

**Book information:** *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry*

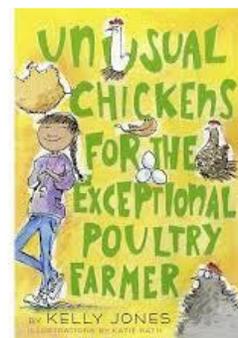
*Farmer* by Kelly Jones, Illustrated by Katie Kath

Available on Bookshare:

<https://www.bookshare.org/browse/book/2745784?>

**Summary:** Sophie and her family move from Los Angeles to a farm they inherited from a great-uncle. In a story told through personal letters, Sophie chronicles her experiences dealing with a cranky, unusual chicken.

**Key vocabulary:** budget, approximate, pounds, cups



**Context for learning:** After providing information about various types of chickens’ nutritional needs, page 70 shows a worksheet that Sophie uses to calculate how long a 50-pound bag of feed will last for her flock and how long a 4-gallon waterer will last for her flock. The problems include fractions ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ), decimals (.25), units of measure (pounds, cups), and multiplication and division with rates (pounds per chicken, pounds per day). Although the worksheet is in a “fill in the blank” format, it could be used to set up a more open problem. For example, teachers could provide a farm supply catalog or links to a farm supply website, and present a more open-ended *Caring for Chickens* task such as:

*Sophie has asked for your help in making a plan to raise chickens. Help her decide what type and how many chickens to raise, select the feed, and feeding and watering equipment appropriate for that type and number of chickens, and then plan and calculate:*

- 1. How much money will Sophie need to purchase food each month?*
- 2. How often will Sophie need to fill the chicken’s feeder?*
- 3. How often will Sophie need to fill the chicken’s waterer?*
- 4. Knowing what you know about chickens and the time you would need to care for them, decide if the plans are reasonable.*

Math Concepts	Practices Addressed
Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers, fractions, and decimals.	MP 2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
Reason about and solve equations with fractions and decimals (including rates).	MP 3: Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
	MP 4: Model with mathematics.

**Opportunities to teach braille:**

- Symbols of comparison (greater than, less than, equal)
- Charts
- Number sentences with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division

**Follow-up activities:**

1. Calculate costs of raising a pet.
2. Write a letter to a teacher or family member explaining the costs and recommended budget for a pet or classroom animal and provide a recommendation as to whether this would be a good decision and why.
3. Calculate area and perimeter of pens.
4. Compare prices using symbols of comparison. Write the associated number sentence.
5. Visit a farm or zoo. Interview a farm worker or zookeeper about raising animals.