

**KUNG POW CHICKEN: LET’S GET CRACKING**

## by Cyndi Marko

## Louisiana Young Readers’ Choice Nominee 2017

**Grade 3-5**

Submitted by Jessica Barrilleaux, Student Worker

State Library of Louisiana

**Title**: *Kung Pow Chicken: Let’s Get Cracking*

**Author and illustrator**: Cyndi Marko

**Publisher**: Scholastic

**Pages**: 80

**SUMMARY**

You never know what you might find in Uncle Quack’s laboratory. Knowing this, a small incident involving a vat of unidentified toxic matter doesn’t really come as a surprise to second grader Gordon Blue and his little brother Benedict. What does surprise them however is the discovery that they now have superpowers, allowing them to become Kung Pow Chicken and his trusty sidekick Egg Drop whenever trouble arises. Fortunately, they don’t have to look very hard or wait very long to find trouble on which to test out their new abilities; at the Fowl Festival, Fowladelphia’s biggest celebration, a group of chickens is suddenly featherless, and the evil Granny Goosebumps seems to have a good motive for causing such havoc. Can Gordon and Benedict get to the bottom of the mystery? Will their super powers be enough to solve the problem? Find out in this hilarious and heavily illustrated story.

**AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY**

Born in Smithers, British Columbia in Canada, Cyndi Marko loved reading and illustrating from a young age. *Kung Pow Chicken: Let’s Get Cracking* is her first book and the beginning of the Kung Pow Chicken series. She now lives on Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

Biographical information taken from the author’s website at

<http://cyndimarko.com/me-stuff/>

Accessed 24 February 2016.

**AWARDS**

2015 Silver Birch Award winner

Kirkus Best Books of 2014 selection

2015-2016 Chocolate Lily Award nominee

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Author website <http://cyndimarko.com/>

**OTHER TITLES BY AUTHOR**

*Kung Pow Chicken: Bok! Bok! Boom!* (2014)

*Kung Pow Chicken: The Birdy Snatchers* (2014)

*Kung Pow Chicken: Heroes on the Side* (2014)

**RELATED TITLES**

*Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer* by Kelly Jones, illustrated by Katie Kath

*Almost Super* by Marion Jensen

*Ninja Timmy* by Henrik Tamm

*My Brother is a Superhero* by David Solomons

*School for Sidekicks* by Kelly McCullough

*Lend a Hand: Poems About Giving* by John Frank, illustrated by London ladd

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS**

**Art:**

Kung Pow Chicken has a lot of difficulty with his leotard. Design a new super suit for him, and explain the benefits of the changes you make.

**Science:**

Learn about food allergies at <http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/food-allergies.html>. As a class, discuss: could the chickens’ reaction to Granny Goosebumps’s cookies have been a type of allergy? Make a list of evidence. How could the chickens find out for sure? What would they need to do in the future to avoid losing their feathers?

**Language Arts:**

Create a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences of Kung Pow Chicken and any other superheroes you know. Repeat the activity to compare Granny Goosebumps and the villains from those stories or to compare Kung Pow Chicken and Granny Goosebumps. Consider the type of powers the characters have, their actions, their responsibilities, etc.

**Social Studies:**

Gordon and Benny look forward to visiting the booths and activities at the Fowl Festival. Research a festival in Louisiana, and create a shoebox-sized booth that you might find there. You can start your research at <http://www.louisianatravel.com/festivals>.

The following lesson plan contains a variety of additional activities about chickens and covers several class subjects: <http://www.poultryhub.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Primary-Lessons-for-web_answers_removed.pdf>.

**Vocabulary:**

Festival

Fowl

Goosebumps

Housecoat

Leotard

Nippy

Ordinary

Toxic

Wattle

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Gordon and Benny promise to use their powers for good, righting wrongs and keeping their rooms clean. If you had super powers, how would you use them? Be specific.
2. Why do Kung Pow Chicken and Egg Drop disguise their identities with super suits? How do you know?
3. “Sidekicks always get left out!” says Benny. Is this true in the book *Kung Pow Chicken*? How does Benny contribute to saving the day?
4. Gordon is a superhero, but he also has other hobbies and interests. What are they? What clues in the book reveal them?
5. Why is it important that Gordon and Benny try to stop Granny Goosebumps’s plan even after she defeats them at the Fowl Festival? What might have happened if Gordon had stayed in bed instead?

**RELATED WEB SITES**

**Superhero Science**

<http://ed.ted.com/series/superhero-science>

What if superpowers really existed? How can we mimic them in real life?

**Top Ten Chicken Breeds for Kids**

<http://www.countryliving.com/life/kids-pets/g2250/chicken-breeds-for-kids/>?

A slideshow from Country Living.

**Kung Pao Chicken Recipe**

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/kitchenexplorers/2014/03/27/kung-pao-chicken-recipe/>

Learn about the dish that inspired the name of the Kung Pow Chicken series.