

## These notes are for:

- From Kindergarten/Prep to years 6/7

## Key Learning Areas:

- English
- HSIE
- Music/Dance/Drama
- Art
- Science

## Example of:

- Literary narrative
- Circular Story
- Reworking of a traditional tale

## Experience of:

- Visual Literacy
- Traditional tales
- Fairy Tales

## Values addressed:

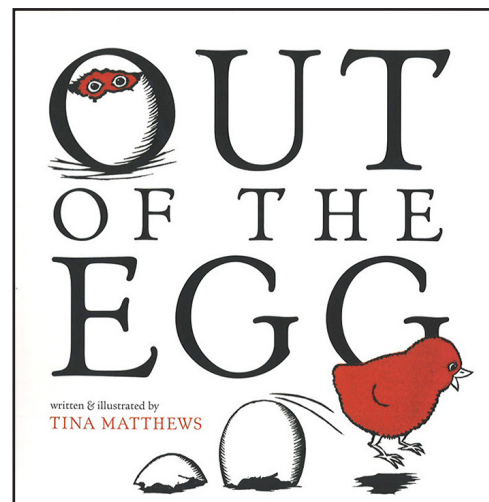
- Care and Compassion
- Respect
- Understanding, tolerance & inclusion

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Out of the Egg - Overview



### Out of the Egg By Tina Matthews

ISBN: 9781921150357

ARRP: \$24.95

NZRRP \$29.99

## Outline:

The hard-working Red Hen finds a green seed and plants it. She tries to enlist the help of the Fat Cat, the Dirty Rat and the Greedy Pig, but they are unwilling to help. So the Red Hen is left to do all the work herself. Eventually the seed grows into a tree and the Red Hen lays a perfect white egg at its base. Out of the egg hatches a little chick. One day, a little cat, a little rat and a little pig ask if they can play under the tree. The Red Hen is unwilling, but the little chick tells her mother not to be mean. The little cat, the little rat and the little pig play under the tree and when they go, the Red Hen gives them each a green seed.

An interesting twist on the well-known tale of The Little Red Hen, this is a circular story with an underlying environmental theme, social comment and hope for the future.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Tina Matthews was born in New Zealand and now lives with her family in Sydney. She is an artist and designer who has worked in children's theatre and television for 25 years, including on *Bananas in Pyjamas*, *The Ferals*, *The Upside Down Show* and Jim Henson's *Labyrinth*. Tina teaches puppetry at NIDA and is designer of the bestselling *Black and White Baby Mobile*. *Out of the Egg* is her first picture book.

## Notes prepared by – Sue Whiting

Sue Whiting was a primary school teacher for 25 years before leaving teaching to pursue a career in publishing. Passionate about literacy education, she completed a Graduate Diploma in Reading Language Education (1988), trained as a Reading Recovery Teacher (1997) and taught as a Reading Recovery and STLA for several years. She is also a successful children's book author who has written over 30 books including picture books, non-fiction, chapter books and novels.

## How to use these notes:

This story works on many levels; from a simple reworking of a well-known tale to a commentary on society and the future. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.



### Before Reading *Out of the Egg*:

- View the cover and title. What do you think the story is about? What clues are there?
- View the endpapers. What further information do they give you about the story?
- View the title page. Does the illustration give you more of an idea? Does it confirm your predictions? What do you think the story is about now?

### After Reading *Out of the Egg*:

- What story does this remind you of? Read the traditional story of The Little Red Hen. Create a table that lists the similarities and differences between the two versions.
- Why do you think Tina Matthews named the cat, rat and pig: Fat Cat, Dirty Rat, Greedy Pig? What do the pictures tell you about the characters? (And society?)
- Why do you think the Red Hen said: "Not!!" when the little rat, little cat and little pig asked: "Who will let us in to play under the tree?" Do you think the Red Hen was right in saying no? Why/why not?
- Why does the little chick think her mother is mean? Do you agree? Why/why not? Is it right to get back at people like this? How does it make you feel? Has this ever happened to you?
- Do you think the Red Hen was pleased that she listened to her little chick and let the others in? How do you know? Is it important to listen to others? Who should we listen to? Why? When? What is wisdom?
- Brainstorm: What can adults learn from children? What can children learn from adults? What have you learnt from your friends? What have you taught your friends/parents? Write and deliver a three minute speech about learning from others (adults, children, peers).
- Why do you think the Red Hen gave the little cat, little rat and little pig a green seed each? What do you think they will do with their seeds? Why? Write a new story about what one of the characters (little cat, little rat or little pig) did with his or her seed.
- What would have happened (or not happened) if the Red Hen didn't look after the seed by herself? Can you think of situations in real life where this type of thing may occur?
- As a class, create a retelling of The Little Red Hen or another well-known tale such as Henny Penny, The Ugly Duckling etc. Try to think of an interesting/surprising twist.
- Tina Matthews has used stark Japanese woodblock prints to create the art for *Out of the Egg*. Examine her artwork. Do you think it is effective? Why/why not? What do you notice about her choice of colours? Note where she has used red and green – why do you think she has chosen to use colour for these particular parts?
- Create a picture (playground/classroom/garden/bedroom) using only black and white. When the picture is finished, paint one thing green and one thing red – have a reason ready for your choices.
- Study play scripts. Note how they are set out and what their special features are. (Character lists, props, instructions.) In small groups rewrite *Out of the Egg* as a play. Practise your play and perform it for the rest of the class.
- What does this story tell us about:
  - People?
  - Helping?
  - Working hard?
  - Forgiveness?
  - Society?
  - The environment?
  - The future?



## Out of the Egg find-a-word

F	A	S	O	W	Y	L	W	I	S	D	O	M	I
O	R	T	D	U	T	T	A	L	E	S	L	E	R
R	E	L	I	T	T	L	E	R	E	D	H	E	N
G	K	I	R	I	A	O	S	I	D	W	O	R	G
I	L	T	T	N	F	E	F	U	C	P	I	G	H
V	A	T	Y	A	D	R	A	T	N	O	C	R	E
E	W	L	A	Z	Y	K	C	I	H	C	S	E	L
N	E	E	R	T	F	U	T	U	R	E	H	E	P
E	K	C	O	L	B	D	O	O	W	I	E	N	I
S	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	S	A	R	T	G	N
S	C	T	W	I	S	T	K	Y	D	E	E	R	G

Find all the words listed below. Some go right, up, down, diagonal and even backwards! The left over letters spell a secret word!

- |                |             |      |
|----------------|-------------|------|
| OUT OF THE EGG | HELPING     | SOW  |
| LITTLE RED HEN | FORGIVENESS | SUN  |
| SEED           | SOCIETY     | TREE |
| LITTLE CAT     | WALKER      | ART  |
| PIG            | WISDOM      |      |
| GREEN          | WOODBLOCK   |      |
| TINA           | FAT         |      |
| MATTHEWS       | DIRTY       |      |
| GREEDY         | TWIST       |      |
| LAZY           | FUTURE      |      |
| RAT            | TALES       |      |
| CHICK          | GROW        |      |

Write the secret word here:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_