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*Come, read about the rooster
The cheeky, saucy rooster
And maybe you will want it for a pet?
(We doubt it.)*

Read about the amusing antics of a mischievous rooster raised in the heart of a bustling city. Written in Anushka Ravishankar's comic verse and illustrated by Emanuele Scanziani with appropriate hilarity, *A Rooster for a Pet?* is an incredible tale inspired by a true story.

Here is a set of activities, asking children to do a variety of tasks. An educator can take them through this list carefully and explain what needs to be done.

TEXT

- 1 Get children to list the adjectives used to describe the rooster as it grows. Do these words change as the story progresses? What do they tell us about the rooster?
- 2 The story uses words like 'cheep', 'plop', and 'cluck'. These are examples of onomatopoeia—words that sound similar to the noises they describe. Ask children to spot all the sound words in the book, and count how many times they are repeated. What do these words contribute to the story?

- 3 Call attention to the formatting of the text: some words are thicker or thinner, others are italicised, and some are larger in size. Is there a reason these words are printed that way? Are there any patterns that children can find in how the words look?
- 4 Discuss the ending of the book. What do children think happened to the rooster?
- 5 The family also has two cats as pets, besides the rooster. What would these cats think of the rooster's arrival in the house? Would they be friends or enemies? Get children to reinterpret the story from the perspective of one of the cats.
- 6 Ask children to imagine the rooster from the book as a pet in their own homes. What are some funny situations that are bound to occur?
- 7 The rooster gets up to a great deal of mischief in the house, but what could do even worse? Ask children to name some animals that would make worse pets than a rooster.
- 8 Start a discussion on pets: do any of the children have pets of their own? Are they as lively and mischievous as the rooster in the story? Get each child to describe their pets' funny antics, or share a humorous story about other animals they know.

ART

- 1 What is special about the art in the book? Draw attention to the use of colours and the way different scenes are rendered. Ask each child to choose his or her favourite illustration of the interior and the outside, and describe what draws him or her to it.
- 2 Bring children to notice the intensity of colours on a page. For example, the rooster is bright, the people less so, and the background is light—guiding the eye to the foreground, middle ground and background. What do children notice first? Discuss how images and scenes are created.
- 3 How has the artist brought movement into the images? Guide children's attention to the way the rooster interacts with objects around it and the use of repeated images of the rooster in a single scene.
- 4 Living in a city means having to share space with a lot of people. One of the illustrations shows all the residents of the apartment building; call attention to the people and activities in this scene. Are there any other animals that children can spot?
- 5 One of the illustrations in the book imagines the rooster with the features of other animals like a puppy, parrot, kitten and peacock. Ask children to suggest other funny animal combinations, and draw their own versions of the rooster.
- 6 Get children to identify features of the apartment that stand out to them. Choose a room and highlight why the artist may have added certain elements—from the decorations and furniture to the objects in each room. How similar or different are they from rooms in households that the children are familiar with?
- 7 Ask children to identify aspects of the illustrations which are not in the text: for example, the apartment is home to two cats, besides the rooster. Is there another story here? See if children can spot these elements in each page and follow them through the book.
- 8 Divide the children into groups. Ask them to imagine they have a pet rooster causing chaos in their homes. How would they convince someone else to take the rooster home and off their hands? Help them design their own posters, like the one on the last page of the book.



WHAT IS **EXPLORE THE BOOK?**

Our free resources and activity sheets help parents and educators looking to extend the scope of our books. They contain pointers and questions for discussion, as well as suggestions for activities based on the ideas, art and narrative in the book.

To find out more, write to hello@tarabooks.com

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