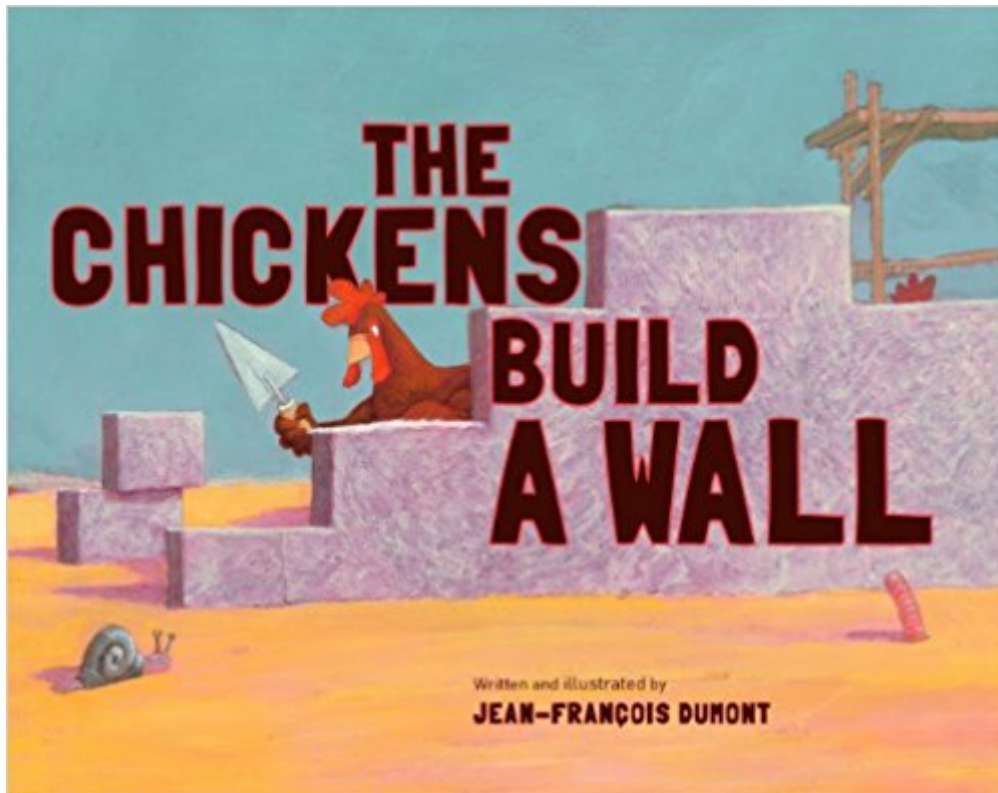




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The Chickens Build A Wall



Synopsis

The chickens at the farm are building a wall, and no one is quite sure why. But they know one thing: the hedgehog that wandered in must be trouble. So all winter they build and build, until they have a wall that towers over the barn. When spring comes, though, they find that everything hasn't gone quite according to plan . . .

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850L (What's this?)

Paperback: 33 pages

Publisher: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (March 28, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802854222

ISBN-13: 978-0802854223

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.3 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #520,386 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance](#) #189 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Peer Pressure](#) #463 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Publishers Weekly (STARRED review) "A clever barnyard commentary on protectionism, xenophobia, and overreaction. . . . Adult readers won't have to look hard to spot parallels to contemporary discourse on immigration and other hot-button topics, and the target audience will easily see the chickens' folly thanks to a drily funny ending and the comedy that runs throughout Dumont's prose and sly characterizations."

Jean-Francois Dumont is a French author and illustrator who has created many stories for children, including [The Chickens Build a Wall](#) (Eerdmans) and [A Blue So Blue](#) (Sterling), winner of the 2004 Prix Saint-Exupery, an award given yearly to the best illustrated picture book in France.

In a most delightful way, this book helps address the issue of fearing what is different; it could be color, culture, a different food... But the story stands on its own and is a fun read just for itself!

Appropriate for all ages at this time. My copy is staying loaned out every week.

great

My kids and I love this story!

The Chickens Build a Wall is a book that could be used by either a parent, a teacher, librarian or something as part of a discussion on prejudice, bigotry as either a comparison to the way they might hear racist adults (or children rehashing) another race, religion or group they fear due to ignorance either currently happening or as part of a history lesson. Or even simply just encountering an animal that has come into your backyard and not understanding it's behaviour. As this story has a hedgehog walking onto a farm, the farm animals haven't ever seen one of its kind before, the chickens especially are fascinated. They gather round it, the hedgehog fears for its safety so curls into a ball. They are puzzled by its behaviour that they don't understand, an elderly pigeon warns that he has heard of its kind and you need to be cautious around it. The hedgehog stays in a ball all day being eyed by the paranoid chickens and escapes when it's dark. Of course some chickens start spreading the hate and accusations it must have stolen something, check on their kids and nonsense like this. Another chicken who wants attention blames the lower number of worms around at the moment on the hedgehog. Then a power hungry rooster declares they will build a wall to protect themselves from prickly invaders. You'll have to read it yourself to see what happens next. The story is a bit wordy and lengthy to read to younger kids but as I said kids studying bigotry or maybe the topic needing to come up if it's being overheard by teachers in the playground after a terrorist attack or something, it probably isn't a bad one for a teacher to read, or with older kids to stimulate a discussion on the topic.

Your like or dislike for this book will likely depend on your political leanings. The book has obvious parallels to the "build a wall" political debate from the past few years. If you're a liberal, you'll see it as a heartwarming tale that shows the ridiculousness of chickens building a huge wall to keep a perfectly innocent and harmless hedgehog out of your territory. Uneducated conservative

chickens! If you're a conservative, you'll see this as liberal propaganda with the goal of training up another wimpy generation of children who want to make the country into a sanctuary country, free of the rule of law. Liberal losers! Either way, it over simplifies a terribly complicated and multifaceted issue. If you're conservative, you'll take issue with the assumptions in the book about "why" the chickens are building a wall. If you're liberal, you'll say "chill out, it's just a children's book" and proclaim that "love trumps hate." If you're like most people, you'll continue mocking and despising the ridiculous opinions of the other side of the political spectrum. You'll call them names, accuse them of all sorts of things, post links on Facebook to political meme's that are only 25% true. You'll paint them all with one wide brush. All the while (of course), being shining examples to your children about how to treat others. Enjoy the book!

Note - I was provided a review copy of the book in exchange for a review. This is a great book for children, as it really has great pictures for kids and a good message. It really has a good think for yourself, and don't just follow someone else message, as well as a lesson about new people. My daughter insisted I read this to her at night for most of a week. Definitely an enjoyable kids book!

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