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# Hensel And Gretel: Ninja Chicks



## Synopsis

New from the team behind *The Three Ninja Pigs* and *Ninja Red Riding Hood*—These ninja chicks are anything but chicken! When Hensel and Gretel's dad gets snatched by a fox, the sisters put their ninja skills to work to track him down before he can be stir-fried. But are these two little chicks ready to take on a dark tangled forest, a tricky house made of corn bread, and an even trickier fox? This plucky pair isn't giving up without a fight! Kiya!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0650 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (May 24, 2016)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.3 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #32,800 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Books > Children's Books >

Sports & Outdoors > Martial Arts #41 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Foxes & Wolves

#106 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Farm Animals

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

I ordered this book for my best friend's baby, as we are trying to help fill out his bookshelf with fine literature. Also we have chickens, and I felt this was a good primer for him to learn about interacting with chickens. I read through parts of the book, and found myself laughing and truly enjoying the silliness. An excellent children's book, and one I will probably read to my chickens as well.

Summary: Brought to you by the same team (with new author Gomez) that produced *The Three Ninja Pigs*, *Ninja Red Riding Hood*, and *Goldi Rocks and the Three Bears*, here's another martial arts-inspired fractured fairy tale told in rhyme. Hensel (renamed from Hansel and now a girl—or a chick) and Gretel use their martial arts training when they discover their parents being held prisoner by a fox in a cornbread house. Hensel gets stuck in a cage, but Gretel's stealthy

ninja moves rescue her. The two chicks combine forces to free their parents and stuff the fox in the cage. Result? • Justice, not dinner was served. • 40 pages; ages 4-8. Pros: As in previous books, the rhymes and vocabulary are hilarious, and Caldecott medalist Santat provides plenty of visual accompaniment. A great read-aloud. Cons: Nothing will ever top *The Three Ninja Pigs*.

Another book in the ninja fairy tales series by Schwartz, Gomez, and Santat is another winner as a read aloud. Based on the fairy tale, *Hansel and Gretel*, with its own unique twist, the book is a whole load of fun for young ninja fans (and face it who isn't?) *Hensel and Gretel* are two young hens who have lost their mother to the fox already and have taken to protecting their home and their father. But when they return from the dojo to find their father missing and the house a mess, they set off into the forest to find him. After their trail of breadcrumbs disappears and the hens become lost in the forest, *Hensel* loses her sense just long enough to become a captive of the fox. But *Hensel* isn't giving up and neither is *Gretel*, and using their ninja skills they are just bound to come out on top. Writing stories like this in rhyme can be a challenge. For an action-packed story like this it's important for the words to flow smoothly to keep up the pace. The text here does just that making for a delightful read aloud. The text is also presented in such a way as to show the reader just where to read slower versus faster, louder versus softer for just the right effect resulting in a fun storytime experience for everyone involved.

We are huge fans of the previous two ninja books by Schwartz and Santat, so I was thrilled when I discovered a few months ago that a third book was on its way. This book lived up to the high expectations we had for it. As with the previous two ninja books, the rhyme scheme of *Nina Chicks* makes it so enjoyable to read aloud. The English teacher in me loves the rich vocabulary used (*disarray*, *tussle*, *dismayed*, and *unnerved* are just a few) and the clever chicken references ("Watch out!" *Papa* cried. "You'll be chicken-pot-pied!"). Of course, I also love the overarching theme that connects all three books: "Get Empowered Not Devoured" (as seen on the sign outside the 3 Pigs Dojo on the second page of this book). This is another big hit (pun intended) for Schwartz, Santat, and now Gomez.

Corey Rosen Schwartz, Rebecca J. Gomez, and Dan Santat can keep offering up these fractured fairy tales until the end of my days and I'll be content. It always takes me a couple reads to get the rhythm of these down for read aloud, but it is so much fun once it clicks! As a kid who grew up on a farm, I'm all too familiar with chickens falling prey to the sneaky fox. Not only does this book take on

Hansel and Gretel, it also twists the not-so-happy ending most chickens have when confronted with a hungry fox. Dan Santat's hilarious & detailed illustrations are a cherry on top.

I had already read *The Three Ninja Pigs*, so was anticipating that *Hansel and Gretel: Ninja Chicks* would be marvelous as well. The limericks create a sense of urgency and movement, and that final, longer line with its rhyming echo back to the first two lines lends a punch to each page. I think I like the palette of *Ninja Pigs* better, and the crisper lines, but I am still delighted with this fractured fairy tale.

I love this book as much as my kids do. We've read it several nights in a row now and I don't see that streak stopping anytime soon. The art is great and the story's hilarious.

An exciting twist on the Hansel and Gretel fairy tale! Great for elementary aged, but my little guys love it too. A fun read-aloud rhyme with excellent illustrations.

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