

# P. ZONKA'S Egg-Stravaganza!



An Activity Kit for Julie Paschkis's  
*P. Zonka Lays an Egg*

Dear booksellers, teachers, and librarians,

Trust us...you've never seen an egg like this! And you've never met a hen quite like P. Zonka.

This activity kit is full of interactive complements to *P. Zonka Lays an Egg*, including the backstory on the Ukrainian tradition of pysanky (peh-SAN-keh) and ideas for a spring egg-stravaganza, complete with coloring sheets, activities, and other egg-cellent ways to help bring this charming springtime story to life for young readers.

# Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Your friends,  
Peachtree Publishers



Detailed instructions and information on all of these ideas (and more!) are on our *P. Zonka* Pinterest board. Check them out here: [www.pinterest.com/peachtreepub/p-zonkas-egg-stravaganza](https://www.pinterest.com/peachtreepub/p-zonkas-egg-stravaganza)





## About *P. Zonka Lays an Egg*

P. Zonka spends her days in dreamy exploration of the beauty around her. With so much to contemplate, the thought of laying eggs has never occurred to her!

The other hens can't believe P. Zonka's laziness. They, after all, are laying eggs almost every day, and pester her to do the same.

To everyone's surprise, when P. Zonka finally sets her mind to the task, her first egg is as dazzling and colorful as her imagination.

## About Julie Paschkis

Julie Paschkis grew up in Pennsylvania and attended Cornell University and the School for American Craftsmen at RIT, where she earned her BFA. A former elementary school art teacher, Julie now works full time painting, creating fabric design, and illustrating children's books. Some of her titles include *Albert the Fix-it Man*; *Mooshka, A Quilt Story*; *Where Is Catkin?*; and *Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal* (Henry Holt).

Julie likes to eat eggs frequently, and every year, her sister Jan and her husband Greg have a big neighborhood party where friends and family decorate eggs and eat delicious food. The party is spectacular and *P. Zonka Lays an Egg* came out of that experience.

For more information, visit her at [www.juliepaschkis.com](http://www.juliepaschkis.com).

The background is a solid light orange color. In the top left, there are two butterflies: one is blue with white spots and the other is light blue with pink and yellow spots. In the top right, there is a yellow flower with orange centers and green leaves. In the bottom left, there is a pink flower with yellow centers and green leaves. In the bottom right, there are four chickens of different colors (orange, yellow, grey, and yellow with black spots) standing on a yellow patch of ground. A large white egg shape with a black outline is in the center, containing the title and table of contents. A woven basket is at the bottom of the egg shape.

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## What are *pysanky*?

In the spring, when the earth emerged from the long, cold winter, the ancient Ukrainian people celebrated with ceremonies honoring the sun.

The sun was the Ukrainians' supreme god, but the only creatures able to approach the life-giving star were birds. Hoping the winged creatures could fly high enough to intercede for humanity, Ukrainians inscribed wishes and requests to the heavens on birds' eggs.

These richly decorated eggs are called *pysanky*.

The *pysanky* were made as gifts for honored family and friends—talismans meant to bring happiness, fertility, and protection. Each of the elements and colors carried symbolic meaning.

*The sun* represented happiness, growth, and good fortune.

*Flowers* signified love, charity, and good will.

*Birds, chicks, hens, and roosters* symbolized fulfillment of wishes and fertility.

*Waves, ribbons, and belts* meant eternity.

*Red* was the color of love and joy.

*Yellow* represented resurrection and spirituality.

*Green* was the sign of new life, of prosperity and wealth.

*Blue* encompassed courage, strength, stability, loyalty, and health.

*Pysanky* are still made in Ukrainian homes today, and it is this tradition that inspired Julie Paschkis' *P. Zonka Lays an Egg*.







## Décor and Treats

*P. Zonka* is a story of springtime, colorful eggs, and appreciating beauty, so a plain old room just won't do. Here are some simple (and a few elaborate) suggestions to get in the spirit:

- Set bouquets of fresh cut flowers around the event area to brighten up the room.
- Display colorful eggs (plastic are fine!) in paper bag nests. Just shred a few brown paper bags and fill a bowl with them. Arrange the strips in a nest shape and add your eggs. Voila!
- Find a chicken or rooster stuffed animal. Kids can use it during storytime and games, but it will also make a great display item.
- Play festive Ukrainian music to set the mood. Here are a few CDs available at local libraries: *Songs and Dances of the Ukraine*, *Anthologies of Folk Music*, and *Ukraine - Les voix de la steppe*.
- If you have the facilities, serve traditional Ukrainian foods! Whip up some pierogi (dumplings), pashka (bread), babka (Easter bread), kulich (Easter cake), or syrniki (cheese pancakes).
- Provide other seasonal treats such as egg-shaped sugar cookies decorated to look like pysanky, Peeps, or rainbow Jell-O Easter eggs.

Detailed instructions and information on all of these ideas are on our [P. Zonka Pinterest board](#).



# Games and Activities

## *Nature Color Matching Scavenger Hunt:*

Using paint and cardboard egg cartons, send the kids on a scavenger hunt to find colors in nature. Paint each pocket of the egg carton a different color (use shades that can be found in nature!). Then take the children outside to search for natural treasures that match each of the colored pockets. When they find an item, they should put it in the pocket. When the egg carton is full, they win! This can be done as a team (one carton for the whole group, with each child assigned a color) or as a competition (each child has his or her own carton and must find every color without help).

## *Felt Board Read Aloud:*

Cut out a nest and multiple white, brown, and gray-blue eggs from felt. Read *P. Zonka Lays an Egg* aloud. As you read, add the items to your felt board. Have kids count the eggs with you as you put them in the nest.

## *Egg Shaker Read Aloud:*

Fill plastic eggs with jelly beans (or regular beans) to create egg shakers. Give one egg shaker to each child. During storytime, have the children shake the eggs every time Gloria crows!

## *Mixed Up Egg Hunt:*

Mismatch the tops and bottoms of plastic eggs; your goal is to make each egg have a different color top and bottom. Create a card for each egg by drawing an egg shape and coloring it in to match the plastic egg it represents. Before the children arrive, hide the eggs around the event space. When you're ready to play, pass out a card to each child. The goal is for each child to find the egg that matches his or her card exactly.

## *Egg and Spoon Relay:*

Split the group into teams. Line each team up behind a basket of plastic Easter eggs and a spoon. Set one empty basket for each team about ten feet away from the starting line. In a relay fashion, each child should place a plastic egg on the spoon, walk in a straight line to the empty basket while balancing the egg, deposit the egg into the basket, and return to the starting line. The first team to transfer all of their eggs from one basket to the other wins!

Detailed instructions and variations can be found on our [P. Zonka Pinterest Board](#).





# Crafts

## Scrap Paper Pysanky:

### SUPPLIES

- 2 sheets per child of cardstock with a large egg outline drawn on each
- Scissors (or a craft blade)
- Assorted scrap papers that you've pre-cut into strips and shapes (You can use tissue paper, scrapbook paper, or even wrapping paper; the more colorful, the better!)
- Glue

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the egg out of the first sheet *without cutting the frame*. The result should be a sheet of paper with an egg-shaped hole, but the edges of the paper should be un-cut. If this is too difficult, you can pre-cut the sheet with a blade.
2. Discard the egg shape and set the egg frame aside.
3. Glue the scrap strips and shapes onto the second sheet of cardstock, completely covering the egg outline. Don't worry about going outside the lines. The egg frame you made will cover any rough edges.
4. Finally, glue the first sheet (egg frame) on top of the second sheet (scrap paper egg), creating an egg-shaped frame for the scrap paper design. Ta-da!

## Simple Paper Bag Nests:

### SUPPLIES

- 1 brown paper bag per child
- Scissors

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut off the top of your paper bag, leaving 3 – 4 inches of bag from the base.
2. Carefully roll the top edge of the bag out and down.
3. Continue loosely rolling the bag until you get to the bottom.
4. Pinch it to add shape to the nest.

## Scratch Art Pysanky:

### SUPPLIES

- 1 sheet of card stock per child
- Oil pastels
- Black tempera paint
- Paint brushes
- Scissors
- Toothpicks

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cover an entire sheet of card stock with oil pastels. Use lots of different colors and designs.
2. Cover the entire sheet with slightly watered-down tempera paint.
3. Allow to dry completely.
4. Cut the cardstock in the shape of an egg.
5. Gently scratch off the tempera paint with a toothpick to reveal the pastels underneath.  
Scratch the paint in whatever patterns or designs you want!

Find lots more crafts on our [P. Zonka Pinterest Board](#).





# Easy Pysanky Decoration

Creating pysanky can be a laborious and very complicated process, but it can also be pretty simple and kid-friendly! Here is a guide to the latter version.

*Note: For these instructions, we will assume that you will use yellow, red, green, blue, and black dyes. You do not have to use all or any of these colors. No matter which colors you use, apply the dye in order from lightest to darkest.*

## Supplies

- Crayons
- Cups or bowls for dye
- Egg dye and/or food coloring\*  
\*(yellow, red, green, blue, and black)
- Hard-boiled eggs
- Mini muffin tin
- Napkins or paper towels
- Newspaper
- Spoons
- Vinegar
- Oven

## Instructions

1. Cover a table with several layers of newspaper.
2. Mix dyes according to instructions.
3. Add a spoon to each dye cup and line them up on your work surface, progressing from light to dark (in order: yellow, red, green, blue, and black).
4. Create a design for your pysanky and choose where you'd like each color to appear on the egg.
5. *If you won't use white in your design, proceed to step 7.*
6. *If you will use white in your design, draw the part that should remain white onto the egg with a crayon. Make sure that any lines or spaces that you want to be white are completely covered. Wherever there is wax, the yellow dye will not be able to penetrate.*
7. Dip the egg in the yellow dye. Allow the egg to sit for 2 minutes or until it achieves the desired vibrancy.
8. Use the spoon to remove the egg from the dye and pat it *completely* dry with paper towels.
9. When the egg is completely dry, use a crayon to draw the yellow part of your design. Make sure that any lines or spaces that you want to be yellow are completely covered in crayon.
10. Repeat steps 7 – 9 with the red, green, blue, and black dyes.
11. Spread paper towels over your mini muffin tin and place one egg in each cup.
12. Bake the eggs at 250 degrees for 5 minutes.
13. Remove the tin from the oven, and carefully blot away any moisture from the egg shells.
14. If any wax is melted, use a paper towel to gently rub it off *AFTER* blotting the moisture droplets.
15. Return the tin to the oven and bake for another 3 minutes, repeat as necessary. Do this until you've melted and rubbed off all of the wax, revealing your final design!

For tips and to see the original idea for this method view our [Pinterest board!](#)





# Help Maud, Dora, and Nadine Fill Their Nests

Maud laid three eggs. Draw three eggs in Maud's nest and color one blue and one brown. Leave one white.



Dora laid four eggs. Draw four eggs in Dora's nest. Color one blue and three brown.



Nadine laid five eggs. Draw five eggs in Nadine's nest. Leave two white and color one blue, one brown, and one grey.





# Make P. Zonka's Egg Spectacular!

Coloring Sheet

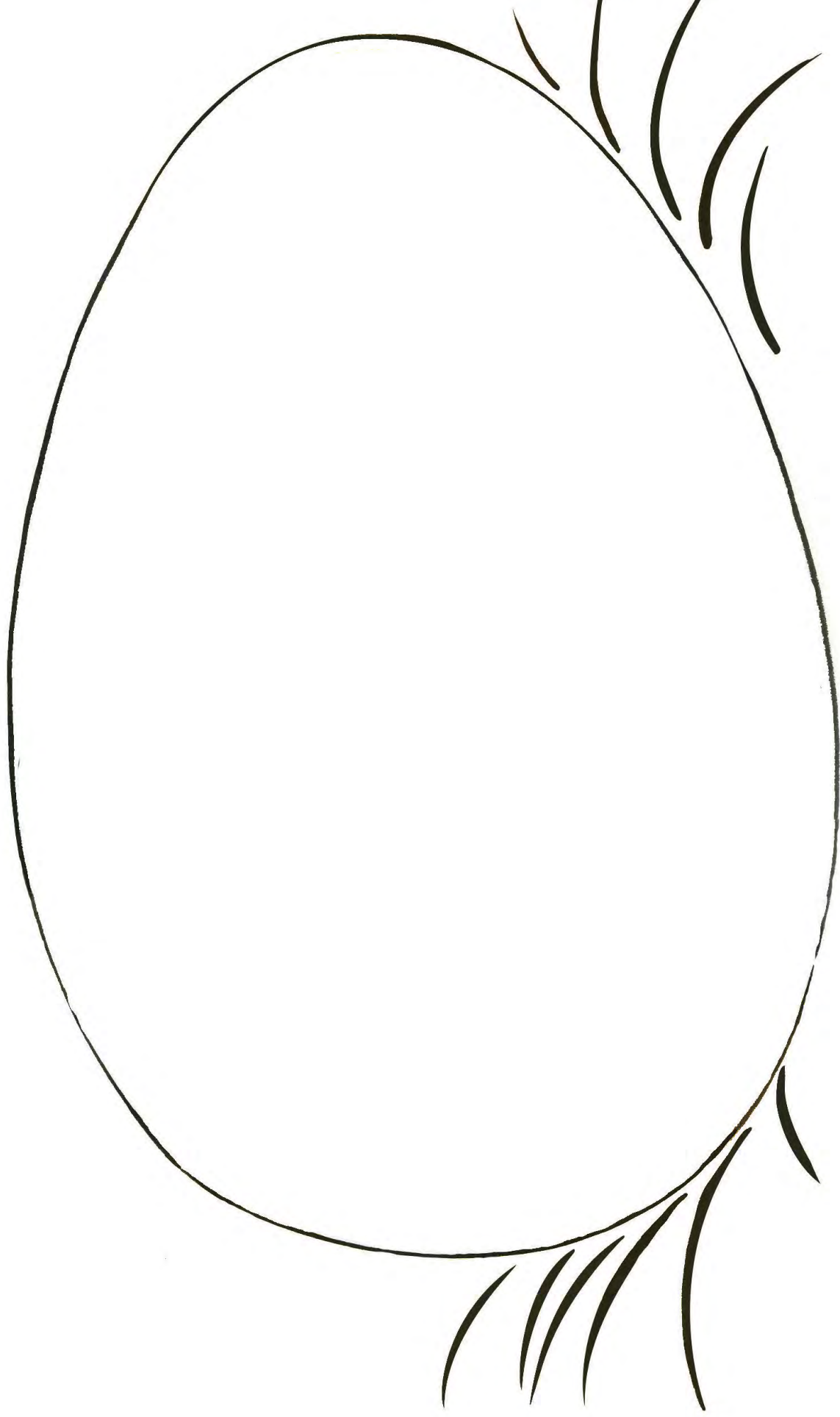
Add color to P. Zonka's egg. Use the colors from the book or choose your own.



# Design Your Own Pysanka

P. Zonka laid an egg decorated with suns, ribbons, and nature symbols—all the things that inspired her. Draw your own pysanka using your favorite colors and designs!

Coloring Sheet





# P. Zonka Word Search

Can you find all of the henhouse-inspired words in the puzzle below?

C N G F A T L H T Q T C M P M  
N G S V H Q V F Z E G J Y H A  
E A F Z W Z D W L Z K D D C X  
E E V K T P H S F R Z S Y L D  
D L E S B Q B C F O S N A X I  
T R E E A J X B J O L P P B E  
A N A F C T E A F S V R I I E  
D W B Y A Q K K O T P X X N J  
W N N E M N F E M E U B C U M  
O R N T A R J S M R Y H U P K  
Q S F S W U A C U S I K F I R  
R A Y I I X M F X C O C S D I  
S P N J V L W K K J C U O T J  
H G L A C N X E O D X L G Y S  
S A X R Y J N V F Q T C L X Z

## WORD BANK:

BASKET  
CHICKEN  
CLUCK  
EGG  
FARMYARD

NEST  
PYSANKA  
ROOSTER  
WINGS



# Resources

<http://www.pysanky.info>

<http://www.learnpysanky.com>

<http://www.marthastewart.com/search/results?keys=pysanky>

<http://www.celebrationgeneration.com/blog/2011/04/13/easy-pysanky-how-to-aka-epic-easter-eggs/>

<http://innerchildfun.com/2011/11/diy-scratch-art-pages.html>

<http://www.celebrationgeneration.com/blog/2011/04/13/easy-pysanky-how-to-aka-epic-easter-eggs/>

<http://pinkandgreenmama.blogspot.com/2012/03/colorful-egg-game.html#.VNuvjfnF-Ag>

<http://www.makeandtakes.com/on-a-hunt-for-mixed-up-eggs>

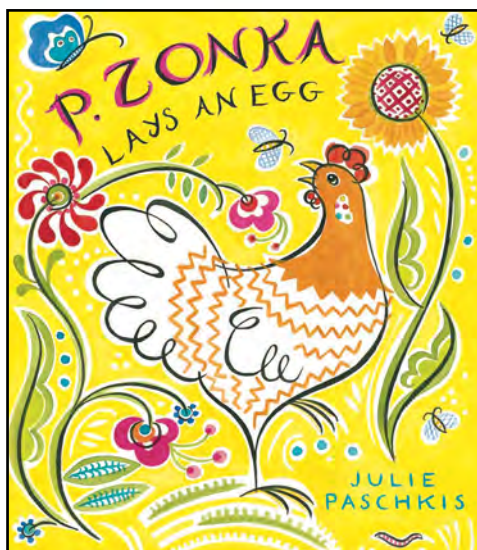
<http://www.spendwithpennies.com/jell-o-easter-eggs/>

<http://happyhooligans.ca/paper-bag-nests/>

<http://www.prettyhandygirl.com/spring-vignettes-and-mantle-decor/>







*P. Zonka Lays an Egg*  
Written & Illustrated by Julie Paschkis  
978-1-56145-819-6  
Ages 4 – 8  
\$16.95

"A tale of the dividends of daydreaming, beautifully enhanced by colors and designs that shout 'Spring!' to a winter-weary world."

– Kirkus, [STARRED REVIEW](#)

"A lyrical and lushly illustrated allegory about creativity and taking time to notice beauty."

– Publishers Weekly, [STARRED REVIEW](#)

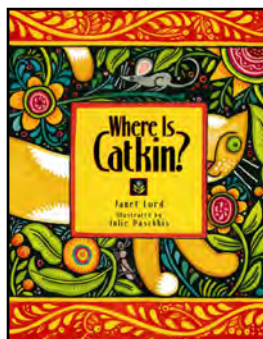
"Vibrant watercolor illustrations ... burst from the pages to draw viewers in to share P. Zonka's delight with the colors and patterns of her world."

– School Library Journal, [STARRED REVIEW](#)

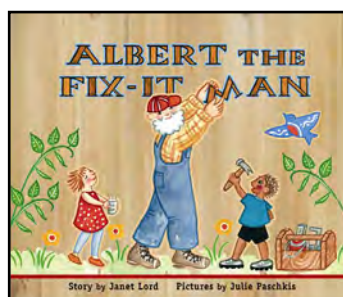
"If every picture book is a little world unto itself, P. Zonka Lays an Egg is a place where the skies are forever bright and all things radiate delicious hues."

– *The Wall Street Journal*

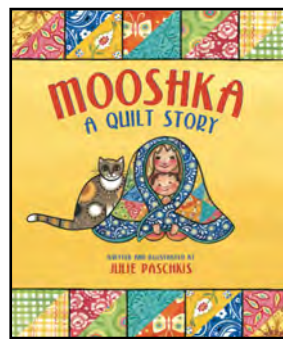
*More by Julie Paschkis...*



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*Mooshka, a Quilt Story*  
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