



**HANDS ON!**

**Fry an Egg in a Basket**

What will Chicken Man and his friends do with all those eggs the chickens are laying? They'll sell a lot of them, but they'll eat a lot of them, too! Here's a favorite, kid-friendly recipe for eating eggs that's fun to make and to eat: Egg in a Basket!

Note: Cooking at the stove always requires adult supervision!

**Supplies:**

Slice of your favorite bread

Butter

Egg

A round cookie cutter or a clean drinking glass

Butter both sides of the slice of bread.

Use the cookie cutter or drinking glass to cut a hole out of the middle of the slice. (You can fry this up or just eat it as is.)

Preheat a frying pan over medium-high heat. Melt a tablespoon of butter in the pan, then place the slice of bread in the pan. (If you want to fry the circle you cut out, add that to the pan, too.)

Now add the egg. You can crack it right over the hole, or crack it into a small bowl and then pour it in.

Let the bread and egg fry for a minute or two, until the bottom of the egg looks firm. Use a spatula to carefully flip it over. Fry for a couple more minutes. Season with salt and pepper, and enjoy!

**Chicken Man**

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{ What work makes you feel at home? }

**Not Your Average Town**

Notice anything interesting about the community Chicken Man lives in? People swapping jobs, a work committee, children living in separate houses from their parents ... where are we? On a kibbutz! Kibbutzim (plural of kibbutz) are unique to Israel. The word kibbutz comes from the Hebrew word kevutza, meaning "group." On a kibbutz – a sort of social experiment begun in 1909 – everything is communal. No one owns their own property, and everyone receives food, housing, and health care. In exchange, everyone works for the community. Although many kibbutzim in Israel are structured differently today, the idea is still going strong, with more than 270 kibbutzim still in operation in the country. To learn more, visit [pjlibrary.org/chickenman](http://pjlibrary.org/chickenman).

**Meet the Kibbutzniks**

Members of a kibbutz – "kibbutzniks" – know each other well and count on each other to do their part, just as Chicken Man and his friends do. Some kibbutzim use a work rotation, like Kibbutz Hanan does in this story. That way, no one gets stuck with an undesirable task forever. But as Chicken Man shows us, perspective can be everything. As it says in Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Ancestors, an ancient collection of rabbinic sayings), "Who is happy? Those who are happy with what they have." That extends to being happy with what you do! Chicken Man finds joy in doing the laundry . . . and gardening . . . and looking after wild children. But everyone is happy when Chicken Man lands back in the chicken coop – especially the chickens! Eggs anyone?

**Making the Best of It**

Have you ever met someone like Chicken Man – someone who could make the best of any situation? When you do the task in front of you with love, joy, and your best effort (and singing, if you're Chicken Man!), people notice. Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, an 18th-century Hasidic sage, said, "It's a mitzvah ["commandment" or good deed] to be happy always." That's because joy can be contagious, as we see in this story. Having a positive attitude can also help you move up in the world – or back to the chicken coop, if that's where you want to be! Happiness doesn't always live in the situations you're handed in life – it can live in you, and you can carry it around wherever you go. Surely Clara would give a cluck of approval to that.

**TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS**

**LOOK** closely at the illustrations. How can you tell that Chicken Man enjoys spending time with the chickens? How can you tell the chickens love him?

**THIS** book is set in Israel, where most people speak Hebrew. Can you find any Hebrew words in the illustrations? Can you find any in the text?

**HOW** does Chicken Man show that he's happy? How do you let others know when you feel happy?