



The chicks walk to school

A story written by Élise Rengot and illustrated by Thomas Baas.



Seraphin and his brothers and sisters are all very excited.
They are going to walk to school all by themselves for the first time!

“Be careful,” Mama Chicken tells them. “We promise we will!” they reply.
After a last peck-peck-kiss on the beak, they leave the henhouse, singing,
“**Do Re Mi Fa So, it’s off to school we go!**”

The little chicks sing with all their might and don’t notice a weasel watching them.
“Yum,” thinks the weasel, “those chicks look juicy. How can I get them in my plate?”
The weasel has an idea. He waves at the chicks and gently asks them,
“Where are you off to, my friends?”
“To school,” Seraphin announces proudly.
“Oh really?” the weasel replies. “But you’re too slow. You’re going to be late!”
The chicks panic when they hear this. “Quick,” the weasel adds,
“climb onto my back. I’ll take you there.”
“Oh thank you, thank you!” Seraphin exclaims.



The chicks climb on and the weasel sets off.

But... that's not the way to school!

“Ha, ha, ha!” he sniggers, “I tricked you. As soon as we arrive at my den, **slip, slap, slup**, I’ll gobble you up!”

Poor little chicks! They are terrified.

The weasel runs too fast for them to jump off.

Luckily, a fox turns up and comes to their rescue.

“Beat it, weasel,” he roars.

“Don’t touch these chicks or else you’ll be one gobbled up.”

The weasel stops in his tracks. He frees the chicks and runs away. Whew!





The fox then becomes as sweet as honey,
“Everything is fine now, chickies. I’ll take you to school.”
This time, Seraphin is more careful.
He says, “We don’t want to climb on your back.”
“Of course,” the fox replies.
“I understand completely. I’ll just show you a shortcut.”

The chicks trust the fox and follow him.
They step around roots, they climb a rock.
And suddenly, clack! They’re trapped in a big bag.
The fox laughs out loud, “Ha, ha, ha, I tricked you.
As soon as we arrive at my den, **blip, blap, blup**, I’ll gulp you up!”



Poor little chicks! They're prisoners now.
Luckily, a wolf rushes over, alerted by their screams. "Get lost, fox!" he yells.
"Leave these chicks alone or else you'll be the one gulped up!"
The fox stops laughing fast. He lets the chicks go and flees.

The wolf smiles and says, "Don't be afraid. I'm going to protect you..."
"No thanks!" Seraphin cuts him off. "We don't want any more traps!"
The chicks begin to run away.
But the wolf catches them in a single paw.
"Listen here, little snacks, I'm starving! You're not going to escape."

Poor little chicks! This time, no-one is around to save them!

The wolf opens wide his mouth to swallow them...

When suddenly, a twig snaps in the distance. Then another.

"Stop!" Seraphin hollers.

"If I were you, wolf, I'd run away! I can hear a bear arriving."

"Yes, he's getting closer!" squeak his brothers and sisters.


"And if he finds you, he'll flatten you like a pancake. Oooh, a wolf pancake!"

The wolf frowns. "A bear?" he repeats. "Nonsense. You're making this up!"

"Not at all," Seraphin insists. "Listen carefully..."





The wolf pricks up his ears, and it's true... There's a noise in the forest!
The wolf starts to worry and his whiskers quiver.
Suddenly, the leaves of a bush tremble, and tremble again.
Right next to him! Too bad about the snacks.
The wolf drops the chicks and run away! 

And who steps out from the bush? A hungry bear?
No, it's just... a hen wearing glasses and walking briskly.
It's Mrs. Cluck-cluck, the teacher!
"Oh, hello children," she says. "I lost my glasses in this bush.
But now I've found them. Don't dawdle, class is starting soon."

Whew, the chicks can breathe easy. They set off again, singing,
"Do Re Mi Fa So, it's off to school we go!"
And at last they arrive at the school for chicks, all by themselves!

THE END

