

# Unit 5

Name:

Date:

## Reader's Notebook: The Biggest Scoop in the Coop

### Questions for The Biggest Scoop in the Coop

Write your responses to the questions below.

1 Why is there a television camera in the picture?

The story is about reporters covering a news event.

2 Other than the chicken that's going to cross the road, who are the main characters?

Two reporters: Cluck Kent and Barbara Featherweather.

3 What evidence is there that the two main characters are very competitive?

They argue, they remember bad things the other did to them in the past, they try to sabotage each other.

4 Why does everyone miss the road crossing?

They are all watching the reporters fight.

5 Why are the reporters upset?

Because they missed the chicken crossing the road.

6 What did the reporters decide to do?

They decided to work together to interview the chicken.

7 Why *did* the chicken cross the road?

He wanted to break in his new running shoes.

Examine the following techniques used by the writer to make this story funny.

- 8 How did the writer use names, words, and situations in the following chart to add humour to this story?

Your responses may be similar to information in this chart. You probably noticed many more humorous examples in the story than those listed in this chart.

Techniques	Story Details	Meaning or Significance	How does this add humour to the story?
Names			
	Cluck Kent	Clark Kent is the human name for Superman.	Because his name is borrowed from Superman, readers might expect the reporter to be superior. However, "Cluck" usually refers to someone who is not smart.
	Barbara Fairweather	Someone who is helpful only when it is easy.	Barbara Fairweather will help Cluck Kent only when she will benefit from the situation. When readers see "Fairweather", they know right away what kind of character she is.
Words			
	<i>cluck</i>	"Cluck" is the non-stop sound chickens and roosters make.	"Cluck" suggests to readers that he talks a lot without saying anything important.
	<i>cracked, fried, scrambled</i>	These words describe types of broken eggs.	The writer is using words creatively to be funny.
	<i>Scoop &amp; coop</i>	"Scoop" is newspaper slang for "story". "Coop" is the building in which chickens stay.	"Scoop" and "coop" are rhyming words. Rhyme is used mostly for light, playful or topics.
Situation			
	the reason a chicken would cross the road	The question is asked as though there is a wise reason for this dangerous act.	Numerous responses to this popular joke are silly, not wise at all.
	Chickens are interested in the news.	Chickens may gather in groups, usually to fight for a share of food.	Readers know that chickens cannot act like humans. They are not reporters, joggers, viewers, and pilots. They do not wear clothes or have reason or logic. The comparison makes readers laugh.



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