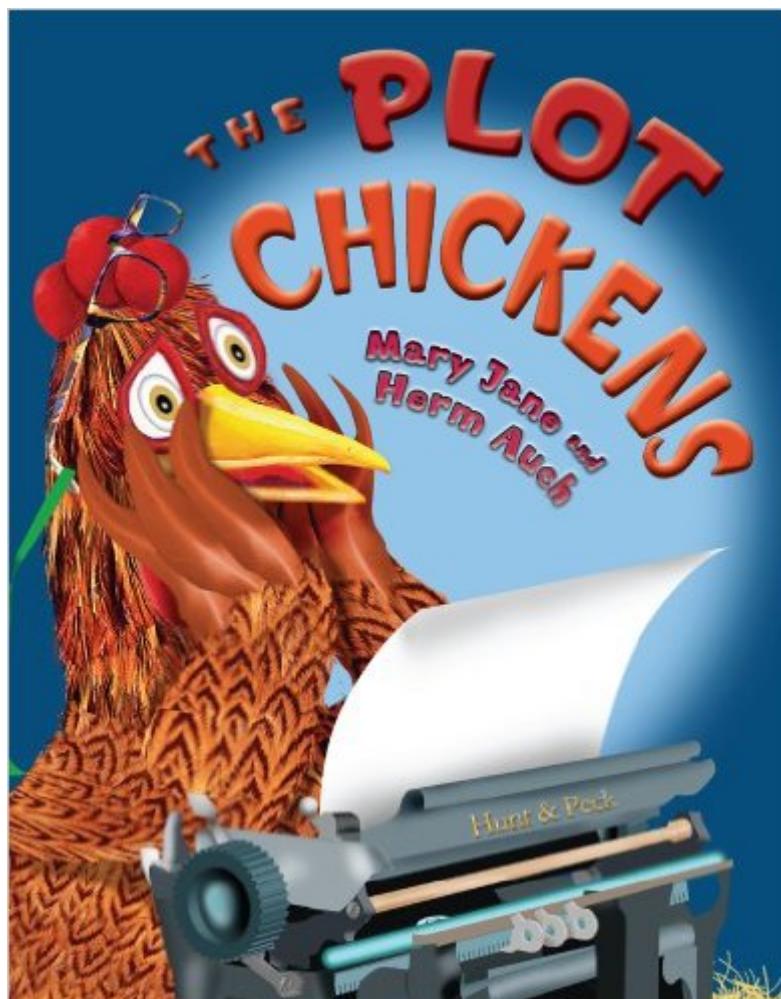


The book was found

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 (July 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: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (46 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #20,004 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries #74 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Farm Animals #1285 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Humor

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Is this supposed to be a kid's book, or some kind of inside joke among writers? By the time most "kids" are old enough to understand the jokes knocking publishers and reviewers, they're long past kids' books. Actual kids - the ones this book is ostensibly aimed at - are likely to be pretty baffled. Anyway, the book opens promisingly. Henrietta the chicken loves to read, she gets books from the library and reads to her aunts, and then she decides to write her own book. Following a guide called "Writing Rules", Henrietta, with some rather unwelcome help from her aunts, writes a story. While the rules may be good so far as they go, the story Henrietta creates is, in the words of her reviewer, "odiferous". I can't suspend my disbelief enough to believe that the story time children voted it their favorite. It really does stink. Perhaps "Writing Rules" should add a ninth rule: "Make your story interesting". I was also disappointed by the humor in the book. The title is so clever, I was expecting more of the same, but, sadly, most of the puns are just variations on substituting "eggs"

for "ex" (e.g., "eggshilarating"). And, as noted, the pages dealing with submitting the story for publication, getting rejected, and the review I just found baffling and rather out of place in a children's book. The problem with self-consciously writing about writing, especially for children, and especially if you are trying to be clever, is that it has to be really well done. I just didn't think this book met that mark. For a better example, read "A Book" by Mordecai Gerstein. The writing alone would have earned this book two stars, in my estimation, but I gave it three because the illustrations are genuinely excellent (or, perhaps "eggscellent").

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