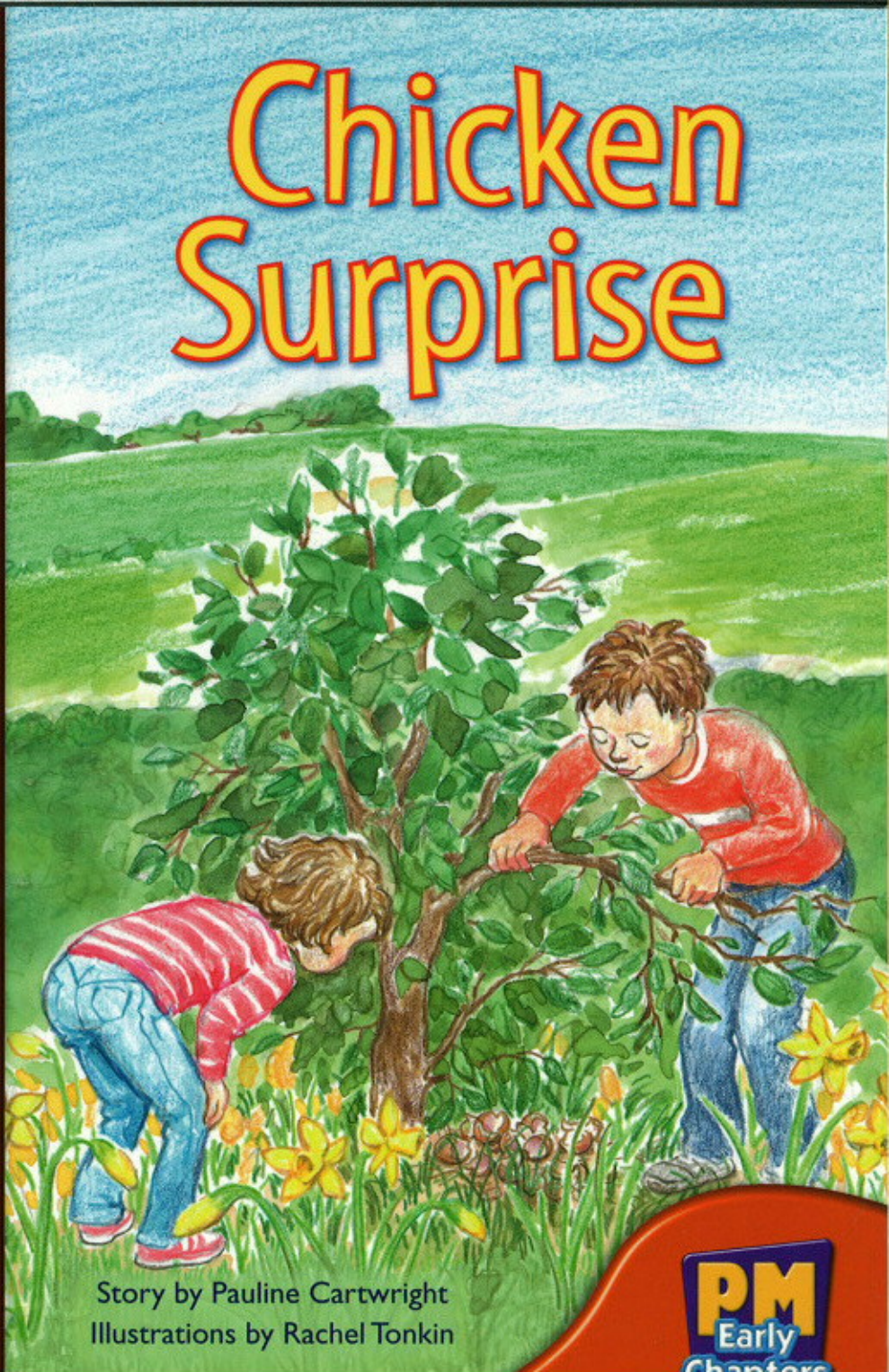
Chicken Surprise



Story by Pauline Cartwright
Illustrations by Rachel Tonkin

PM Early Chapters

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Chicken Surprise

Level 16

Running Words	Complete text	348
Reading Record	Pages 6–13	165

Key Teaching Points

- Discuss the title. Predict the storyline.
- Introduce the main character, Gus, his family and his friend, Adam.
- Talk about the farm environment.

Key Questions

- Why did Gus walk carefully after the hen and her chickens? *(Literal)*
- When did Gus find the nest? *(Literal)*
- Why do you think Adam decided to help Gus find the nest? *(Inferential)*
- Where would you have looked for the nest? Why? *(Inferential)*
- Why do you think the hen made her nest in a secret place? *(Inferential)*

Vocabulary Enrichment

- List, then expand the compound words in this story.
- Revise the ending *-er*: *over, under.*
- Discuss the prefix *be-*: *because, began.*

Links with other PM Books

PM Plus	Level 8	The Little White Hen
PM Plus	Level 15	Chooky

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Chicken Surprise

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Chapter 1

Missing



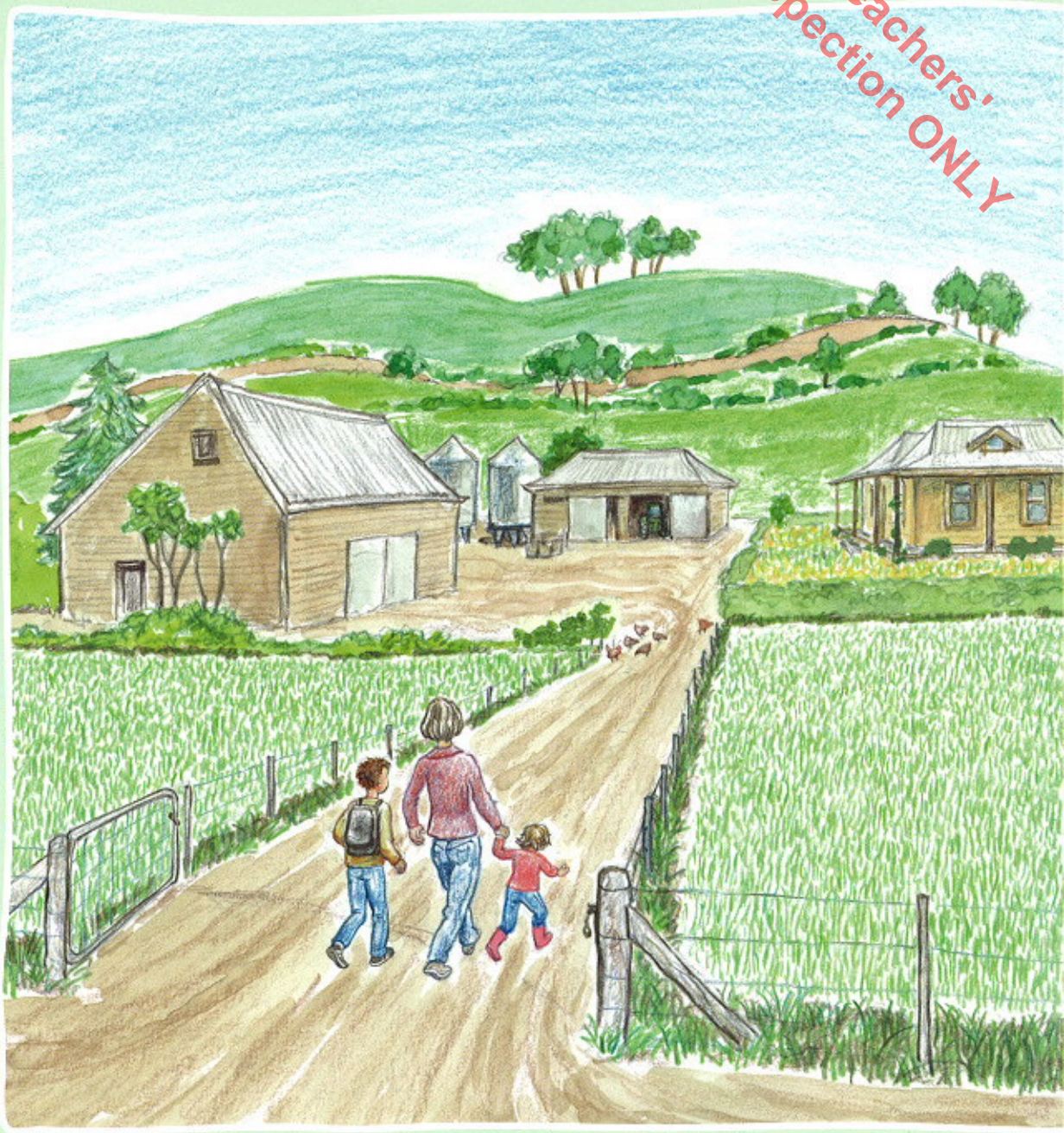
The school bus stopped at the farm gate.
Gus waved as he got out
and ran over to meet Mum
and his little sister, Ruby.

"Gus! Gus!" cried Ruby.
"One of Mum's hens is missing!
We have looked everywhere for it!"

"It must be laying eggs in a secret nest,"
said Mum, as they walked back to the house.

"I'll help you find it," said Gus.

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Gus's best friend, Adam, came over from the farm next door to play football.

"First, I have to look for a missing hen," said Gus.

"I'll help you," said Adam.



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"So will I," Ruby said quickly,
as she followed the boys outside.
She didn't want to be left behind.

"Just look in the farmyard
and the fields near the house," Mum called.



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Chapter 2

Where Is the Nest?



Gus, Ruby and Adam began looking
for the missing hen.
Gus looked behind the farm sheds,
Adam looked under some old sacks,
and Ruby looked in some boxes.

There was no sign of the missing hen.