

The  
Chicken  
and The  
Worm

by  
Page McBrier

Illustrated by  
Rick Peterson







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### Heifer International

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### The Chicken and The Worm

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Description of the work: *The Chicken and The Worm* is a children's book for Pre-K ages 4-6 years old. It is a tale of warmth, friendship, innovation and humor. Page McBrier, award-winning author of *Beatrice's Goat*, and illustrator Rick Peterson have created a story that could change the world...or certainly your garden. Warm, colorful illustrations and straight-forward, often humorous dialog introduce young readers to the idea that even the smallest creatures can work together to care for the Earth.

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For the students at Dunbar Gardens,  
who introduced me to the chickens and worms.

~P.M.

For August and Elsa, and the critters they love.

~R.P.



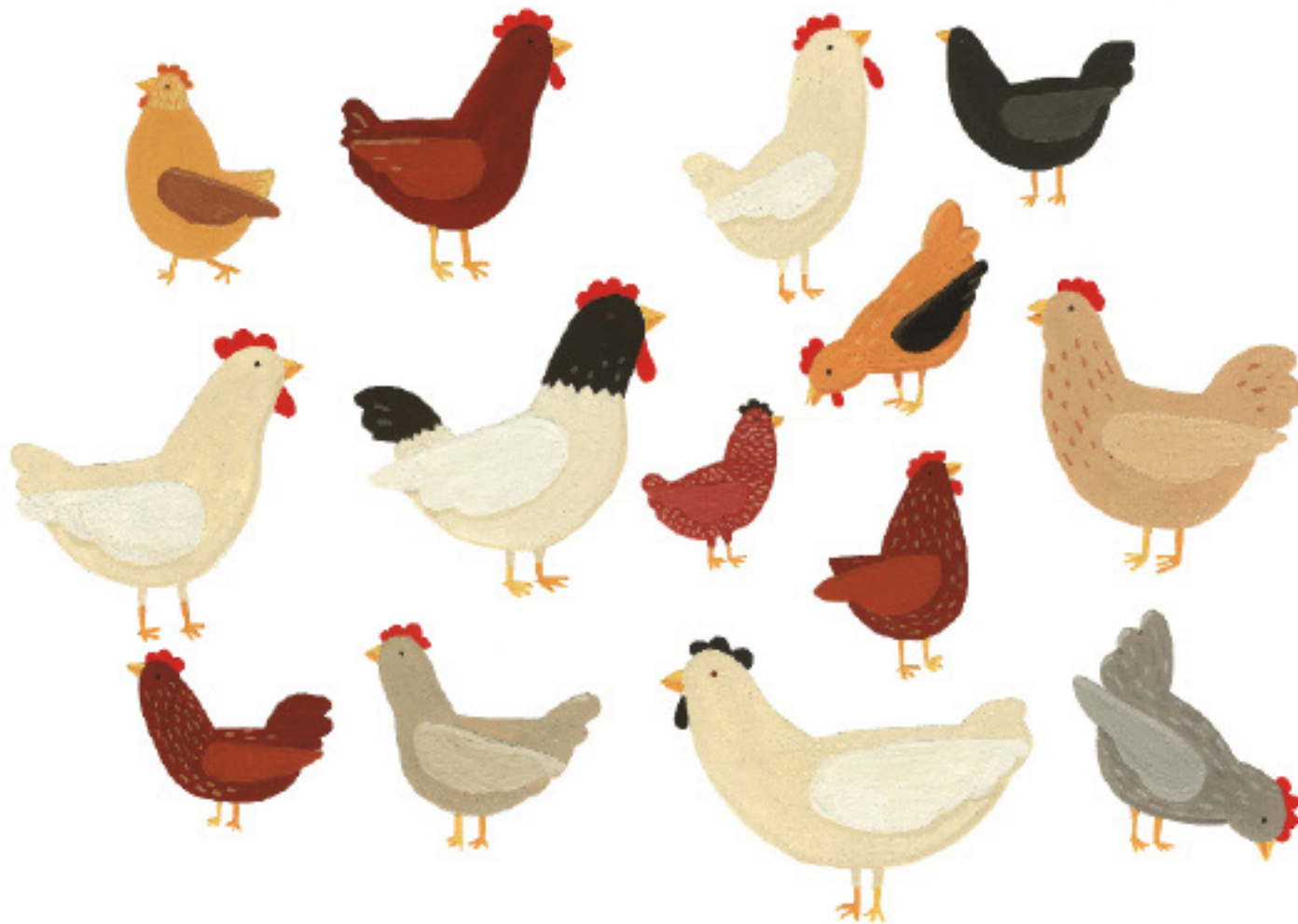


I am a **chicken**.





I am a **worm**.



**We come in many shapes, sizes, and colors.**



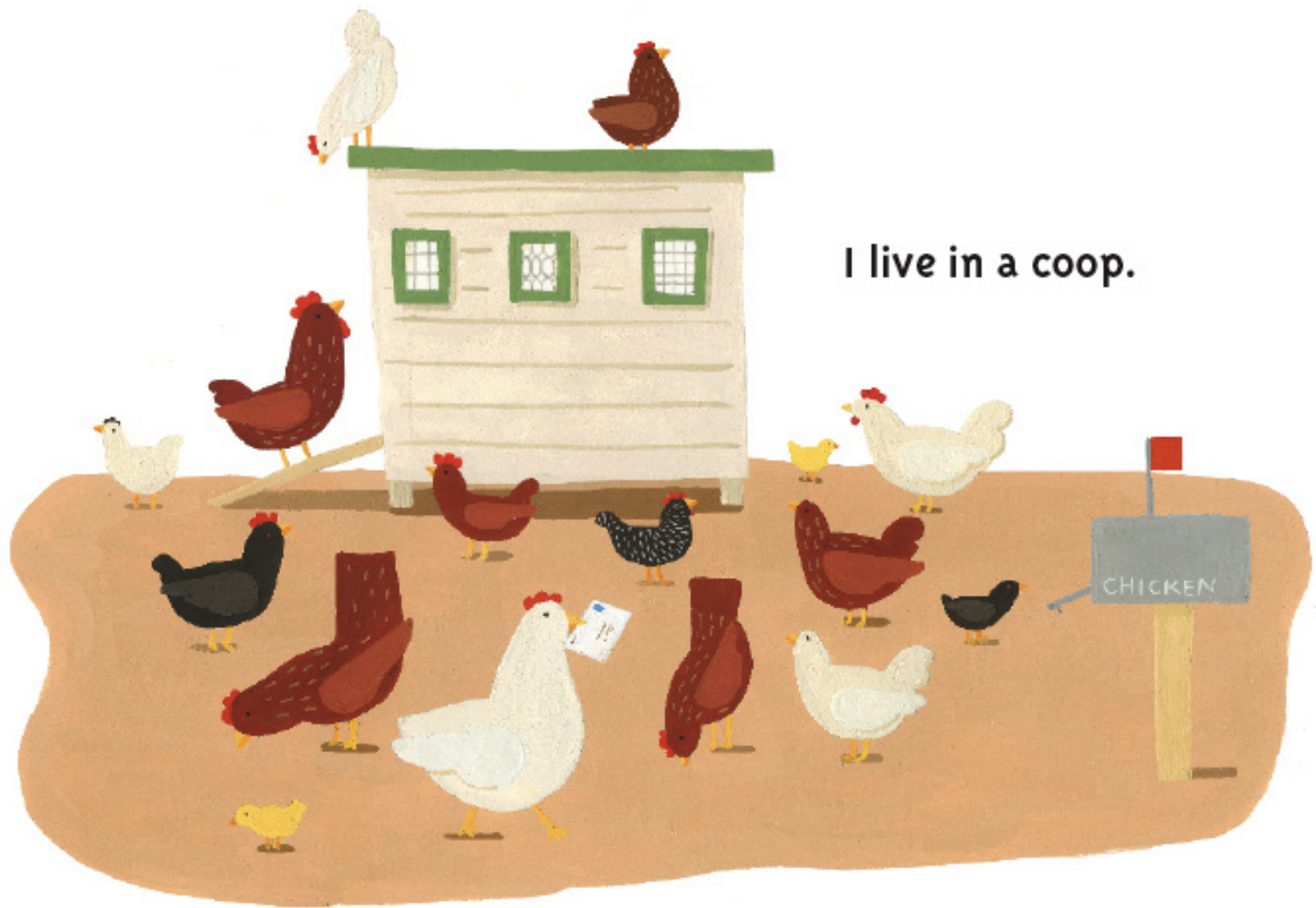
So do we.

I happen to be  
a Rhode Island Red.



And / am  
a red wiggler.





I live in a coop.



**My home is a wooden bin.**

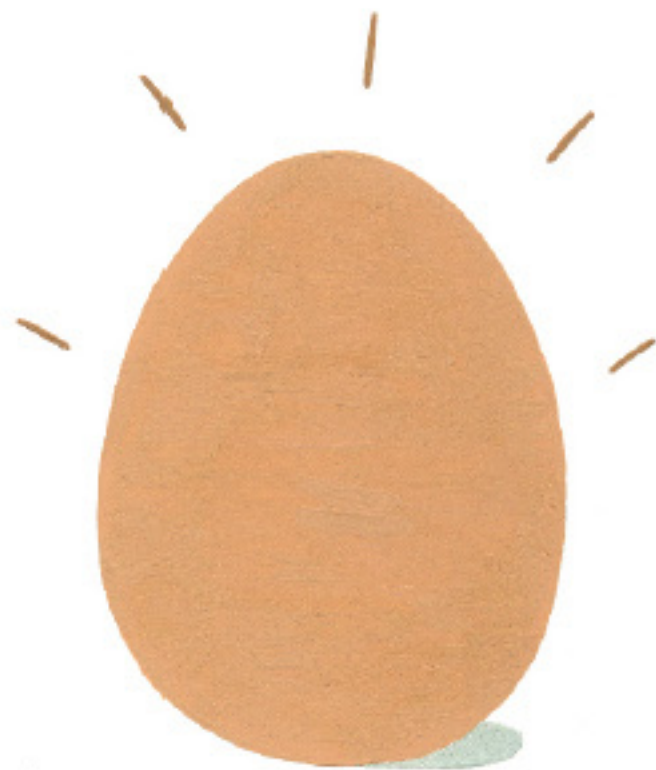


**My nest is made of cozy straw.**



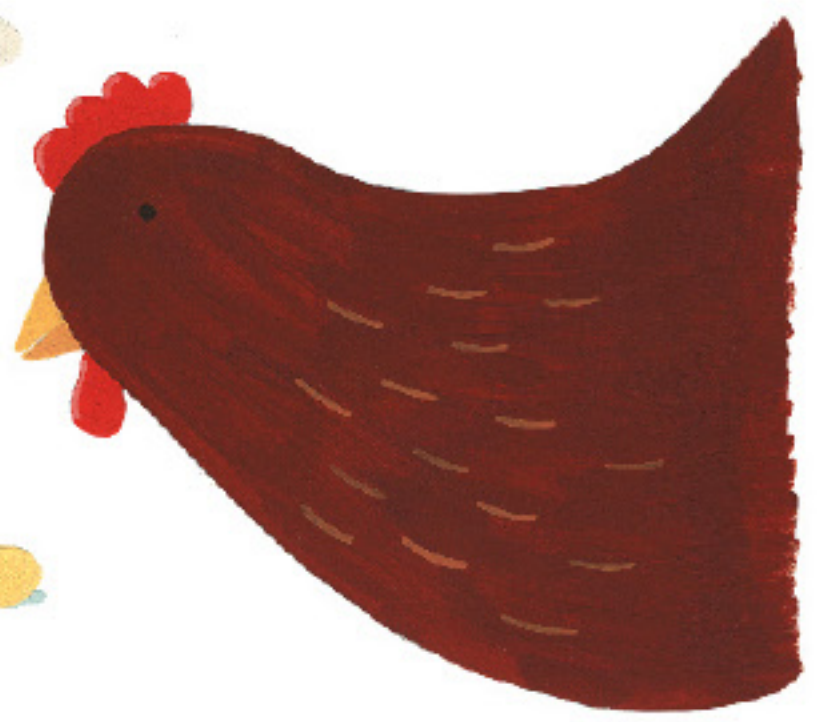


**I cuddle into strips of moist newspaper.**



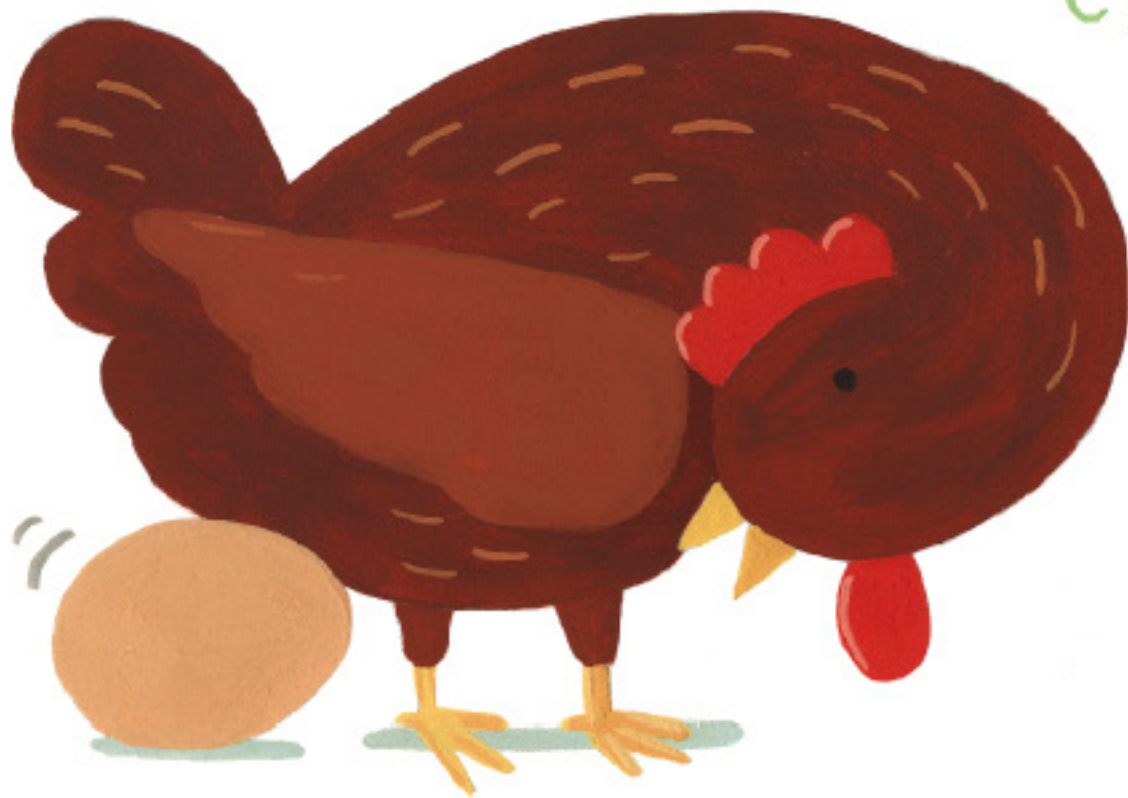
*My eggs are a beautiful brown.*

**My cocoons look like  
tiny lemon drops.**



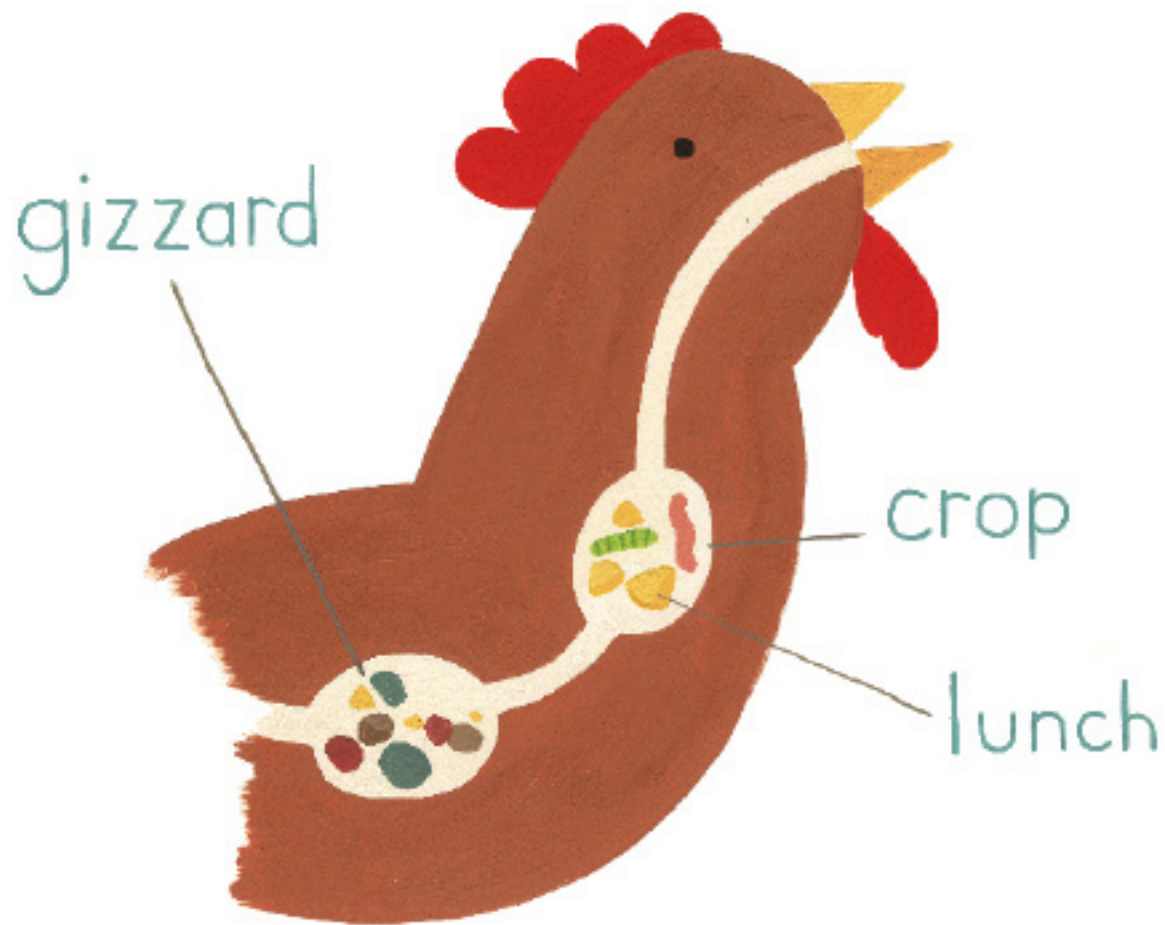
I lay an egg  
almost every day.

hello Tuesday!

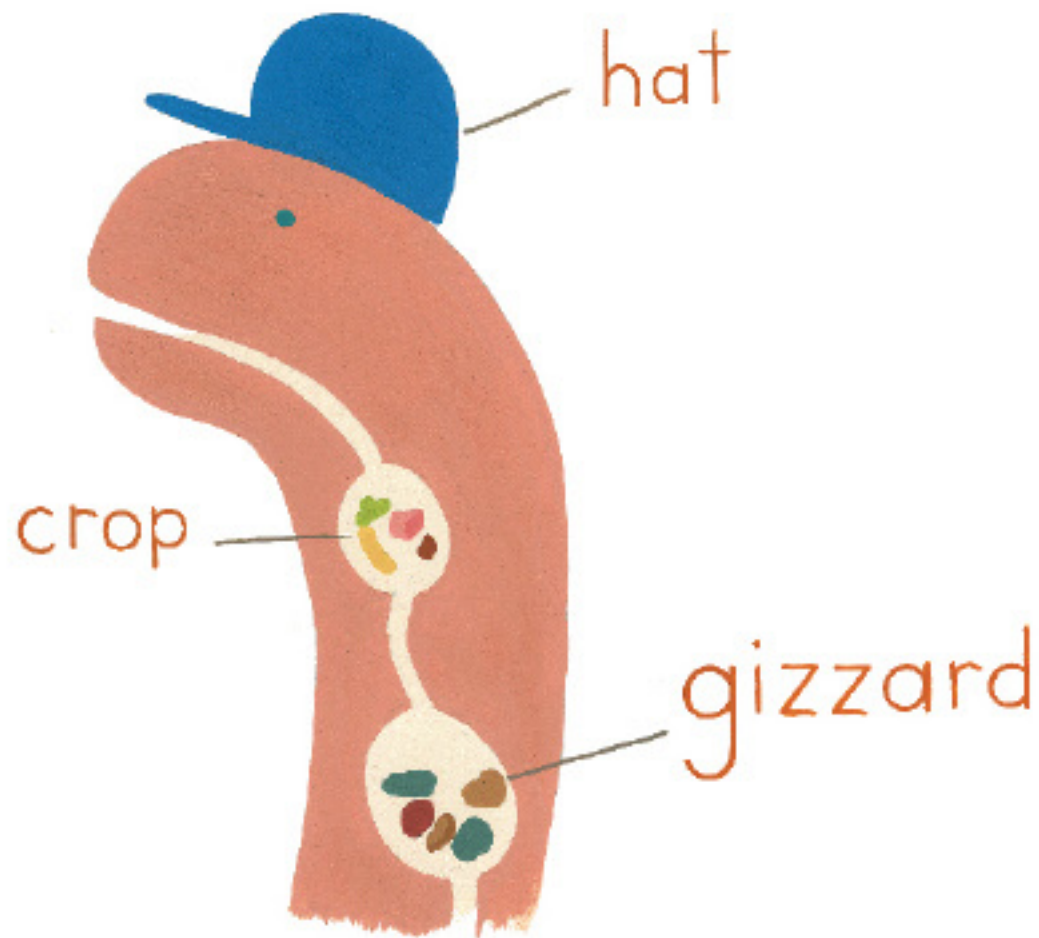


**I create  
two or three  
cocoon a week.  
Each cocoon holds  
three to four babies.**





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



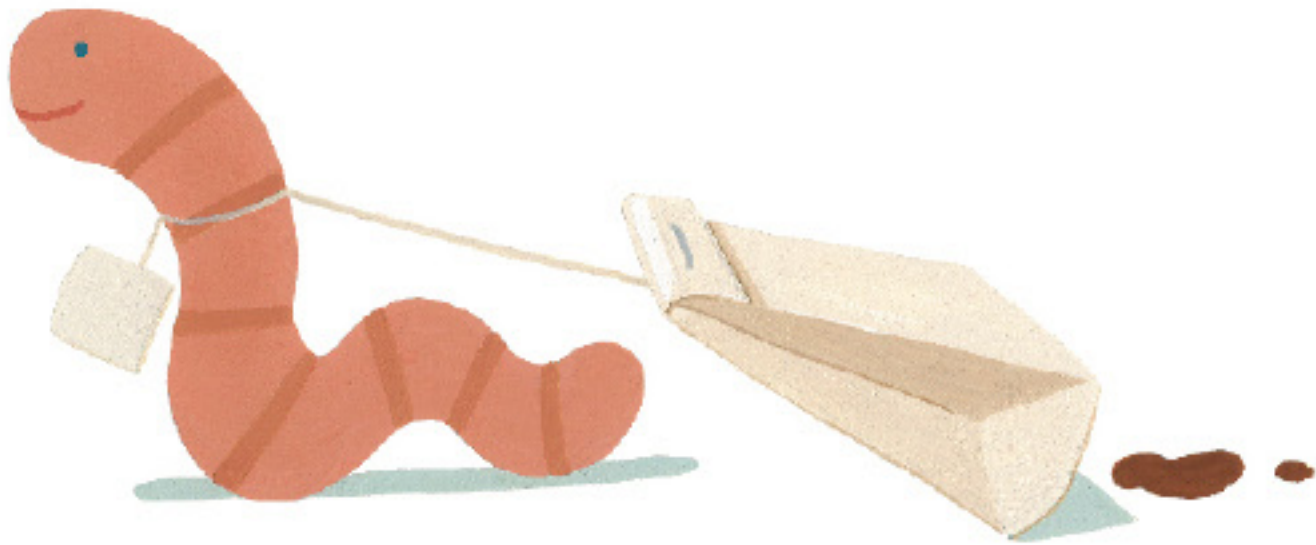
**Worms** have crops and gizzards, too.

# 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!



**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.



A **worm** with a beak and claws?! Yikes.





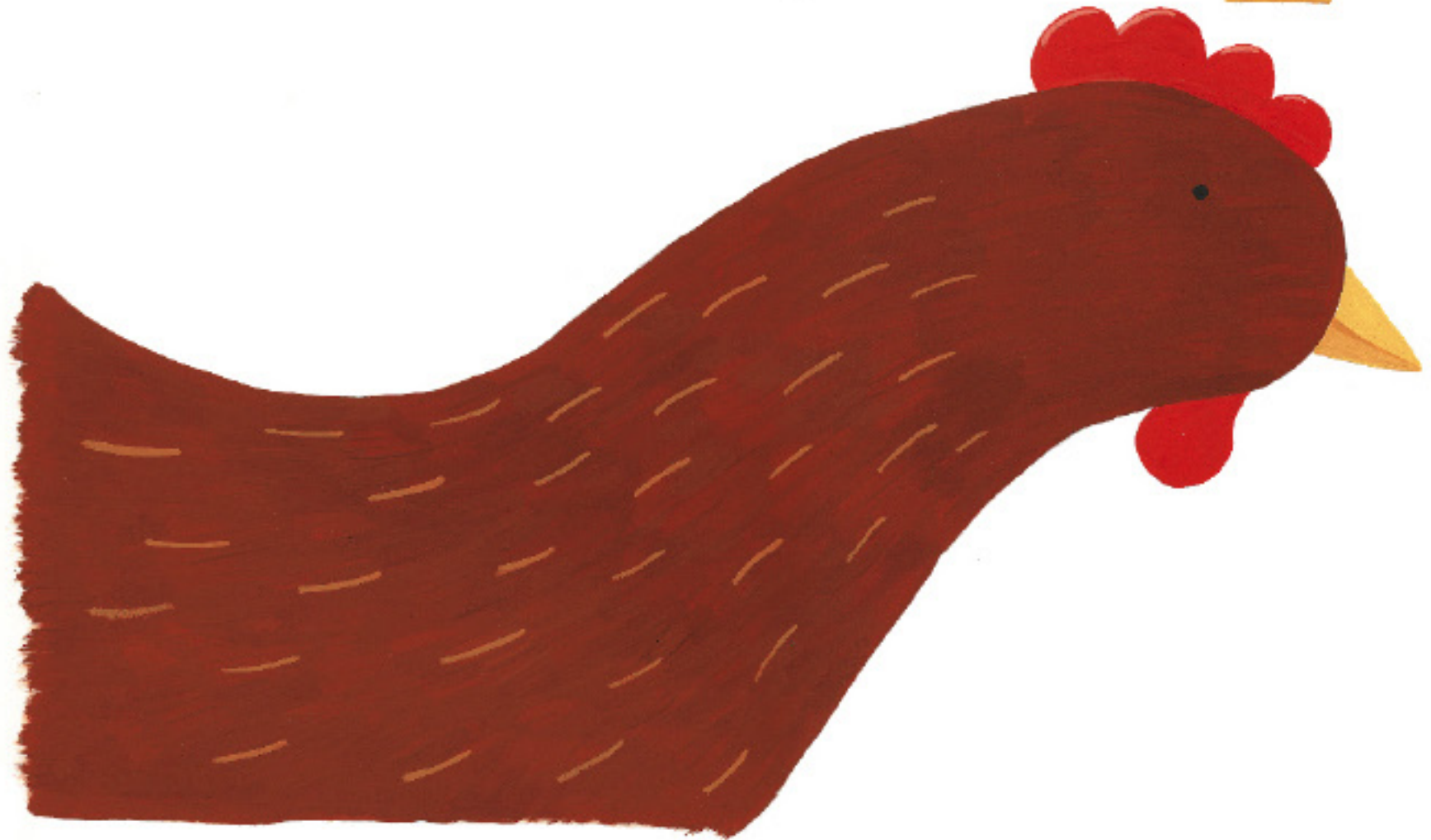
No, silly. I was trying to say that both **chickens** and **worms** help care for the Earth.



**You've got that right!**



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.

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