

## **Reader Guide**

Surf Soup® The Chick Inn

A Story of Family, Foster Care, and Forever Love

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Donna Kay Lau Studios-Art is On! In ProDUCKtions Ink

Reader & Educator Guide

Recommended Ages

4-10

### **Themes**

Foster Care

Adoption

Family Diversity

Belonging

Kindness

Community

Gratitude

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Inclusion

Empathy

### **Before Reading**

Ask students:

What makes a place feel like home?

What does belonging mean?

Can families look different from one another?

How can we help someone feel welcome?

### **Discussion Questions**

Understanding the Story

Why did Momma Hen welcome the eggs into the Chick Inn?

Did Momma Hen need to know where the eggs came from before caring for them?

How did the animals become a family?

Why did the island friends build Chick Inn 2?

What does Eggoh's question, "Are you my mother?" mean in the story?

### **Social Emotional Learning**

How do you know when someone cares about you?

Have you ever helped someone feel included?

What are ways we can show kindness to new friends?

How can communities help children feel safe and loved?

What makes your family special?

### **SEL Learning Objectives**

#### **Students will:**

Recognize that families can be formed in many ways.

Practice empathy and compassion.

Identify acts of kindness and community support.

Explore gratitude and giving back.

Develop an understanding of belonging and inclusion.

### **Art Activity**

Design Your Own Chick Inn

Imagine a place where everyone feels welcome.

Draw your own Chick Inn.

Include:

A special sign

A cozy sleeping area

A place to play

A place to eat

Something that makes visitors feel welcome

Reflection

What would you do to help someone feel at home in your

Chick Inn?

### **Art Activity**

Family Tree of Love

Draw yourself in the center.

Around you, add people who care about you.

These may include:

Parents

Grandparents

Foster parents  
Adoptive parents  
Guardians  
Siblings  
Friends  
Teachers  
Coaches

**Discuss:**

How many different people help us grow?

Writing Activity

If I Had a Chick Inn...

Complete the sentence:

"If I had a Chick Inn, I would welcome..."

Draw or write about who would be invited and why.

**Writing Activity**

A Letter to Momma Hen

Write a thank-you note to Momma Hen.

What would you thank her for?

How did she help the island animals?

STEM + SEL Activity

**Build a Nest Challenge**

Materials:

Paper

Craft sticks

String

Cotton balls

Recycled materials

Challenge:

Build a nest that can safely hold an egg.

**Discussion:**

Why do animals need safe homes?

What makes people feel safe?

Community Activity

**Kindness Feathers**

Cut out paper feathers.

On each feather write:

A kind word

A helpful action

A way to make someone feel included

Create a classroom "Chick Inn Nest" from the feathers.

### **Mother's Day Extension**

Thank You to My Momma Hen

Students create a card for a special caregiver.

This can be:

Mom

Dad

Grandparent

Foster Parent

Adoptive Parent

Guardian

Teacher

Mentor

### **Prompt:**

"Thank you for helping me grow."

### **Character Education Focus**

Core Values

Compassion

Inclusion

Gratitude

Respect

Responsibility

Community

Kindness

Acceptance

### **Take-Home Family Discussion**

Ask your family:

What makes our family unique?

Who helped our family become what it is today?

What does belonging mean to us?

How do we show love and support to one another?

## **Closing Message**

Just like the Chick Inn on Surf Soup® Island, every community can become a place where people feel welcomed, valued, and loved. Families may begin in different ways, but kindness, care, and connection help us all find where we belong.