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An Extraordinary Egg by Leo Lionni

Objective: Making Predictions and Drawing Conclusions

Materials Needed:

*an egg
pictures of various types of eggs

*I was fortunate enough to have a local ostrich farm nearby who gave me an ostrich egg. These eggs are very thick and large—and it made a great visual for the **Drawing Conclusions** lesson for this book.

However, an ordinary chicken egg along with pictures of various eggs would work just as easily for this activity.

Using the ostrich egg, I had students predict everything from baby chicks to dinosaurs. That would be one large chicken!

Before Reading—

Take a few moments to feel and even shake the egg. Then use the five senses to describe it.

Compare the egg to other types of eggs.

How are the eggs alike?

How are they different?

What animals hatch from eggs?

What do you think hatched from each egg?

Why?

Be sure to include animals that could not hatch from the egg.

Why not?

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During Reading—

1. Stop on the page where Marilyn tells Jessica it's a chicken egg.

Why do you think Marilyn immediately assumes the egg will hatch a chicken?

What do you think will be inside the egg?

2. Pause again after the next page and ask:

Why are they calling the alligator a chicken?

How do you know the animal is not an alligator?

3. After the last page, ask:

Why did the three frogs think the mother calling her baby her “sweet little alligator” was funny?

After Reading—

Check out the **What's In Your Basket?** game [included on the following page] that's easy to create as a follow-up lesson for Making Predictions and Drawing Conclusions.

For Writing and Family Fun: Spend time decorating Easter eggs. Choose one egg to use for this writing prompt:

Imagine you just discovered this egg in your backyard when all of a sudden _____ hatches from it. Describe your adventure. Be sure to include an interesting beginning, middle, and fabulous end to your adventure.

What's in Your Basket?

Materials:

paper strips, a dozen plastic eggs, Easter basket, permanent marker

Directions:

1. Using a permanent marker, number each egg 1 through 12.
2. Write the name of each animal on a strip of paper.
3. Cut the animal names into strips and place in the corresponding numbered egg.
4. Read each riddle that corresponds with each egg.

1. I am very slow and carry a hard shell on my back. [TURTLE]
2. I am a black and white bird that loves to swim but I cannot fly.
[PENGUIN]
3. I usually live on a farm and lay eggs most people eat for breakfast.
[CHICKEN]
4. I am usually green and I love to hop. [FROG]
5. I have gills so that I can live my entire life in the water. [FISH]
6. I live near rivers and swamps. I am a great swimmer with a great big bite. [ALLIGATOR]
7. I don't have legs, but I can slither through the grass. [SNAKE]
8. I am a bird who is proud of his bright, colorful feathers. [PEACOCK]
9. I am an orange-breasted bird you may see outside your window.
[ROBIN]
10. I am an insect with bright colorful wings that you see often in the spring.
[BUTTERFLY]
11. I am a very big bird with strong legs and a long neck. [OSTRICH]
12. I have eight legs and weave beautiful webs. [SPIDER]

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