



TEACHERS' NOTES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool and lower primary
(ages 3–6; preschool to year 2)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Visual Arts, Science
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Visual literacy

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Introduce little readers to common farm animals and environments.
- The whole story is a quirky egg hunt which engages and encourages participation from little readers.

THEMES

- Around the farm
- Where our food comes from
- Our relationship with nature and animals

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

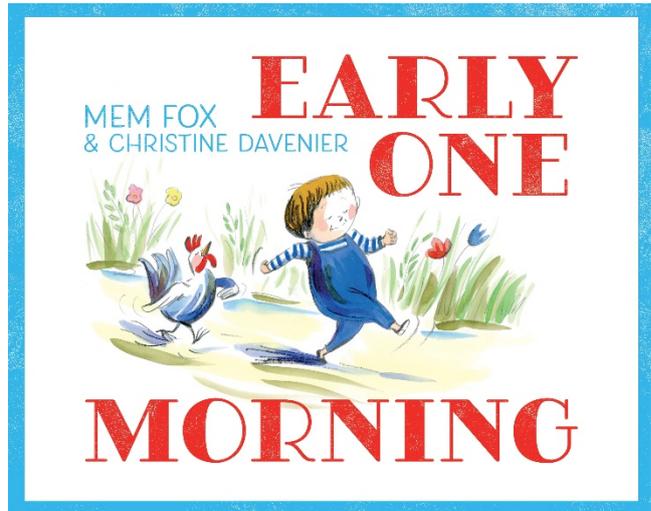
PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9781761040030 (paperback);

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Early One Morning Mem Fox & Christine Davenier

PLOT SUMMARY

Early one morning on the farm, a boy sets out to find his breakfast. Where could it be? In the tractor? In the haystack? With the sheep? With the ponies . . .? Little readers will delight in the story's guessing game and following the boy on his ramble around the farm.

Join a boy on his hunt for breakfast around the farm in this charming picture book from bestselling author Mem Fox and award-winning illustrator Christine Davenier.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mem Fox has written more than 40 books for children, including the bestselling and much-loved picture books *Possum Magic* and *Where is the Green Sheep?* Other books by Mem include *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*, *Hunwick's Egg*, *Hello Baby!*, *A Giraffe in the Bath*, *Koala Lou*, *Baby Bedtime* and *Roly Poly*. In 2019, *The Tiny Star* was released to great critical acclaim from the Australian Book Industry, and March 2021 will see the release of another new picture book, *Early One Morning*.

Mem has been presented with an array of book awards, and was awarded an AM for services to the cultural life of Australia in 1993. Mem lives in Adelaide and is a retired Associate Professor of Literacy Studies from Flinders University, South Australia.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Christine Davenier is the illustrator of many books for children, including the Iris and Walter series by Elissa Haden Guest and *The First Thing My Mama Told Me* by Susan Marie Swanson, which was named a *New York Times Book Review* Best Illustrated Children's Book.

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the book's cover as a class. Can the students guess what happens in the book from the cover illustration?
2. On the opening pages of the story, the boy is waving to his grandma. Do the students know where it is that the grandma lives?

KEY STUDY TOPICS

About the story

1. Read *Early One Morning* with the class. Can the students guess what the boy is looking for? What clues are there in the words used that hint towards an egg?
2. Can the students see clues in the pictures, too, for what the boy is searching for?

Around the farm

1. As the boy walks around the farm, he comes across a gate, a truck, a tractor . . . can the students remember all of the farmyard things that they saw in the book?
2. What other things are found around a farm? Can the students name any other farmyard things and animals that aren't mentioned in the book?

3. What are all the different things on the farm used for? Discuss with the students how, for example, tractors are used to pull heavy machinery, how hay can be made from dried crops to feed animals, how gates help keep farm animals safe (and the importance of closing them on farmland).
4. Discuss with students what other animals lay eggs, and where they lay them:

Which animals lay eggs in a nest?

Answers include: birds, crocodiles

Which animals lay their eggs in water?

Answers include: fish, frogs

Which animals bury their eggs?

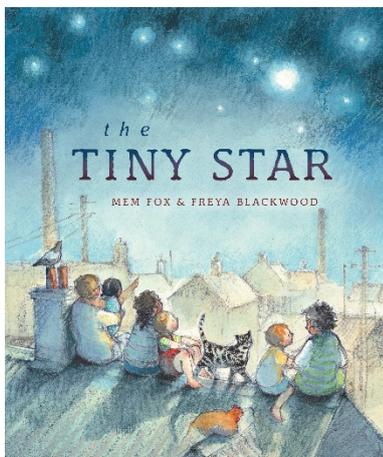
Answers include: turtles, lizards

Where our food comes from

1. In the book, the boy's breakfast was an egg, laid by the chicken. Discuss with the students where other breakfast foods come from, before they're in the shops. Some ideas might include orange juice from orange trees, milk from cows, cereal from wheat, fruit from plants.



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



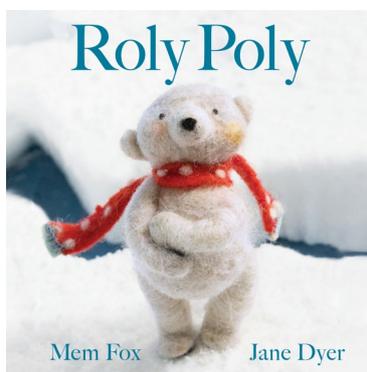
The Tiny Star
by Mem Fox and Freya Blackwood

A beautiful and charming story about the journey of life by bestselling author Mem Fox. Illustrated by the talented Freya Blackwood.

Once upon a time, although this happens all the time, a tiny star fell to earth . . . This touching and timeless story combines, for the first time, the talents of world-renowned author Mem Fox with the heartwarming illustrations of Freya Blackwood. These two luminaries craft a truly unique and moving story about the journey of life, to be cherished and shared for generations to come.

'Mem Fox's books are like a warm blanket; they have a way of making the world seem a little cosier.' *Sunday Age*

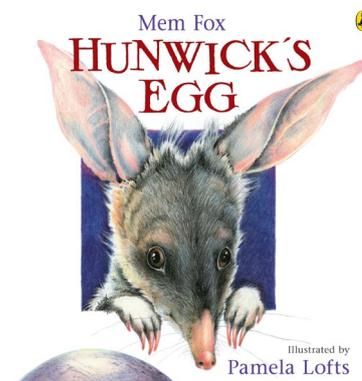
[Teachers' notes available.](#)



Roly Poly
by Mem Fox and Jane Dyer

Roly Poly the polar bear gets a little brother he did *not* ask for, in this charming story about sibling rivalry and the bonds of family from the beloved picture book creators of *Time for Bed*, Mem Fox and Jane Dyer.

Roly Poly the polar bear loves being an only child. His bed is only his. The fish he catches are only his. And he doesn't have to share his toy walrus tooth with anyone. But then along comes baby Monty. Roly Poly did not ask for a little brother and he certainly does not want one now! What is Roly Poly to do when Monty starts making him share his bed and fish and walrus tooth?



Hunwick's Egg
by Mem Fox and Pamela Lofts

Once upon a time, at the edge of a wide and dusty desert, there lived an old bilby. His name was Hunwick.

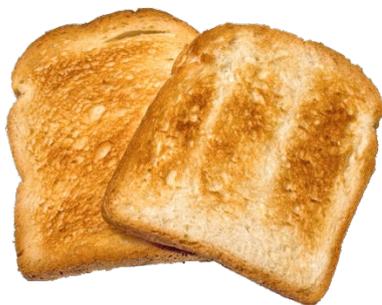
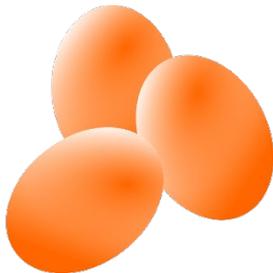
When a mysterious egg appears outside Hunwick's burrow, no one is quite certain what to think. And when it doesn't hatch right away, everyone is even more bewildered. Everyone except Hunwick, that is. Hunwick understands that the egg is his friend, and he is the only one who knows its secret.

This treasure of a book promises the young reader a simple, beautifully illustrated tale of identity and belonging.

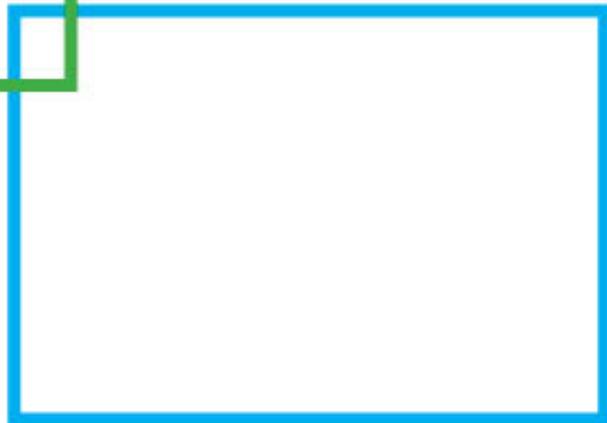


Where did each breakfast come from?

Draw a line between the pictures to match the breakfast with where it came from on the farm.



Many different animals lay eggs. Draw some of them here.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Early One Morning	Mem Fox & Christine Davenier	9781761040030	Preschool – Year 2	\$19.99		
The Tiny Star	Mem Fox & Freya Blackwood	9780670078127	Preschool – Year 3	\$24.99		
Roly Poly	Mem Fox and Jane Dyer	9781760896348	Preschool – Year 2	\$19.99		
Hunwick's Egg	Mem Fox & Pamela Lofts	9780143501350	Preschool – Year 2	\$14.99		
TOTAL						

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