

Spotlight

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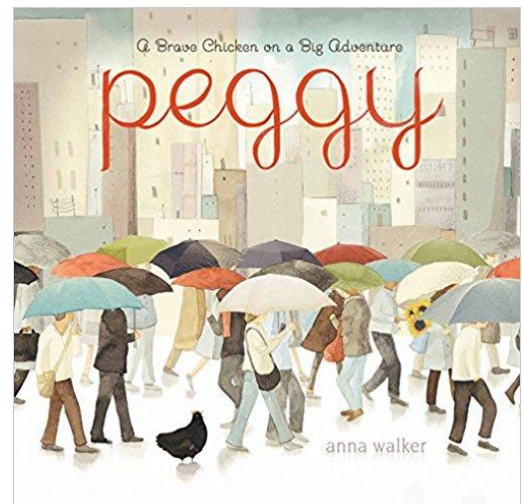


This week's Spotlight is a pair of perfect picture books about chickens. *Sonya's Chickens* by Phoebe Wahl and *Peggy: A Brave Chicken on a Big Adventure* by Alice Walker make for a great story time duo.

Pacific Northwest artist and illustrator Phoebe Wahl brings her signature style to *Sonya's Chickens*. Wahl tells the story of the cycle of life and death set against an idyllic backwoods farm painted in lush, rich colours. Sonya is given three tiny chicks by her parents and cuddles and cares for them into their chicken adulthood. Here, the story offers a twist that reveals more depth than your average chicken picture book. One night, a fox steals away into the night with one of Sonya's chickens.

The next morning the reader follows Sonya as she faces the harsher side of nature with grace and eventually, an earned wisdom. This is a sweet and inspiring tale about the circle of life.

Peggy: A Brave Chicken on a Big Adventure is a wonderful companion to Wahl's book offering lightness and fun with equally delightful illustration. *Peggy* features a more muted city palate of greys and blues to the vibrant greens and golds of Wahl's countryside home. With a playful tone Walker introduces us to Peggy the chicken who has a fine routine in her small house on a quiet street. But when a big blustery wind blows Peggy into the heart of the city she must find her way home. Peggy's observations on city life are simply adorable and her journey home is a charming one.



This pair of picture books is perfect for story time with the light of *Peggy* balancing the richness of *Sonya's Chickens*.

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