I GOT A CHICKEN FOR MY BIRTHDAY: Teacher's Guide

After reading I GOT A CHICKEN FOR MY BIRTHDAY out loud to your students, use these activities to extend the learning in the classroom:

Writing Prompts and Discussion Topics:

1. Have you ever wished for one gift and received a different one? Have you ever received a gift that you didn’t expect? Have you ever been disappointed in a gift but then come to like the gift a lot? Tell a partner, or write the story.

2. Ana’s chicken builds an amusement park in her back yard. If you had a magical engineering chicken, what would you want it to build for you?

3. Ana’s chicken gives her a list of needed supplies. If you were building an amusement park—or something else, of your choice—what supplies would you need? Make a list.

4. Ana and her Abuela Lola have a special bond. At the end of the book, the chicken brings Abuela Lola so that she and Ana can experience the amusement park together. Think of a member of your family—perhaps a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cousin. Tell a partner, or write a story, about a favorite experience you shared with your family member.
Science:
You may not be able to build an amusement park like Ana’s chicken, but you can build lots of interesting structures! Using mini-marshmallows and toothpicks, see what you can create! How tall a tower can you build? What other types of structures can you build?

Math:

For younger students:
Count the animals on each page of the book. Can you add up the numbers to find out how many animals are in the book all together?

For older students:
Use your list from Writing Prompt #3 above. Add a price for each item. Add up the total cost of the items on your list.