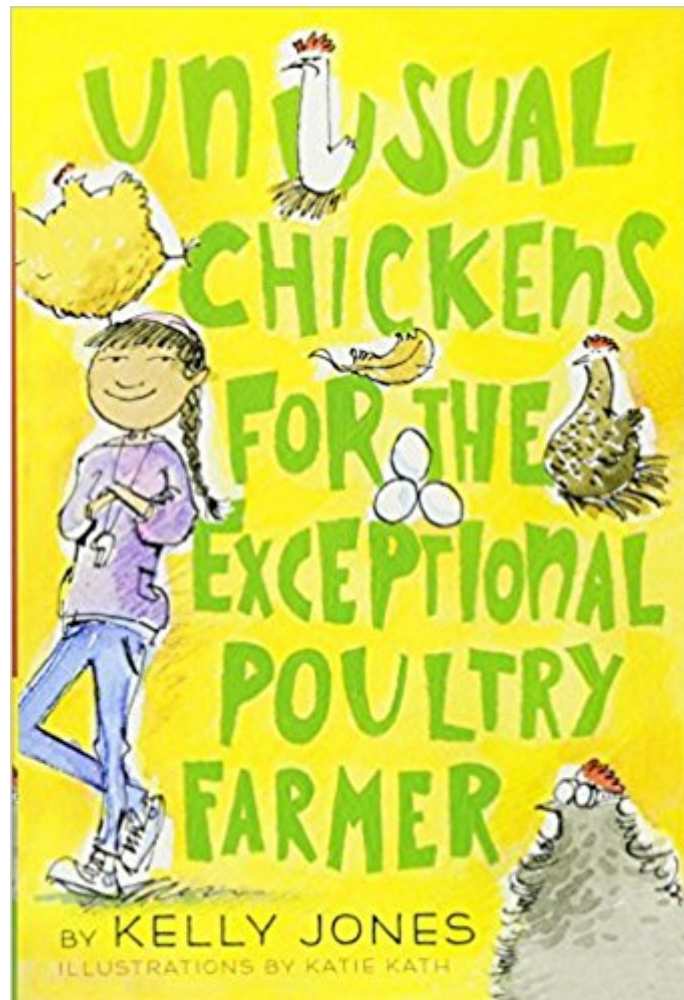




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# Unusual Chickens For The Exceptional Poultry Farmer



## Synopsis

Fans of Polly Horvath or Roald Dahl will love this quirky story of a determined girl, and some extraordinary chickens. ã ã Twelve-year-old Sophie Brown feels like a fish out of water when she and her parents move from Los Angeles to the farm theyã ¨ ¨ve inherited from a great-uncle. But farm life gets more interesting when a cranky chicken appears and Sophie discovers the hen can move objects with the power of her little chicken brain: jam jars, the latch to her henhouse, the entire henhouse.... ã ã And then more of her great-uncleã ¨ ¨s unusual chickens come home to roost. Determined, resourceful Sophie learns to care for her flock, earning money for chicken feed, collecting eggs. But when a respected local farmer tries to steal them, Sophie must find a way to keep them (and their superpowers) safe. ã ã Told in letters to Sophieã ¨ ¨s abuela, quizzes, a chicken-care correspondence course, to-do lists, and more, Unusual Chickens is a quirky, clucky classic in the making.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0880 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Dgs edition (March 8, 2016)

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Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 99 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,121 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 inã ¨ ¨ Books > Children's Books >

Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life #23 inã ¨ ¨ Books > Children's Books >

Animals > Farm Animals #31 inã ¨ ¨ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Birds

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4ã ¨ ¨ 6ã ¨ ¨ •Sophie Brown is new to farm life, new to being one of the only "brown people" in town (the others being her mother and Gregory, the mailman), and definitely new to caring for chickensã ¨ ¨ and these are some challenging chickens. To help herself adjust to life away from Los Angeles and her extended family, she writes letters to her great-uncle Jim and her

beloved Abuelita, both recently deceased, and embarks on a correspondence course in poultry care with the mysterious Agnes of Redwood Farm Supply. Agnes's poorly typed responses assure Sophie that the chickens that keep turning up on the farm (including Henrietta, a small white hen with a permanent unibrow of fury) belonged to her great-uncle, from whom Sophie's father inherited the farm and who implores her to keep the chickens safe and to be careful. But how will she protect chickens that are capable of levitating their own coop, becoming invisible, and turning enemies to stone? And why does the town's resident chicken expert, Ms. Griegson, seem intent on stealing Sophie's brood? Told in letters, quizzes, newspaper clippings, and delicious ink drawings reminiscent of Quentin Blake, this middle grade epistolary novel has a little magic and a lot of warm family humor. Jones delivers a dynamic Latina protagonist in Sophie, who describes her experiences in satisfying detail: the discomfort of facing microaggressions based on her heritage (such as when the town librarian assumes that she and her family are migrant workers); love and concern for her parents, both struggling to find and keep work; and willingness to learn and grow despite typical tween self-consciousness. VERDICT Readers will cheer for Sophie and clamor for more of those amazing chickens. Exceptional, indeed. —Amy Martin, Oakland Public Library, CA --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

"A delightful protagonist, interesting fowl of various breeds and a cast of appealing second-string characters make this a top pick for young readers, poultry fanciers or not." —Kirkus Reviews, ★ starred review "Readers will cheer for Sophie and clamor for more of those amazing chickens. Exceptional, indeed." —School Library Journal, ★ starred review "Someone has finally written a real honest-to-goodness novel with chickens! This news will excite people who like novels, people who like chickens...and chickens." —It is an unusual book!" --Daniel Pinkwater, author of The Hoboken Chicken Emergency, and pioneer of chicken-lit. "The combination of real-life emotion and otherworldly farming makes for a comedic story with the right amount of pathos." --Booklist ★ From the Hardcover edition.

I bought this for my child, who is currently receiving tutoring for dyslexia. It is challenging to find books that are at a "just right" reading level and hold the attention of a child with a very large speaking vocabulary. This book is cleverly written, humorous, and it's just a bonus that it's about chickens (my child loves animals and wants to be a farmer). It's our read-aloud - part of tutoring homework - and even my teenager has listened to it. Thank you so much, Kelly, for a book our

whole family is enjoying.

What a fun book. I loved the letters that explained what was going on and the characters were fun. Perfect read for any grade school kid.

As a chicken owner I enjoyed this book. Fun read for kids too.

I read this to see if my nine-year-old would like it. As it turns out, this was the best kids' book I've read in a very long time. The main character is very likeable, and telling the story through letters makes for a more staggered reveal, which is really effective with a plot like this. I'll be looking forward to the next story of Sophie's next adventure with her unusual chickens, for myself as well as my kiddo.

Dads don't always get to review or rate their kids' works, but I'm very happy to say that I read and truly loved this book. What an interesting perspective on growing up in the Sonoma/Marin area as a youngster that has such a great capacity for communication, learning, and dealing with changing circumstances! And I thought that the artwork was absolutely a perfect fit. Congratulations @curiosityjones for your raves and successes!

...then this book is a good read If you are chicken curious this book will ease you in and teach you about hens. This is a delightful middle school book about a young girl who inherits some unusual chickens with powers. Sort of like the x-men but in chicken form. The author captures how regular chickens are and ups the game. I thoroughly enjoyed the book but then I do have 13 chickens and a rooster.

I am reading this book to a group of about 25 students from 2nd through 5th grade. We have had such a great time reading it and we're learning so much about chickens, people, family dynamics and letter writing along the way. The vocabulary is rich. I highly recommend it as a read aloud.

I have two hens and 3 ducks (currently) and I thought this book was funny and cute I remember the first few times I had my first chickens out it was like I was discovering a new superpower every time I discovered their personality and I grew to love them. I love how the girl is determined to keep them safe and she barely knew them... kept me guessing all the way... Thank you 6 stars -hen lover

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