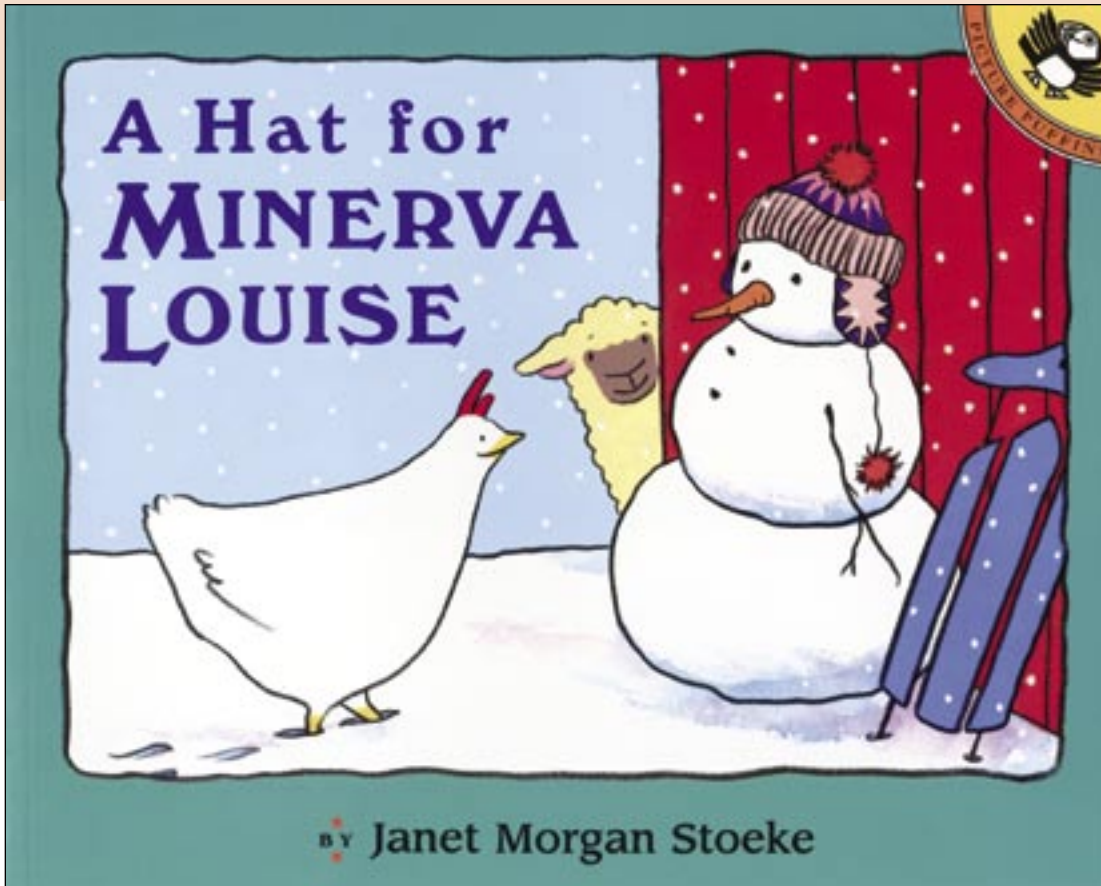


A Hat for Minerva Louise

By Janet Morgan Stoeke

A hen named Minerva Louise goes in search of the perfect hat for a snowy winter day.



First Reading

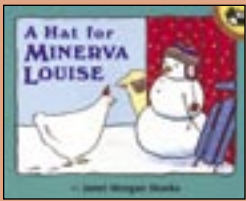
Before you read this story, **set the stage** with an introduction to it. Here are some ideas or you could make up your own.

“Look at the cover of the book. Who might be the Minerva Louise in the title? The snowman? The hen? The sheep?

Minerva Louise is rather a long name. Is it longer or shorter than your name?

By looking at the cover, can you tell if it's a warm or cold day?

Look at the back of the book. Now who do you think Minerva Louise might be? What do you think she is up to? Shall we read the book and find out?”



Read It Again (and Again) and Start a Conversation

“Is Minerva Louise just like all the other hens? What makes her different?”

Do you like snowy mornings? What would you do on a snowy morning?

Why does Minerva Louise go looking for clothes? What does she find first?

Do you think the ‘scarf’ will work for her? What do you think about that scarf?

Do you have a real scarf? Would it keep you warm outside?

What does Minerva Louise try on for shoes?

Have you noticed someone watching her while she searches?

What is the ‘hat’ that Minerva Louise sees?

Have you seen flowerpots before? That’s a rather long word, isn’t it?

Flowerpot. Is that fun to say? Let’s say that slowly a few times in a row.

What do you think will happen when Minerva Louise tries on the flowerpot?

Does she look comfortable? Does this remind you of something we looked at before we started reading the story?

After all that has happened, do you think Minerva Louise knows what clothes really look like?

What do you see when she walks by the coat rack looking for a hat?

When Minerva Louise looks outside, she sees everything wearing hats.

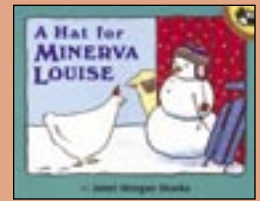
Is that true? What is covering everything outside? Have you ever seen that happen?

When Minerva Louise first sees the pink knitted item, did you think it was a hat?

What is it really?

How do you think Minerva Louise feels about her new ‘hat’?

Is this a funny book? What did you like best about it?”



Play With Language

Game: Minerva Louise Song

Take the name Minerva Louise and chant:

Minerva Louise
Minerva Louise
Minerva, Minerva,
Minerva Louise

Put a few of the following items on the floor in front of you: mitten, hat, glove and shoe. Every time you say the name “Minerva” try putting on a different item. Repeat this seeing how fast you can go.

Rhymes

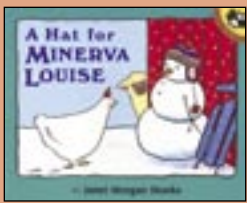
The Snow is Falling Softly Down

The snow is falling softly down
(flutter fingers in falling motion)
Falling softly without a sound
(begin lowering yourself to the ground)
Falling, falling to the ground
(sit quietly on the floor)

These are Grandma's Glasses

These are Grandma's glasses.
(put fingers in circles up to eyes like glasses)
This is Grandma's hat.
(circle hands above head)
This is how she folds her hands
(fold hands)
And puts them in her lap.
(put hands in lap)
These are Grandpa's glasses.
(put fingers in circles up to eyes like glasses)
This is Grandpa's hat.
(circle hands above head)
This is how he folds his arms
(fold arms in front of you)
Just like that.





Other Activities To Do Together

Walk around the house and look for objects that Minerva Louise might try to turn into a hat.

Try on different items as scarves and see which ones really keep you warm. Does anything keep you warm like a scarf, but is not a scarf?

Find items made of 100% wool and feel the difference between synthetic yarn and wool yarn.

Make paper dolls of Minerva Louise and make different hats for her. Maybe use some of the items you chose when you looked around your own house.

Fold pieces of paper over and over and cut out shapes to make paper snowflakes.

Arrange a visit to a local farm to see animals like Minerva Louise and her friends.

More Books About Chickens and Other Animals

A Friend for Minerva Louise by Janet Stoeke

Good Dog, Carl by Alexandra Day

Hilda Hen's Search by Mary Wormell

Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomie De Paola

Picnic by Emily McCully

Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins

