



**Resource Guide for
Chicken Bristle Road
by
Schyrlet Cameron
&
Kathy Brown**

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Synopsis

Chicken Bristle Road follows sisters Mazee Mae and Kora Jo as they visit their grandparents' farm at the end of Chicken Bristle Road in Miller, Missouri. During their visit, they help with chores like milking the cow, gathering eggs, working in the garden, and pumping water from the well. At night, they listen to Grandma's stories and fall asleep in a feather bed, knowing that the memories they make on the farm will last a lifetime.

Key Themes

- Family and intergenerational relationships
- Farm life and rural living
- Responsibility and helping with chores
- Making memories and gratitude



Learning Objectives

After reading and using this guide, students will be able to:

Literacy

1. Retell the story using the beginning, middle, and end.
2. Identify the setting (farm on Chicken Bristle Road) and main characters (Maizee Mae, Kora Jo, Grandma, Grandpa).
3. Describe key events using details from the text and illustrations.
4. Ask and answer questions about the text (who, what, where, when, why, how).

Social-Emotional Learning

1. Recognize how family time and traditions create special memories.
2. Identify ways children can help at home or in their community.

Content Connections

1. Understand basic aspects of farm life (cows, chickens, gardens, wells).
2. Learn factual information about chickens using the “10 Fun Chicken Facts” page.



Lesson Plan Ideas



1. Pre-Reading Activities

A. Activate Background Knowledge

Show the cover and read the title.

Ask:

- What do you notice about the truck and the road?
- Have you ever been to a farm or the countryside?
- What kinds of things do you think people do on a farm?

If possible, show a photo of a dirt road or a farm to build context.

B. Predicting

- Where do you think the old red truck is going?
- Who might live at the end of Chicken Bristle Road?
- What do you think the girls will do when they visit their grandparents?"

C. Vocabulary Preview

Pre-teach a few words:

- Dirt road – a road made of dirt and gravel, not pavement.
- Chores – jobs you do to help at home or on a farm.
- Pasture – a field where animals like cows eat grass.
- Kindling – small sticks used to start a fire.
- Kerosene lantern – a light that uses fuel instead of electricity.
- Feather bed – a soft bed filled with feathers.

First Read: Enjoy the Story

Read aloud with expression, showing illustrations.

Let students react naturally (laugh, “wow,” “eww” at the tomato scene, etc.).

Second Read: Stop-and-Think Questions

1. Arrival at the farm

- How do we know the farm is at the end of Chicken Bristle Road?
- Who is waiting at the gate? How do you think Old Tom feels?”

2. Helping with chores

- What jobs do Maizee Mae and Kora Jo do to help Grandma and Grandpa?
- How does Grandpa feel while he’s milking Betsy? What tells you that? (whistling a merry tune)

3. In the chicken house

- Why does Maizee Mae say not to bother the hens sitting on their nests?
- What might happen if you scared a hen off her eggs?

4. In the kitchen and garden

- What are they cooking for breakfast?
- Why is it important to take care of the garden?
- What is canning for winter? (offer clues as needed)

5. Tomato treat and well water

- Why do the girls eat the tomatoes right in the garden?
- How is getting water from the pump different from turning on a faucet at home?

6. Evening and bedtime

- What special routine do Grandma and Grandpa have at night?
- What do you think ‘memories that last a lifetime’ means?

Other Ideas

Make a chart that says beginning, middle and end Invite children to help you fill in what happens in each part of the story.

Character Study: Maizee Mae & Kora Jo

Ask:

What kind of kids are Maizee Mae and Kora Jo? Are they helpful? Curious? Hardworking?

How do you know? What do they do that shows this?

Activity:

Students draw one sister and write 3 describing words around the picture.

Example word bank: helpful, kind, curious, brave, hardworking, loving

Setting: Life on Chicken Bristle Road

Make a T-chart: “Farm Life” vs. “My Life.”

Under “Farm Life,” list:

- Old red truck on a dirt road
- Cows in a pasture
- Chickens and a chicken house
- Garden with tomatoes
- Pumping water from a well
- Kerosene lantern and feather bed

Under “My Life,” ask students:

- How do you get water?
- Where does your food come from?
- How do you get to your grandparents’ house?