The Chicken and The Worm

by Page McBrier
Illustrated by Rick Peterson
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www.heifer.org
For the students at Dunder Gardens, who introduced me to the children and women.

—P.M.

For August and Elia, and the critters they love.

—R.F.
Weaver international
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Weaver international is no stranger to caring for the
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families in more than 64 countries move toward greater
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initial gift is multiplied as recipients agree to “pay the
gift” by giving one or more of their animals’ offspring or
the equivalent to another needy, village-owned agency to learn
more about ways their family can help end hunger and poverty.

The Children and the Worm

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For the students at Dunker Gardens,
who introduced me to the chickens and worms.
—P.M.

For August and Elia, and the critters they love.
—R.P.
I am a chicken.

I am a worm.
I am a chicken.

I am a worm.
We come in many shapes, sizes, and colors.

So do we.
We come in many shapes, sizes, and colors.

So do we.
I happen to be a Rhode Island Red.

And I am a red wiggler.
I happen to be a Rhode Island Red.

And I am a red wiggler.
I live in a coop.

My home is a wooden bin.
I live in a coop.

My home is a wooden bin.
My nest is made of cozy straw.

I cuddle into strips of moist newspaper.
My nest is made of cozy straw.

I cuddle into strips of moist newspaper.
My eggs are a beautiful brown.

My cocoons look like tiny lemon drops.
My eggs are a beautiful brown.

My cocoons look like tiny lemon drops.
I lay an egg almost every day.

hello Tuesday!

I create two or three cocoons a week. Each cocoon holds three to four babies.
I lay an egg almost every day.

hello Tuesday!

mama!

I create two or three cocoons a week. Each cocoon holds three to four babies.
Chickens have no teeth. Our food is stored in our crops and chopped up in our gizzards.

Worms have crops and gizzards, too.
Chickens have no teeth. Our food is stored in our crops and chopped up in our gizzards.

Worms have crops and gizzards, too.
We eat
beans, watermelon,
grapes, corn,
pizza crusts,
pecans...

... yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes,...
AND tea bags and coffee grounds.
We eat
beans, watermelon,
grapes, corn,
pizza crusts,
pecans...

...yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, ...
AND tea bags and coffee grounds.
DO NOT feed a chicken honey buns!

DO NOT feed a worm hamburgers!
DO NOT
feed a chicken honey buns!

DO NOT
feed a worm hamburgers!
Did you know that my manure helps plants and vegetables grow?

Mine too. **Worm** manure is called castings. Red wigglers make the world’s best **worm** castings.
Did you know that my manure helps plants and vegetables grow?

Mine too. *Worm* manure is called castings. Red wigglers make the world’s best *worm* castings.
Sometimes I get put into the **chicken** tiller to search for bugs. My sharp beak and claws help loosen the soil so plants can grow.

My cousin, the **earthworm**, does the same thing as it tunnels deep underground.
Sometimes I get put into the chicken tiller to search for bugs. My sharp beak and claws help loosen the soil so plants can grow.

My cousin, the earthworm, does the same thing as it tunnels deep underground.
A *worm* with a beak and claws?! Yikes.

No, silly. I was trying to say that both *chickens* and *worms* help care for the Earth.
A worm with a beak and claws?! Yikes.

No, silly. I was trying to say that both chickens and worms help care for the Earth.
You’ve got that right!
You’ve got that right!
Who knew worms could be so special?

Who knew chickens could be so important?
Who knew worms could be so special?

Who knew chickens could be so important?
The End.
“Who knew worms could be so special? Who knew chickens could be so important? In this delightful seesaw story, the chicken and worm learn about each other and learn to respect one another. It's a great lesson for chickens, worms, and human children, too! This book is perfect for inquisitive children and their grown-ups.” —Caroline Lim Starbird, Director of International Studies, Schools Association.