A Chicken’s Life

Fill in the Blanks. Read the statements below and write in the word that best fits the sentence.

1. Chickens ________________________ in order to stay clean and have fun.
   (dustbathe, shower)

2. When allowed to live naturally, chickens can live up to ________ years.
   (25, 5, 10)

3. Mother hens love their baby chicks. When it rains, they will let their babies hide under their ________.
   (wings, tails)

4. ________________________ rescue, rehabilitate, and provide lifelong love and care for animals who have been rescued from abuse and neglect.
   (Sanctuaries, Zoos)

5. Chickens are as smart as ________________________.
   (dogs and cats, insects)

6. When chickens are taken from a factory farm to a sanctuary, they have been ________________________.
   (rescued, dropped)

7. Chickens who are kept for their eggs are forced to live in small, dirty cages on ________________________.
   (sunshine, stars)

8. On factory farms, chicks never get to feel ________________________ on their backs.
   (dustbathe, shower)

9. A ________________________ is a person who chooses not to eat chickens and other animals.
   (vegetarian, librarian)

Answers: 1. dustbathe; 2. 25; 3. wings; 4. Sanctuaries; 5. dogs and cats; 6. rescued; 7. factory farms; 8. sunshine; 9. vegetarian

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Discussion and Reading Questions

1. There were many colorful characters in the comic book, such as the sanctuary owner, the children, the chick rescuer, and even the chickens! Which character did you most relate to? Explain what you liked best about this character.

2. What did you learn about chickens? What characteristic(s) of chickens surprised you the most?

3. Imagine if you were Charlotte, the chicken who lived on a factory farm her whole life. Describe how you would feel if you were rescued and then taken to a sanctuary, where you were allowed to walk on the ground for the first time.

4. Based on the story and its illustrations, what kind of a place does a sanctuary seem to be? Is a sanctuary a place that you’d like to visit?

5. When describing the cramped conditions that chickens live in on a factory farm, Ryan says, “A chicken’s life on a factory farm is very different from the life a chicken would choose for herself.” If you were a chicken, how would you want to live?

6. In the story, Ryan tells Tyler how a chicken shows that she is happy. How did the chickens show him that they were happy? What are some other ways that animals such as dogs and cats show you that they are happy?

7. How do the mother hen and father rooster take care of their babies?

8. As Ryan describes Charlotte’s story, he says, “But somewhere along the way, Charlotte and some others fell off. She was tired, bruised, and weak, so she sat at the side of the road.” What would you do if you saw an animal such as Charlotte who needed help?

9. What are some good ways to help chickens?

10. Write a fictional story about an animal rescue in which you are a main character.