza or Chinese takeout. But everywhere they go, they're told, "No peacocks!"

So, they try to get an ooey, gooey, delicious meal closer to home. But how are they going to sneak into The Cathedral School's dining hall and get their wings on the school's famous mac 'n cheese? A little plotting, some stolen disguises, and help from the students, and the mission is a go! Inspired by the real-life beloved peacocks living on the grounds of The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, *No Peacocks!* is a cheesy story of friendship and teamwork, with a mild sprinkling of fowl behavior.

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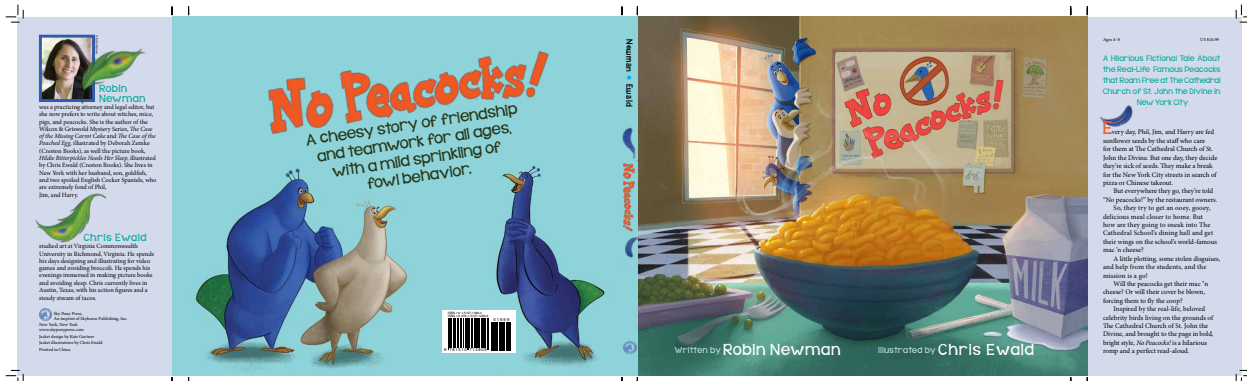
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English Language Arts

Reading Comprehension

Before reading *No Peacocks!*:

Help students identify the basic parts of a picture book: jacket, front cover, back cover, title page, spine, end papers, and jacket flap.



The Front Cover ~

- Describe what you see.
- Who are the characters? What are they doing?
- Can you predict what the story might be about based on the cover illustration?

Now read or listen to the book.

Help students summarize in their own words what the book was about.

- Where do the peacocks live?
- What do the peacocks eat every day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner?
- Name three places the peacocks visit for different food.
- Where do they smell ooey, gooey mac 'n cheese?
- Why do you think peacocks are not allowed in school?
- How do the peacocks finally get into the school?
- Describe in your own words what happens once they are in the school.
- In what ways do the children try and help them?
- How do they finally get the mac 'n cheese?
- What happens when they eat the mac 'n cheese?

Let's talk about the people who made *No Peacocks!*.

- Who is the author?
- Who is the illustrator?
- What kind of work did each person do to make the book?

Writing Activities

Just Ask!: Writing a Persuasive Essay

Sometimes, it's just best to ask.

Imagine that you are Phil, Jim, or Harry.

- How would you convince the school that peacocks should be allowed to eat in the dining hall with the students?
- Can you list three good reasons why peacocks should be allowed to eat the school's famous mac 'n cheese?

A persuasive essay tells the reader what you believe, gives the reader at least three reasons why you believe it, and has a good ending sentence. The purpose is to try and convince the reader to agree with you.

Write a persuasive essay to convince the school to allow you, a peacock, to eat in the dining hall with the students. Use the following TREE structure:

T = Topic sentence

The topic sentence tells the reader what you think or believe. Example: *I believe strongly that peacocks should be allowed to eat in the dining hall with the students.*

R = Reasons

Give your reader three reasons that support your topic sentence. Write at least 2-4 sentences supporting each reason.

E = Ending

Wrap it up with a conclusive sentence.

E = Examine

Look closely. Do you have all your parts?

Share your essays with the class. Which is the most persuasive? Why do you think so?

Speaking and Listening Activities

Picture books are written to be read aloud. Here are some other ways to bring *No Peacocks!* to life in your classroom and have fun with speaking and listening skills!

Mime

While reading aloud and showing the illustrations of the book, students can act out events in the book. Emphasize body motion and facial expressions, as well as listening skills.

Drama

Ask students if they can think of things associated with mealtime. Create a list. Then, have the students act out one of the things on the list in front of the class. They can either tell the class what they're acting or ask the class to guess what actions they are acting out.

Or

Have students create TV commercials about the challenges of feeding finicky peacocks.



Math

Word Problems

For younger students, the use of pictures or props might be needed to figure out word problems. Note to teachers: Use the word problems below as inspiration to write your own, based on No Peacocks! or any other book of study.

- 1) Phil, Jim, and Harry know it takes 5 big bites to eat all their sunflower seeds at lunch time. They each take 1 big bite. How many bites do they each have left?
($5 - 1 = ?$)
- 2) Phil, Jim, and Harry go to 4 different restaurants across the street to find better food. When they are turned away, they go to 3 more restaurants. How many restaurants have they gone to?
($4 + 3 = ?$)
- 3) There is a stack of 6 trays in the cafeteria. The 3 peacocks each take a tray. How many trays are left? ($6 - 3 = ?$)

- 4) The peacocks attempt to catapult into the dining hall 2 times and fail. They then attempt 1 more time. How many attempts in total did the peacocks make to catapult into the dining hall? ($2 + 1 = ?$)
- 5) There are 9 pieces of clothing in the lost and found. Phil, Jim, and Harry take 7 of the pieces for their disguises. How many pieces of clothing are left in the lost and found? ($9 - 7 = ?$)

Mission: Mac 'N Cheese Hopscotch

This hopscotch activity will help students improve motor skills, balance, and self-regulation behaviors. Additionally, this game will encourage students to learn about math concepts such as number recognition and counting, as well as elements of art including shape and line.

This game can be created for indoor spaces by simply taping out the boxes on the floor and/or traditionally by drawing them on the pavement outdoors.

Materials:

- Masking tape (for indoor version)
- Chalk, markers, or dark crayons
- Beanbag (or a small plastic bowl representing the mac 'n cheese)
- One die

Set Up:

Create the hopscotch boxes.

Students can help draw numbers in the squares. If they are not ready to write numbers alone, try lightly drawing the numbers first and then encourage them to trace over them.

How to Play:

1. Place the beanbag in one of the squares.
2. The first student rolls the die twice and adds the two numbers together to know how many boxes to hop. (i.e. $2 + 4 = 6$, hop six spaces). Then goes the second student, and so on.
3. The students hop their way through, counting as they go.
4. If they land on the box with the beanbag, they win! If they overshoot or fall short they must start all over again.

5. Play continues until everyone gets the beanbag or everyone has been given a chance.

For an extra challenge, change the location of the beanbag each turn.

Under Where? Spatial Sense



Look at the two-page spread above.

Describe where the teacher is.

[example: in front of the school steps, on the path, next to the child with the red sneakers]

Describe where the green book is.

[example: in the girl's arms, underneath the red book, in between two peacocks]

Describe where Harry is.

[example: behind everyone, at the end of the line, next to the girl with the blue socks]

Have students pick another spread in *No Peacocks!* and discuss where things are spatially within that illustration.

Now look around your classroom.

- Describe where your desk sits.
- Describe where your teacher is sitting or standing.

- Describe where the chalkboard/whiteboard is.
- Describe where the clock is.
- Describe where the door is.
- Can you describe where anything else is?

Science

Peacock Research Project

How much do you know about peacocks? It's time to research them.

Information to be gathered might include:

- What's the difference between a peacock, peahen, and peafowl? What are the babies called? What's a bevy?
- Are there different kinds of peacocks?
- Where do peacocks live?
- How do peacocks show how they feel?
- Draw a picture of a peacock.
- Write 3 words that describe a peacock.
- Interesting fact #1
- Interesting fact #2
- Interesting fact #3

Students may use the Internet or the library to complete their research. Once their research is done, students can create a poster and present their findings to the class.



Build a Catapult Challenge

Phil, Jim, and Harry draw up plans to catapult themselves into the dining hall to get some ooey, gooey mac `n cheese.

This challenge allows students to test out the Scientific Method for themselves as they problem solve a way to build a catapult that really works!

Step 1: Ask a Question

Step 2: Do Research

Step 3: Guess an Answer (also called a Hypothesis)

Step 4: Test Your Guess/Hypothesis

Step 5: Did it Work? Could it Be Better? Try Again

Step 6: Draw a Conclusion

Step 7: Write a Written Report of Your Results

Step 8: Retest



Of course, a little imagination is going to go a long way here, too!

- Students will be working in groups of 2-3.
- Provide students with several craft items (Magazines/newspapers, popsicle sticks, masking tape, scissors, plastic cups, soda and soup cans, rubber bands, plastic spoons, etc.)
- The groups must create an eight-page Scientific Notebook for their catapult and carefully document their use of the Scientific Method throughout the process of building their catapult.

Once all catapults have been built, test them out one by one as a class.

- Accuracy: Place a bowl on the floor. Then, from a set distance of 2-3 feet, teams will launch uncooked macaroni from their catapults. Record how many make it into the bowl. Each team will receive five attempts.
- Distance: Determine a "launch line" for all catapults. Then, using uncooked macaroni, each team will launch three times, recording the distance with a measuring tape

- Power: Build a three-story tower out of stacked plastic cups (three on the bottom, two on top, and one on the very top). One at a time, each team will launch a piece of macaroni from a distance of three feet away and attempt to knock over the tower. Each team receives five attempts.

Did the catapult work? Retest? If the catapult didn't work, head back to the drawing board like a real inventor.

Offer up awards to increase the competition.

- Most Accurate
- Most Distance
- Most Power
- Most Materials
- Least Materials
- Most Creative

Social Studies

Food for Thought! Inclusion, Exclusion, and Building Empathy

The peacocks are excluded from the neighborhood restaurants and the school's dining hall.

Split the classroom into two groups.

Group 1: Ask your students, if they can think of reasons why peacocks would be excluded from restaurants and the school?

Group 2: Ask your students to see the situation from the peacocks' perspective? How would they feel being excluded?

Can your students think of situations of how to include the peacocks?



Teamwork

For Mission Mac 'n Cheese to work, it requires the teamwork of the peacocks and help from the students.

The following games can help students develop motor skills, good reflexes, hand-eye coordination, problem solving, and language skills. They are also cooperative games

used to promote collaborative skills and teach sportsmanship as kids play by helping each other. These games focus on fun and teamwork rather than winning.

Cooperative Hoops

The game cooperative hoops is a twist on the game "musical chairs." Instead of having each player compete for themselves and exclude others to win as in "musical chairs," this version makes winning about cooperation.

Scatter hula hoops around the play area.

Play music and have the kids move around the hoops but not step inside them.

While the music is playing, the kids must not stop moving, but when it stops, they must have at least one foot inside a hula hoop and not touch the ground outside the hoop.

If any child is not in a hoop when the music stops, they must sit out. On each rotation, remove a ring so that the kids have to share hula hoops.

When the game is down to two hoops, the winners are the kids who have the most people inside one hoop. This game teaches kids to cooperate and help each other to win.

Continuum

This cooperative game also lets even the shyest kids break the ice and get to know one another.

Divide the kids into groups of six to 10 people.

Pick a theme and have the kids arrange themselves in the correct order to create a continuum. This could be favorite colors arranged in the order of the rainbow, birth month from first to last or dark color shirts to lightest. No team loses in this game, but you can applaud the team that got into the right order the fastest.

Keep it Up

Use a balloon or a large light ball to play "Keep it Up."

In this game, divide the kids into two teams across a net or line.

As in volleyball, they must pass the balloon or ball back and forth without letting it touch the ground. However, the rule is that a different team member must hit the ball or balloon to the opposite team each time. Other team members can help their team players by passing to them.

COOKING

Easy Peasy Mac 'n Cheesy!¹

4 cups of milk

2 cups of uncooked macaroni

2 cups of cheddar cheese

Boil milk over medium heat, making sure the milk does not burn. Next, add the uncooked macaroni to the boiling milk. Reduce the heat to a simmer, stirring occasionally for about eight minutes or until the macaroni is tender and fully cooked. Then mix in the cheddar cheese. Add salt and pepper for taste. Let it cool for a few minutes and eat up. Bon appétit!



¹ This recipe was created by Jennifer Cheung for Kidspot and adapted for this teacher's guide. For more information about this recipe go to: <https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/3-ingredient-mac-and-cheese-3637>

WORD SEARCH & CRAFTS

The peacocks need your help! Please help them find the hidden words.

U D G D R Q R K T P O S N S Z Z M U E D
 K F E C Z E W E X R M O K J R A P G X N
 N C S D H E A F Z Q I Y S I C E J D C U
 I V O T I H Z P Z T V H F A R Y T A I O
 X A A C A S H P A X N Q R M K T E P T F
 U E X T A S T P S C H O O L Y A R D E D
 F F T D C E I S J U N O I J T C C U M N
 D Y O J D C P J E I D R E S S V E G E A
 B I Z X I I A Q A W Q L E O D Z S A N T
 M O N T N A Q N W N R U O B F P H X T S
 P I N I N S D E E S R E W O L F N U S O
 I A S K N C B W Y Q T E P U H M V B D L
 Z L R S H G Y M T C Z D M P I C B P V W
 Z U L E I O H R T T W M R N U D S A N O
 A K E P R O I A M Z A E S I U G S I D F
 U S M K E H N C L G N E H A E P C Q U A
 E Q U B S C Y D E L J P N K W H F M K E
 Q G I G D B F A T P R K R A D L P C L P
 U W Q B O D L A V F Z N G B B Q C F X F
 G L A S S E S C I M B C Y W L Q R D U S



WORD BANK

ANTICIPATION	FEATHER	MACARONI AND CHEESE	PEAHEN	SECRET
DINING HALL	GLASSES	MISSION	PIZZA	SHIRT
DISGUISE	HAT	NEW YORK	PLUMMAGE	SKIRT
DRESS	JOY	PEACOCK	SCHOOL	SUNFLOWER SEEDS
EXCITEMENT	LOST AND FOUND	PEAFOWL	SCHOOLYARD	UPPER WEST SIDE

MISSION MAC 'N CHEESE

Students, Phil will need a disguise if he is ever going to get into the school. Can you help him? Good luck!

