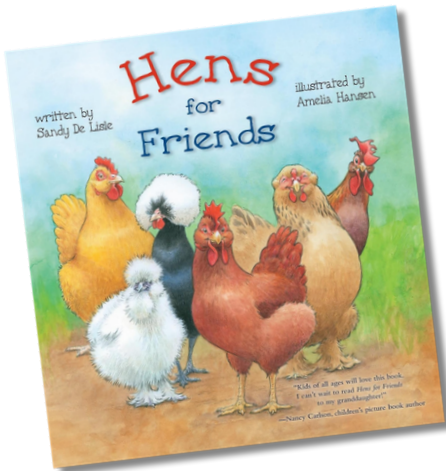




Hens for Friends

Supplemental Resource



Lesson focus: Chickens. Hens as our friends and “dust bathing” behaviors

Materials

- Book: *Hens for Friends*, by Sandy De Lisle
- RedRover Reporters YouTube Channel: [Chicken, Chicken, What Do You Do? Dustbathing Hens Poem! video](#)
- [September/October 2023 digital issue of Kind News™ magazine](#) (page 8)
- Paper, colored pencils, and/or crayons



Before the lesson

Find the YouTube video and the September/October 2023 digital issue of Kind News to show after reading the book.

Read the book *Hens for Friends*. Ask these questions while reading (10 minutes):

- Could a person and a chicken be friends?
- What would a friendship with a chicken look like?
- Can a hen feel “happy?” What would happiness look like in a hen?
- What are some of the behaviors and actions we learned about hens in this book?
- What do hens like? What do they dislike?
- What do chickens need to be healthy?
- The boy in the book makes friends with a hen. Do you think you could make friends with a hen? Why or why not?

Read the article (5 minutes)

After reading the book, open your [September/October 2023 issue of Kind News magazine](#) and show the article called “Meet Barbosa and Morgan” (page 8).

Ask:

- Why do you think Barbosa and Morgan were quiet when they first arrived at the sanctuary?
- Why do you think they finally felt comfortable coming out of their coops and taking dustbaths?



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Watch the dust bathing video (5 minutes)

Ask: “What do you think chickens like to do? How do you think they keep themselves clean?” Or simply, “What is dust bathing?” Let’s watch it in action and listen to this poem about dust bathing, featured in the Junior version of Kind News magazine!”



Do an activity (20 minutes)

Write a poem or draw a picture about a chicken and a person being friends. Imagine what they would do together.

Extension ideas

Ask students: What do we have in common with chickens? Ask them to revisit the Kind News article and highlight words and phrases that describe Barbosa and Morgan, such as “likes to explore and protect everyone,” and “showing bravery.” Do students see any personality traits of the chickens themselves?

Ask students to take the personality quiz at [KindNews.org/quiz-which-animal-are-you](https://www.kindnews.org/quiz-which-animal-are-you). Were they surprised to find out which animal they were like? Were they surprised to learn about animals having personalities? Why or why not?



To learn more about the RedRover Readers program and to take the training, visit [RedRover.org/Readers](https://www.RedRover.org/Readers). To learn more about Kind News magazine, visit [KindNews.org](https://www.KindNews.org).

