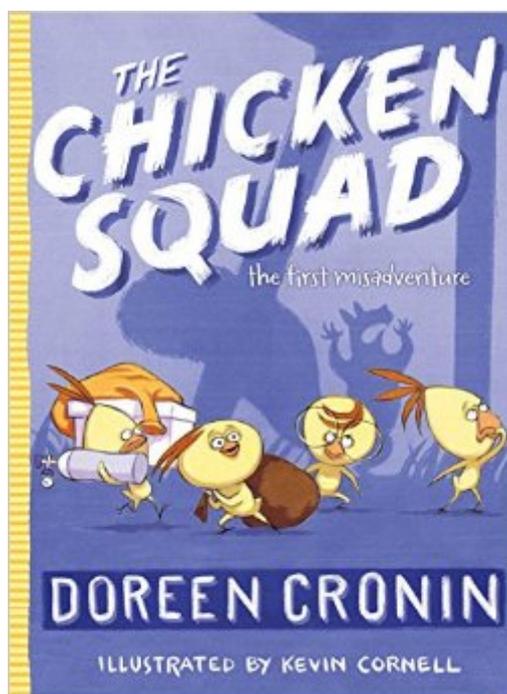


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# The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure



## Synopsis

They might be chicks, but they sure aren't chicken, and they're on a mission. And on this, their first (mis)adventure in this delightful spinoff of the J.J. Tully series (Kirkus Reviews), the Chicken Squad launches a galactic backyard expedition. Meet the Chicken Squad: Dirt, Sugar, Poppy, and Sweetie. These chicks are not your typical barnyard puffs of fluff, and they are not about to spend their days pecking chicken feed and chasing bugs. No sir, they're too busy solving mysteries and fighting crime. So when Squirrel comes barreling into the chicken coop, the chicks know they're about to get a case. But with his poor knowledge of shapes (Big is not a shape, Squirrel!) and utter fear of whatever it is that's out there, the panicky Squirrel is NO HELP. Good thing these chicks are professionals. But even professionals get worried. Especially once they see that round, shiny, green, BIG thing in the yard. What if it's a UFO full of aliens who want chickens as pets, or worse, dinner? It's up to the Chicken Squad to crack a case that just might be out of this world.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 470 (What's this?)

Series: The Chicken Squad (Book 1)

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 29, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442496770

ISBN-13: 978-1442496774

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.3 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (56 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,429 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Farm Animals #56 in Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives #153 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Activity Books

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

What a fun, creative book. This is a spin-off from Cronin's J.J. Tully Mysteries. The chickens now have their own stories, although J.J. is still an integral part - retired, and their protector. Doreen Cronin

is very well known for her silly animal stories - many of which I have in my classroom library. In *The Chicken Squad*, Cronin once again has managed to pack so much within a story. There is humor, a familiar dog, a "big and scary" mystery, very charismatic and personable chicks, and even a little geometry. This book is an excellent beginning chapter book. It is easy to follow. Readers are immediately introduced to the characters and quickly drawn into a humorous mystery. Children will be easily attracted to the ridiculous interactions and situations. The vocabulary is pretty simple, and there is enough repetition that will make it easy for a struggling reader to catch on. The pattern and structure of the text lend itself for a perfect read-aloud book. It would be a story that children would not want to put down, but continue to read or listen to. As a third grade teacher, I see this as a book I want to have in my classroom. I am always looking for good chapter books - especially ones that my lower readers will be able to pick up and read independently. This will be a book that my children will read and eagerly share with others. I see this book later becoming a children's animated cartoon. I think the writing, the characters, as well as the cute illustrations have already allowed me to create an animated cartoon in my mind.

My daughter loves to read, but finding books with themes that fit her age but with a length that goes beyond what most children her age read at is always a challenge. This book was a perfect fit. She laughed at it and loved it. She hates mysteries (too scary or too confusing--remember, she's six!), but this one with the Scaredy Squirrel was right up her alley.

It's a pretty silly little book. I bought it for my 4.5 year old grandson, and he likes it, but as I read it aloud I revise a little bit. When one of the characters appears to be "dead", I change it to "fainted", and I think the word "stupid" is in there, too, which isn't one we like to use around our grandson. Other than that, it's kind of fun.

*The Chicken Squad* is hilarious and Doreen Cronin, perhaps my favorite author for this age group, is a genius. J.J. Tully makes an appearance, but this adventure is a job for the "chicken squad". With teamwork and a minor assist from a squirrel, they manage to save the day. Expect to hear a burst of laughter every page or so. And on top of that, children will learn synonyms for big and scary AND what a rhombus looks like.

This is a wonderful chapter book, and it is a gold mine for educators. It's a humorous story that cleverly educates at the same time. You will find inside: comparing sizes, increases vocabulary,

talks about shapes, inspires the imagination, and much more...! My son laughed out loud reading this book. It is full of humor, ideas, and left my son wanting more to read. 5 stars!!!! I hope to see more books from Doreen Cronin. We can't wait to see what other misadventures The Chicken Squad can get themselves into.

This is a creative book that has helped spark an interest in reading for my 4 year old. "The Chicken Squad" is well written and humorous for its intended audience; I would say ages 5+ would understand the humor; I had to explain it to my son. It is a great first chapter book: simple mystery, short chapters, 8 characters, and you can get through it in less than a week by reading a few chapters a day. Bonus: it also teaches synonyms and more complex shapes. The illustrations give life to the characters. I would definitely recommend it for young readers and their parents!

A delightful romp, introduced by the family dog. The story takes place in a backyard and a small chicken coop, and involves infant chicken detectives who act like a cross between Chicken Little and Huey Dewey and Louie of Donald Duck fame. Early readers will be carried along by the humorous illustrations, but this would also be great for sharing out loud because there is some tongue-in-cheek humor that makes it worthwhile for grownups (or older children) too. Yes, we are laughing AT the silly chickens, a little, but we can blame the put-down humor on the dog, who, having been born a dog rather than a chicken, feels entitled to take a superior attitude. A good starting point for family discussion: Is it okay to be a little kid, and find out that you're terribly wrong? Is it okay to laugh at little kids who...?

I love the story of a retired search and rescue dog having to deal with silly chickens. The plot is good, but for the age it is intended it might be a little hard to keep track of all the characters. I always get them mixed up. And maybe that isn't the point. But still a fun read.

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