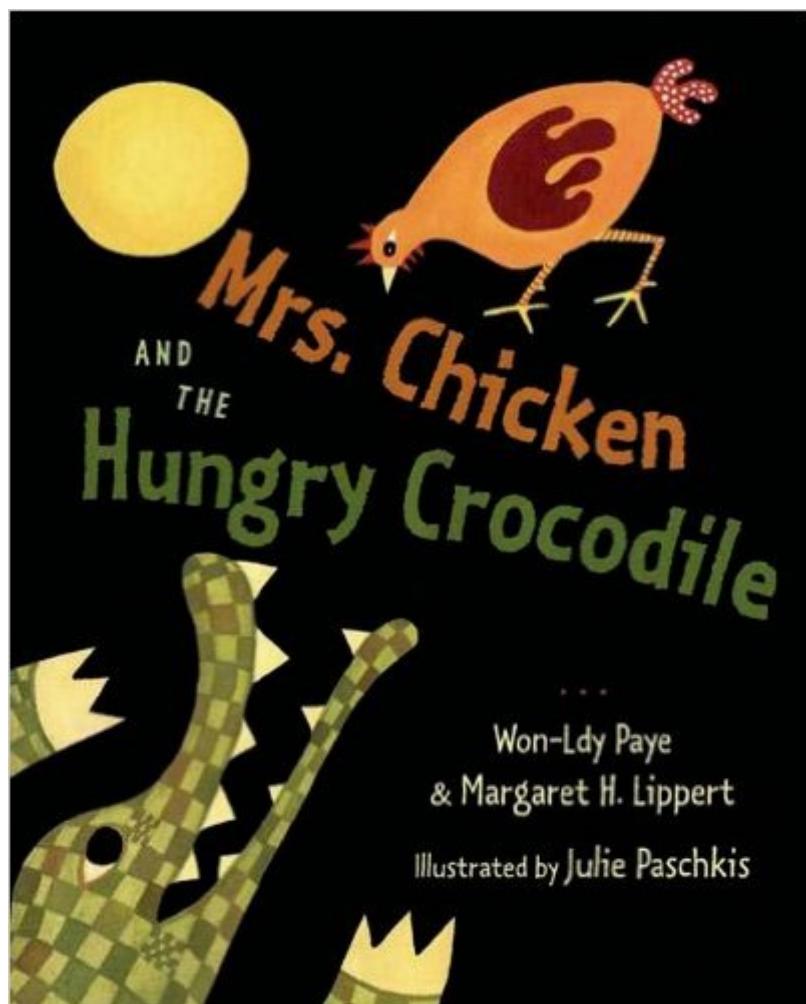


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# Mrs. Chicken And The Hungry Crocodile



## **Synopsis**

Mrs. Chicken has to think fast to outwit hungry Crocodile, who wants to eat her for dinner. One morning Mrs. Chicken took her bath in a puddle. "Cluck, cluck," she said proudly. "What a pretty chicken I am!" Mrs. Chicken can't see her wings in the puddle, so she walks down to the river where she can admire all of herself. She doesn't know that Crocodile is there, waiting for dinner—and a tasty chicken would do nicely! To save herself, Mrs. Chicken tells Crocodile that they are sisters. But how can a speckled chicken and a green-skinned crocodile be related? Mrs. Chicken had better prove that they are, and fast, because Crocodile is getting hungrier . . . The authors and illustrator of Head, Body, Legs join together to create another lively retelling of a popular African folktale. Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile is a 2004 Bank Street Best Children's Book of the Year.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (April 29, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250046734

ISBN-13: 978-1250046734

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #589,766 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #143 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Alligators & Crocodiles #247 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #607 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

I have known and admired one of the authors, storyteller and writer Meg Lippert, for many years. So I was delighted to learn of her several collaborations with Liberian storyteller Won-Ldy Paye and illustrator Julie Paschkis. This Liberian folktale tells how a chicken mistakes the shape of a crocodile submerged in the water for her own reflection; when she gets closer to investigate, the crocodile grabs her and takes her to the crocodile's house to eat her. But the chicken reverses the deception with a trick of her own - and has the last laugh. This story is a perfect choice for a picture book. The

double-trickster tale could feel cold and unsatisfying in the wrong hands. But the bold, cheery and dramatic illustrations do a skillful job of lifting the mood while conveying the sense of an African esthetic. *Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile* is a tale with a non-European flavor. As such, it can take some (probably small) adjustment of expectations for a mainstream North American or European audience. But that is also part of its value. This book gives us in the dominant society a small glimpse into a culture different from our own. It does so with wit and artistry. And the under-hen wins!

"*Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile*" combines a text by Won-Ldy Paye and Margaret H. Lippert with illustrations by Julie Paschkis. The book jacket notes that this is a retelling of a Liberian story, and that coauthor Paye is from Liberia and was trained as a storyteller by his grandmother. The story tells how Mrs. Chicken, while trying to see her reflection in the river, encounters the toothy croc of the title. Mrs. C tries to outwit the croc in order to avoid becoming a chicken dinner. This is a great story: it's funny, features a high stakes conflict between two strong female characters, and has suspenseful plot twists. There is a delicious irony throughout. Paschkis' colorful drawings perfectly complement the story. The artwork has a whimsical quality and clever visual touches; the main characters are particularly well realized.

We just got this book last week. When my kids take turns choosing books to read, this one comes first, regardless of whose turn it is. On the first reading my easily scared 4-year-old sank deeper and deeper into the couch as Mrs. Chicken got closer and closer to being eaten by Crocodile. When she actually SNAPPED on her leg, he couldn't watch. But as Mrs. Chicken's clever plan unfolded he started smiling and by the end he was laughing at what he called the coolest trick ever. He loves it.

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