

When Chicken Little receives a plop on the head, she jumps to conclusions. "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!" One by one, classmates join in until it's classroom chaos. Finally, Little and friends learn that a deep breath and a little thought might save the "sky" from falling. Or will it?

Genre: Picture Book
Ages 3-7
Word Count: 650
Excluding Notes

Chicken Little's Weather Worries

By Lynne Marie
Illustrated by Wendy Fedan

[5]

It was a sunny Tuesday at Fairy Tale Elementary, until...

[6/7]

[Art: Outside at recess.]

The sky darkened.

Thunder boomed.

Lightning flashed.

Mother Goose flapped her wings. "Recess is over. Hurry in, children, before it rains cats and dogs."

"Rats!" cried the Pied Piper.

"No worries," said Mother Goose. "It's a perfect day to introduce weather myths! I'll check with Principal Halliwell to see if I might squeeze in a lesson."

She rushed down the hall as the students filed into class.

Then, thunder struck again.

[8/9]

Nervous, Princess dropped her pea.

[Art: Bounce. Bounce. Bounce. Then, hits Henny Penny, a little chicken, in the head.]

Henny Penny ran in circles. "The sky is falling! The sky is falling! We must tell Mother Goose."

[Art: Speech Bubble with Princess saying, "Now where oh where has my little pea gone?" In several following spreads, she quietly searches for her pea.]

[10/11]

[Art: Baby Bear of the Three Bears.]

Baby Bear checked for his shadow. "Bears can predict Spring, not a falling sky. Are you sure?"

"It fell right on my head!" exclaimed Penny.

Baby Bear ran behind Penny.

[Art: One by one, classmates join Penny's frantic circle.]

[12/13]

[Art: Cow-Who-Jumped-Over-the-Moon.]

"What now?" asked Cow.

"The sky is falling!" cried Baby Bear.

Cow laid down. "Hmm...Cows can predict a storm, not a falling sky. How do you know?"

"It fell right on my head!" exclaimed Penny.

Cow clomped after them. "The sky is falling!"

[14/15]

"Achoo!" Puss-in-Boots sneezed. "If a cat sneezes," he explained, "rain is expected! *Never* falling skies!"

"It fell right on my head!" exclaimed Penny.

Puss-in-Boots sprang into line. "The sky is falling!"

[16/17]

[Art: Fox from The Gingerbread Man.]

At the rumble of thunder, Fox barked. "A storm is coming! A storm is coming!"

"Nonsense!" puffed Penny. "The sky is falling!"

"Foxes bark to predict storms, but can't foresee the sky falling."

Thunder crashed.

Lightning split the sky.

“Aaah! You’re right,” cried Fox. “The sky *is* falling!”

[16/17]

[Art: Frog from the Frog Prince.]

Frog crooned a tune.

Cinderella, Aurora, and Snow White swooned.

He croaked louder and louder. “Frogs foretell the coming rain,” he explained. “But they know not if the sky is falling.”

Penny huffed. “It fell right on my head!”

Rain pounded.

Frog jumped in and joined the chorus. “The sky is falling! We must tell Mother Goose!”

Cinderella, Aurora, and Snow White trailed behind.

[18/19]

Just then, Pinocchio popped up. “I can predict the weather. My grandfather was a weather stick!”

His nose grew so long it knocked over Penny...

who tripped the princesses, who toppled over Prince, who knocked into Fox, who collided with Puss-in-Boots, who crashed into Cow, who banged into Bear, who felled the wall.

The roof came down.

Crash!

[20/21]

Mother Goose rushed back to find a disaster.

“THE SKY FELL!” her students yelled.

Mother Goose sighed. “Take a deep breath. I’m certain the sky did not fall. One at a time, tell me what really happened.”

“The princesses tricked me into believing the sky was falling,” fibbed Pinocchio.

[Art: Nose grows even longer...]

[22/23]

“The Frog Prince fooled us,” sang Cinderella, Aurora, and Snow White.

“Fox insisted,” said Frog Prince.

“Puss-in-Boots persuaded me,” snitched Fox.

“Cow convinced me,” confessed Puss-in-Boots.

“Baby Bear blabbed,” declared Cow.

“That’s enough...” said Mother Goose. “Who started this?”

[24/25]

Baby Bear tattled. “Penny did!”

“And, Penny, what did you see?” asked Mother Goose.

“It fell right on my head!” explained Penny. “Right here.”

[Art: Penny points to her head.]

Mother Goose sighed. "Since there are no eyes atop Penny's head, did anyone see the sky fall?"

The class shook their heads.

Including Penny.

PLOP!

[26/27]

A pea rolled out.

"There you are!" Princess shouted.

"Oops!" said Penny. "It seems it was just a pea.."

Mother Goose sighed. "I hope we all learned something from this incident."

"Yes..." Penny handed over the pea. "Next time, I'll take a deep breath. And check my head."

Everyone giggled, including Mother Goose.

[28/29]

With the help of Principal Halliwell and four and twenty blackbirds, they raised the roof.

"Now, it's time for our weather lesson," said Mother Goose. "Which creatures can predict weather?"

Lightning flashed.

Thunder boomed.

Rain fell.

"I can!" said Penny. "The sky is falling."

The class groaned.

Penny took a deep breath and checked her head.

"Nevermind..."

[30/31]

Possible Backmatter or Companion Book on Weather Lore

POSSIBLE SUBJECTS FOR SERIES:

Golda's Lox and the Three Bears

Subject: Valentine's Day / Kindness

Jack and the Rice and Beanstalk

Subject: Cultural Foods / Picky Eaters

Little Bo Peep Has Lost Her Sheets

Subject: Homework / Organizational Skills

Little Red Bakes Bread

Subject: Teamwork

Sleeping Beauty Falls Asleep

Subject: Proper Rest

The Three Billy Goats Tough

Subject: Bullying

The Three Little Pigs and the Rocket Project (Reboot)

Subject: STEM / Bullying / Persistence / Strong Girls

Other Possible Topics Available Upon Request / Open for Discussion
About the Author:

Lynne Marie is the author of *HEDGEHOG GOES TO KINDERGARTEN* - illustrated by Anne Kennedy (Scholastic 2011), *HEDGEHOG's 100th DAY OF SCHOOL* (Scholastic 2017) and *THE STAR OF THE CHRISTMAS PLAY* - both illustrated by Lorna Hussey (Beaming Books 2018), *MOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE SCARES* - illustrated by David Rodriguez Lorenzo



(Sterling 2019) and a nonfiction picture book, *LET'S EAT - MEALTIME AROUND THE WORLD* - illustrated by Parwinder Singh (Beaming Books 2019), *THE THREE LITTLE PIGS AND THE ROCKET PROJECT* (Mac and Cheese Press, 2022), *AMERICAN PIE* - illustrated by Dea Lenihan (Dancing Flamingo Press 2022), and more forthcoming. When she's not trying to predict the weather, she lives on a lake in South Florida with her family, a Schipperke named Anakin and several resident water birds. You can learn more about her at www.LiterallyLynneMarie.com.



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Summary / Overview:

Chicken Little Weathers the Weather: A Cautionary Tale is a fractured animal fable which incorporates weather myths with the SEL topic of mindfulness. It features repetitive text that allows a child to participate by calling out “The Sky is Falling!” and other phrases.

Children will learn that it’s best to consider possible explanations before reacting, as they also learn about weather lore.

Audience:

Trade Market - This story presents as a fractured fairy tale that’s new and different. Parents and Grandparents may find this to be a fun introduction to many tales and rhymes which can be explored later.

School and Library Market - This story offers takeaway value for SEL, weather, myth and/or poetry units.

Marketing Strategy:

1. Develop presentations for schools and libraries in conjunction with a book reading and ask an author session.
2. Create a Teacher Guide.
3. Develop presentations to present at conferences and workshops.
4. Create outdoor presentations for zoos, aquariums and nature destinations like Flamingo Gardens.
5. Appear on Author and Editor Panels at conferences around the U.S.
6. Handsell the book to independent book shops, gift shoppes and kid spots around Florida and the U.S.
7. Have dedicated promotion pages at www.literallylynnemarie.com with resources and activities.
8. Have an activity page to hand out at book-signing events.
9. Attend Amelia Island and other book festivals.
Note: I was accepted for Authors in Schools, but the actual festival canceled for 2022.
10. Create promotional swag like buttons, bookmarks, coloring pages and more.
11. Create book release postcards to mail and e-mail to prospective buyers and markets.
12. Facilitate contests / book give-aways.
13. Use my social media platforms, blog and reach as owner and administrator of Rate Your Story.org and ThePictureBookMechanic.com, as well as my weekly Mentor Text Talk, and our annual event, March On With Mentor Texts, to spread the word.
14. Create a blog tour, blog posts and participate in interviews to further promote the book.
15. Create a Weather Folklore and/or Fairy Tale Quiz.