



Duck, Apple, Egg

By Glenda Millard and Martina Heiduczek

Summary

*Duck on the green,
sun in the sky,
egg in the nest,
apple on the tree,
and me.*

From multi-award-winning author Glenda Millard comes a delightfully simple story about the joys of playing in a garden.

Beautifully illustrated by Martina Heiduczek, this poetic book will be treasured by families everywhere.

Key Learning Outcomes

Foundation: ACELT1578, ACELT1579, ACELT1580, ACELA1786

Year 1: ACELT1586, ACELT1832, ACELA1821

Year 2: ACELT1592, ACELT1833, ACELA1469

Key Concepts

Poetry, Prepositions, Visual Literacy, Imagination, Nature

Recommended Ages: 0+

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CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Before reading *Duck, Apple, Egg*, use the cover and title to make predictions about the text.

- Look carefully at the positioning of the text and illustrations at the start and finish of the book.
- Why is the child on the cover positioned in the top-right-hand corner?
- After reading, discuss how this reflects the structure of the story.

After reading the second verse (which finishes on double-page-spread 4, which shows the child embracing the duck) of *Duck, Apple, Egg*, make predictions about how the objects may switch places with one another.

- Where might the duck, the apple and the egg end up?
- It may be helpful to write/print the key words (duck, apple, egg, sun, sky, tree, nest, green, me) on individual cards so that students can mix and match to find different combinations.

Use the following words as sight words: duck, apple, egg, sun, sky, tree, nest, green, me.

Compare the written text without the illustrations (see below) with the book in its entirety to explore the importance of illustrations to texts.

- How do the illustrations add meaning?
- Try reading the book with the text covered up so only the illustrations can be seen. Can the story still be understood, or do the illustrations tell another story?

Text:

Duck on the green,
sun in the sky,
egg in the nest,
apple on the tree,
and me.

Duck in the sky,
sun in the nest,
egg on the tree,
apple on the green,
and me.

Duck in the nest,
sun on the tree,
egg on the green,
apple in the sky,
and me.

Duck on the tree,
sun on the green,
egg in the sky,
apple in the nest,
and me.

Me on the green
under the sun
beneath the sky
beside the tree
with the duck
on her egg
in the nest.

Apple in a pie.
Pie in me.

Retell the story of *Duck, Apple, Egg* in a mode of your choice.

- Ideas include a dramatisation, voice recording using an app such as *Explain Everything*, or a written response.
- Alternatively, re-write this story from the duck's point of view.

Discuss what is happening in the wordless double-page spread.

- Write a verse, in the same style as the rest of the book, that would suit this page.

Use *Duck, Apple, Egg* to introduce prepositions, such as: on, in, beside, beneath, under and with.

- What role do prepositions have?

Identify the key colours used in *Duck, Apple, Egg*.

- What ideas are associated with these colours? For example, green means nature.
- How do the colours help to tell the story?

Discuss the relationship that the child has with the duck.

- How do they feel about each other?
- How do we know this?
 - If appropriate, discuss the visual elements such as colour, framing and positioning that the illustrator uses to convey the relationship.

Choose other objects in the illustrations of *Duck, Apple, Egg* to create your own verses in a style like Glenda Millard's.

- Alternatively, ask the children to select their own words from their environment, or some other distinctive location.
- Encourage them to use a range of prepositions in their writing.
- For some students, having their items, locations and prepositions on cards that they can rearrange may help them to compose their verse.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Glenda Millard is a writer of great talent, who has the ability to write across all genres and age groups – from picture books to junior fiction to YA novels. Her first novel about the Silk family, *The Naming of Tishkin Silk*, was published in 2003 by ABC Books. It was shortlisted in the CBC Book of the Year Awards and for the NSW Premier's Literary Awards. She has also had numerous picture books and children's novels published, including, most recently, *Duck, Apple, Egg*.

Martina Heiduczek grew up in a small village on the Baltic Sea in Germany. Here you could find her mostly galloping through the forests with flying piggy tails on her Shetland pony, drawing or reading. These days she is an illustrator and graphic designer and lives in Australia. Martina's illustrations are a mixture of digital and traditional media. With a passion for colour and textures she works with layers of scanned materials, coloured pencils, watercolour and gouache. Her works are inspired by nature, people, places, and the emotionally moving and silly things she sees out there ... magic is everywhere!