
Possible Questions Before, During, & After Reading

Before:

Look at the cover and read the title and subtitle.

- Why do you think it's called Love and Roast Chicken?
- What is a trickster? (Notice the author's note at the back of the book).
- Who do you think the trickster is?
- Who do you think the main characters will be?
- Where are the Andes Mountains?

Preview the book.

- Predict what the book will be about.
- Do you think it will be realistic or a fantasy? How can you tell?

Turn to the back of the book to find words from the story that are from other languages.

- Find the name of one of the characters, Cuy.
- How do you pronounce it? What does it mean? How can we use this page?

During:

- Why did Cuy hold up the rock?
- How did Tio Antonio feel when he finally let go of the rock and the sky didn't fall?
- What two things would Antonio miss if the world ended?
- Predict what Tio will see when he comes out of the den.
- (Cuy helping Florinda weed) Where have you seen Florinda before?
- (Clay figure scenes) Why did Cuy's paws stick to the clay doll? Does this part of the story remind you of another story? (Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby).
- (As Cuy is tied up, talking to Tio) How did the author/illustrator show what Fox was imagining?
- What is a vegetarian? Why does it matter that Cuy is a vegetarian?
- Why was the farmer laughing so hard?

After:

- Why did Tio stay away from Cuy for a long time?
- What will happen the next time they meet?
- Have you heard the phrase, "clever as a fox?" Who was the clever one in this story?

- Why is the story called Love and Roast Chicken?
- What smart things did the trickster do to stay safe from the fox?
- Tio was what we call gullible. What do you think that means?
- Tio Antonio was tricked several times. Who else got tricked in this story? (farmer, Cuy)
- Would you like to have Cuy or Tio for a friend? Why? What would you do together?
- What other folk tales were you reminded of while you were reading this one? (Tar Baby, Brer Bear in the garden patch, others)

Word Skills

- Vocabulary: trickster, guinea pig, vegetarian, disguise
- Compound words: sweetgrass, something, bathroom, sunset, moonlight, everyone, outside, farmworker
- Word endings:
digging, grabbed, slipped, propped (doubling final consonant)
squeezed, declared, shoved, crackled, smoked (dropping the e before adding ed) scurried, cried (changing the y to i before adding ending).
- Spanish, Quechua, Aymara words: As you are reading, see if you can figure out the meaning of the words using the context and then check them in the glossary.

Comprehension Skills

- Use a Venn diagram to compare/contrast:
 - ◆ Cuy and Tio
 - ◆ The sticky clay figure part of the story and the Tar Baby story (text-to-text connection)
 - ◆ *Love and Roast Chicken* and Road Runner cartoons or Tweety Bird and Sylvester cartoons.
- Reality/Fantasy: Make two columns listing parts of the story that are fantasy and parts that could happen in real life, e.g.:

| Fantasy | Reality |
|---|--------------------------------|
| A guinea pig and a fox talk to each other | A fox could crawl into a den |
| A guinea pig dresses up like a person | A guinea pig could eat alfalfa |

- Sequence of Events:
 - ◆ After reading, retell the main events of the story—or draw them.
 - ◆ What are cause and effect? Draw a diagram with arrows to show how one event in the story caused another.

Writing Activities

Use Barbara Knutson's writing as a springboard to learn writer's craft:

- Choose descriptive verbs rather than ordinary verbs:
 - ◆ Instead of said, Barbara Knutson used snarled, growled, yelped, warned, barked, howled, sighed, gasped.
 - ◆ Instead of ran, she used scurried, bounded, scrambled.
- What other interesting verbs did the author use?
 - ◆ Squeezed, squashed, huddled, crackled, feasted, sneaking, glinting, spat.
- Write a sentence using ordinary verbs and then revise it by changing the verbs to more interesting ones, e.g.:

| <u>Ordinary</u> | <u>Interesting</u> |
|--|---|
| The coyote ran fast and caught the prairie dog | The coyote tore through the desert and pounced on the prairie dog |

- Find examples of alliteration (feasted on fresh alfalfa, licking his lips).
- Write your own trickster tale using different animals as the trickster and the “tricked” animal.
- Write a different ending to this story.
- Write a journal entry about which animal you would like to have as a friend, the guinea pig or the fox. Tell why.
- Use your Venn diagram of Cuy and Tio Antonio to help write paragraphs that compare and contrast the two characters.

Extension Activities

- Make a Spanish/English picture dictionary using some of the words and phrases from *Love and Roast Chicken*. Keep it short or add to it using other resources.

- An accordion is a simple way to make your dictionary into a book. Add flaps and fold-outs to hide the definitions/pictures if you wish. If each person in the group makes part of the dictionary, short accordions can be taped together to make one long book.
- Read other trickster tales and compare to this one. Some examples:

Sungura and Leopard by Barbara Knutson

A Story, A Story by Gail E. Haley

A Ring of Tricksters—Animal Tales from America, the West Indies and Africa by Virginia Hamilton.

Aunt Nancy and Old Man Trouble by Phyllis Root (a non-traditional trickster tale!)

- Act out the story or do a Reader's Theatre (reading different parts without acting). To give more children the opportunity to play a part, change the actors for each scene.
- Listen to some Andean music (from Ecuador, Bolivia or Peru). Try playing a set of pan-pipes. Add music to your theatre (see above).
- Research Peru, Bolivia, and South America: animals (e.g. guinea pigs, condors, llamas, foxes), food (tomatoes, peppers, squash, corn, quinoa, and 4000 kinds of potatoes!), high altitude, El Niño, Machu Picchu, quipus (the “talking knots” of the Incas), the Atacama desert, the Atlantic Ocean, the Amazon Jungle, and the Andes Mountains (four extreme biospheres in one area!). See Barbara's website for more ideas: www.barbaraknutson.com.
- Research the life and work of the author/illustrator, Barbara Knutson. Compare/Contrast her books (see list below). Look up her website at www.barbaraknutson.com, which includes more information about *Love and Roast Chicken* and a teachers' guide for her other books.



BARBARA KNUTSON

AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR

Other books by Barbara Knutson:

HOW THE GUINEA FOWL GOT HER SPOTS: A Swahili tale of friendship
Carolrhoda Books. Hardcover 0-87614-416-4, Paperback 0-87614-537-3

WHY THE CRAB HAS NO HEAD (A Creation Tale from Zaire)
Carolrhoda Books. Hardcover 0-87614-322-2

SUNGURA AND LEOPARD: A Swahili Trickster Tale
Little, Brown and Co. Hardcover 0-316-50010-0 (out of print)

Illustrated by Barbara Knutson:

CINCO DE MAYO
by Linda Lowery, Carolrhoda Books. Hardcover 1-57505-654-2, Paperback 1-57505-764-6

DAY OF THE DEAD
by Linda Lowery, Carolrhoda Books. Hardcover 0-87614-914-X

KWANZAA KARAMU
by April Brady, Carolrhoda Books. Hardcover 0-87614-842-9 (Out of print)

COLORS OF GHANA
by Holly Littlefield, Carolrhoda Books. Hardcover 1-57505-354-3, Paperback 1-57505-374-8

COUNT YOUR WAY THROUGH AFRICA
by Jim Haskins, Carolrhoda Books. Hardcover 0-87614-347-8, Paperback 0-87614-514-4

HANNA'S COLD WINTER
by Trish Marx, Carolrhoda Books. Hardcover 0-87614-772-4 (Out of print)



This study guide was prepared by reading specialist and teacher Linda Jokela.