



www.liveoakmedia.com

Activity Guide

800-788-1121

Elvis the Rooster and the Magic Words

ABOUT THE STORY

Elvis the rooster expects things to be done a certain way, and the other chickens go along with him. Then Little Willie brings his friend, Cluck Gable, to the henhouse. Cluck is a peacock, and he forces Elvis to see that he is not the most special bird around. Humbled, Elvis begins to treat the others with more respect, even using the magic words – *please* and *thank you*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Denys Cazet worked as a cook, gardener, ditch digger, farmer, cable splicer, and school librarian before he began writing books for children. He is the author of the Minnie and Moo books, including *Minnie and Moo Go to the Moon*, *Minnie and Moo Save the Earth*, and *Minnie and Moo Go Dancing*, and *Elvis the Rooster Almost Goes to Heaven*, all Live Oak Media Readalongs. Denys Cazet lives in northern California.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Ask children if they can think of reasons why it is a good idea to be polite to others. Discuss their responses. Then tell them that the story they will read is about a rooster who is forced to learn good manners.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “Why does Elvis think he is so special?”
- “What kind of creature is Cluck Gable?”
- “Why do the hens stop treating Elvis well?”
- “What are the magic words?”
- “Why are those words magic?” (*Draw Conclusions*)

Vocabulary

Write these lists of words on the board. Tell children that each word in the left-hand column can be combined with a word in the right-hand column to make a compound noun. Have the children copy the lists and draw lines connecting the words to make compounds. Then discuss the meaning of each word that goes into the compound and the meaning of the compound words each pair of words creates.

sun	fast
barn	bow
break	rise
door	pick
tooth	yard
rain	way

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: Manners in Other Cultures

Have children work in small groups to learn about manners in other cultures and how they differ from manners in our culture. Children can look in books about other countries, or they can search online to find information. Encourage each group to write a brief report comparing and contrasting manners here with manners in the culture they have chosen.

Language Arts: Other Magic Words

Elvis' magic words are *please* and *thank you*. Have children work with partners to list other magic words and a brief explanation of why each word is “magic.” Possibilities might include *excuse me*, *sorry*, *pardon me*, or *forgive me*. Partners can share their magic words with the rest of the class.

Drama: Acting With and Without Manners

Have children work in groups of four, with two pairs in each group. One group can act out one of the situations below in which the partners are rude and unmannerly. Then the other pair can act out the same situation, using good manners. Have children discuss the effect of being polite.

Possible situations:

- Asking to sit down at a lunch table
- Joining in a playground game
- Borrowing a pencil or other item

Art: Etiquette Poster

Have children work together to brainstorm a list of etiquette rules that would be useful at school. Encourage them to think about etiquette for the classroom, for the lunchroom, for special field trips, and for the playground. Children can design and create a poster titled “School Manners.” Have them write the rules they have devised and illustrate their poster. Hang the poster prominently in the classroom or elsewhere in the school.

INTERNET ACTIVITY

Before you send children to do research using any of the keywords listed below, you may wish to try them yourself to be sure the sites are suitable.

Manners in Times Past

Have children use the keywords *etiquette in history* to find out how manners were different in past times. Ask them to note two or three instances where manners differed from today's manners. Children can report to the class on the changes that have occurred.