



Mother Bruce

Written & Illustrated by: Ryan T. Higgins

Bruce is a grumpy bear who likes no one and nothing but cooked eggs, but when some eggs he was planning to boil hatch and the goslings believe he is their mother, he must try to make the best of the situation.

Lexile: 570 **AR Level:** 2.5

Awards: Ezra Jack Keats Book Award

Author Website: <http://ryanhiggins.com>

Podcast Author interview: <http://www.allthewonders.com/podcasts/ryan-t-higgins-picturebooking-episode-41/>

Food: Eggs

Other websites:

Cooking: <http://www.kidspot.com.au/funzone/Cook-5-egg-cellent-egg-recipes-for-kids-to-cook+6988+569+article.htm>

<http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/packages/recipes-for-kids/cooking-with-kids.html>

Nonfiction Title:

Allen, Kathy. Why do geese fly south in winter? : a book about migration

Gagne, Tammy. *Black Bears*.

Borger-Spaniol, Megan. *Geese*

Introduction: Show the photos/video clips of animals adopting other animals:

<https://www.thedodo.com/12-remarkable-interspecies-rel-523336558.html>

Ask students why do you think they do that? Tell them that the story they will hear today is about a very unusual animal family.

Story time Activities:

Art Activity: Paper Plate Geese

Materials: paper plates, scissors, orange construction paper and feathers.



Art Activity: Bear

Materials: Paper, Black Paint, Marker, pink construction paper, ribbon. Complete directions are found at: <http://www.craftymorning.com/kids-bear-craft-using-fork/>



Brainstorm other ways the Bear could have sent the geese south. Have them illustrate their favorite way.

Look at Children's cookbooks and cooking websites. Discuss different ways to make eggs.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things Bruce didn't like?
(sunny days, rain, cute little animals)
2. Where did Bruce find his recipes?
(On the internet.)
3. Why did the goslings think that Bruce is their Mother?
(He was the first thing they saw after they hatched.)
4. What were some of the things that Bruce did to try and get rid of the goslings?
(Took them back to the nest, Roared at them, ran away, climbed a tree, put them in a sling shot, put them in airplanes.)
5. How did Bruce get the goslings to finally migrate?
(He went with them on a bus to Miami.)
6. Do you think Bruce changed throughout in the story? How?