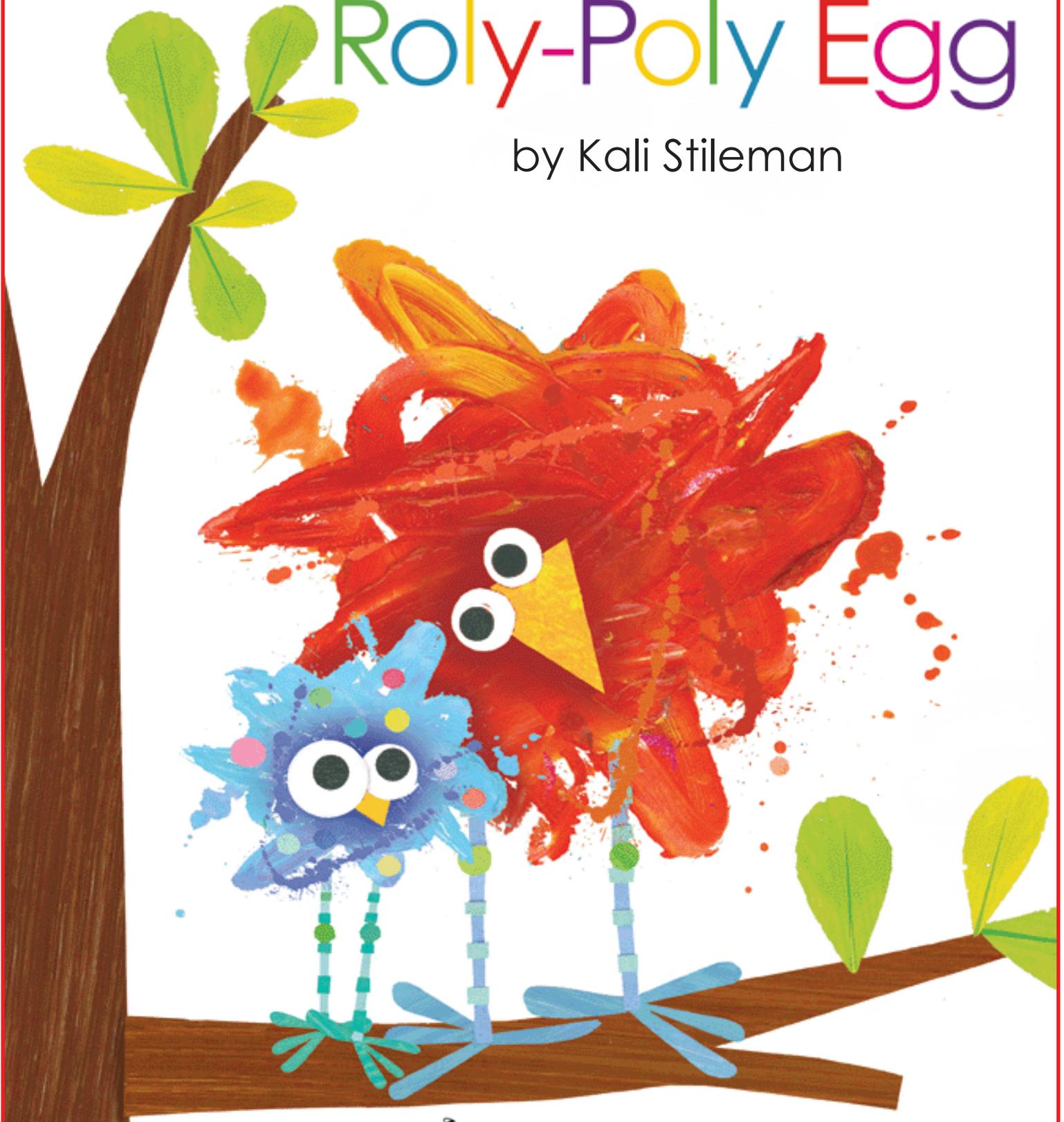


Teaching and Reading Guide

Roly-Poly Egg

by Kali Stileman



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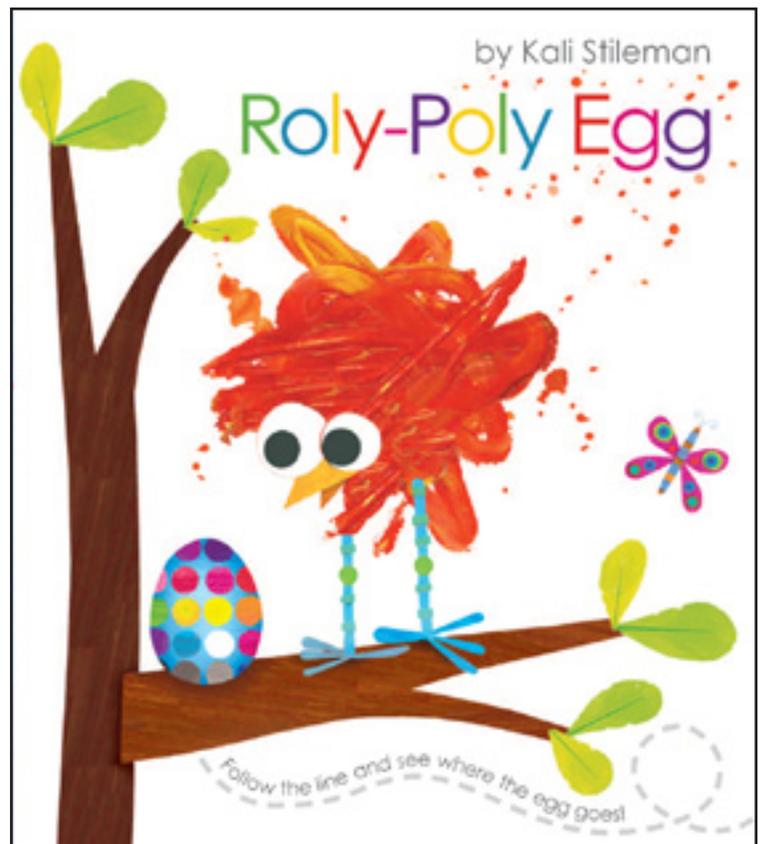
Roly-Poly Egg

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Synopsis:

Splotch the bird is admiring her colorful egg when it rolls off of her branch and down the neck of Jemima Giraffe. From there, the roly-poly egg is on an adventure as it's passed from animal to animal. When Splotch's egg is safely returned, it is ready to hatch!



Content Themes:

- **Adventure:** Children can follow the dotted line to trace the roly-poly egg's thrilling journey. Ask: Have you ever been on an adventure? Are adventures always exciting? Can they be frightening sometimes? Can you name some kinds of adventures?
- **New Beginnings:** Splotch's chick is ready to hatch. The anticipation of new beginnings is exciting and sometimes nerve-wracking, too. Ask: Have you ever experienced a new beginning? Perhaps you've had a new baby sister, brother, or cousin in your family. Maybe you've adopted a kitten or puppy, watched a chrysalis turn into a butterfly, or joined a new school. What are your new beginnings?
- **Love:** Splotch sees her chick as "perfect in every way." The love we feel for our family members is deep, and we see the beauty and good in them. Ask: What is your favorite thing about a person you love? How do your loved ones take care of you? How do they show you they love you? How do you show them your love?

Extension Activities

- Paint Splotch Art
- Who Hatches?
- Your Own Egg Friend



Activity 1 – Paint Splotch Art

Objective:

Students will study Kali Stileman’s illustrations to determine how she created Splotch. Then they’ll transform paint splotches into their own unique characters!

Materials:

- A copy of *Roly-Poly Egg*
- Paints of various colors (washable paints preferred)
- Sponges and brushes of various sizes
- Easel
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Thick paper, suitable for painting



Time: 30 minutes

Directions:

1. Invite students to look closely at Kali Stileman’s illustrations. Ask: What do you think of these pictures? How did she make this art? What sorts of materials do you suppose she used?
2. Now focus on Splotch and ask students to try and identify the technique the author-illustrator used to create him. Point out the paint splatter that became Splotch. With just a few added details, a bird was born.
3. Paint a splotch on the easel or piece of chart paper that everyone can see.
4. Say “Let’s transform this splotch into something new. What do you suppose it could be?” As a class, brainstorm ideas and pick one. Your picture does not have to be a character; it can be anything.
5. With your markers, add details to the paint splotch to create a character or object.
6. Tell the students to make splotches on their own papers using a sponge. Or they could put a blob of paint on their paper, fold the paper in half, and open it to reveal a crazy shape.
7. Allow the students artistic freedom as they add details to their paint splotches and turn them into unique creations.
8. As a follow-up, ask your students to write stories to accompany their artwork.



Activity 2 – Who Hatches?

Objective:

Through various activities, students will discover which animals hatch from eggs. They'll make a chart, play charades, and create flash cards. For fun, they'll have the opportunity to experience “hatching” firsthand!

Materials:

- Books about chicks and other creatures that hatch from eggs
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Index cards
- Nature magazines for the flash card pictures (optional)
- Large cardboard box

Time: 45 minutes

Directions:

1. Ask the students to think of other creatures that come from eggs. On large paper, list their answers under the title “Who Hatches?”
2. Share a book, magazine article, or chart that shows the different critters that come from eggs.
3. After listing the living things that hatch from eggs, ask students if they can name other similarities the creatures share.
4. Play charades. Ask a student to act like a critter that hatches, while the others try to guess the identity.
5. Have the students create flash cards using index cards with pictures of living things that hatch and don't hatch. On one side of the card, students can draw or paste a picture of an animal, and on the flip side, they can write “hatch” or “doesn't hatch.”
6. For fun, ask if any of the children would like to hatch. Fashion an “egg” out of a large cardboard box, and let students take turns hiding in the box and “hatching” while everyone else cheers for them.



Activity 3 – Your Own Egg Friend

Objective:

Using simple craft materials, students will create and care for their own egg friend.

Materials:

- Empty plastic eggs
- Pom-poms, googly eyes, and other accessories
- Glue
- Crafty materials for nests (small boxes, cotton balls, fabric, etc.)



Time: This activity could go on indefinitely, and the kids will love every minute of it!

Directions:

1. Give an empty plastic egg to each student with some sort of “creature” inside. If it’s springtime, you might find small toy chicks at a craft store, or you could make your own using pom-poms and googly eyes.
2. Tell the students that they are going to be responsible for taking care of these little beings until and after they all hatch.
3. List the of tasks the children will need to perform to care for their “pets.” Direct them into a discussion about food, shelter, and other needs.
4. Allow the students to decide how long their creatures will be inside the eggs. Will they incubate for a day? A week or two? During that time, encourage the class to keep their eggs VERY safe. They could create little nests out of small jewelry boxes and cotton or fabric scraps. Perhaps the students can take the eggs home with them each day so the egg is never left unattended. (Suggest that they find eggsitters if they’re going to be away from their eggs!)
5. After the eggs “hatch,” discuss how you will care for these new friends. Be creative and have fun!



More Fun Things to Do

Related Reading:

- *An Egg Is Quiet* by Dianna Aston
- *Egg: A Photographic Story of Hatching* by Robert Burton
- *Who's Hatching Here?* by Alma Flor Ada



Bulletin Board Idea:

Create a “Hatching Good Ideas” bulletin board. Post pictures of animals that hatch (ostriches, turtles, etc.) along with stories that the students have written using these animals as main characters.

Journal/Notebook Question:

Imagine that you’ve found a giant egg in your backyard. Tell a story about what/who hatches out of this mysterious egg. Be sure to include lots of details about this egg-straordinary adventure.

P.S. Hatching chicks has always been a popular classroom activity. Check out www.backyardchickens.com for a step-by-step guide on how to hatch real chicks in the classroom. What could be more engaging and memorable than watching actual chicks hatch? Maybe you can name one Splotch!

