

The Fabulous Friend Machine

By Nick Bland

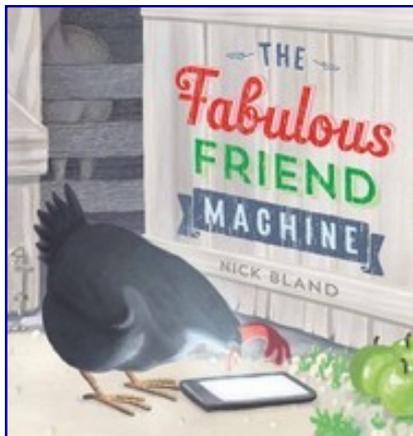
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**PICTURE BOOK OF
THE MONTH**

Popcorn is, quite simply, the friendliest chicken at Fiddlesticks farm! When she finds a Fabulous Friend Machine in the barn, she sets about making some brand new friends. But behind the screen of the Fabulous Friend Machine, maybe her new friends are not so friendly after all... A cautionary tale from the globally best-selling Nick Bland.



Themes:

- Real friends
- Changing and forgetting about others
- Electronic devices
- Being careful online

Questions and Reflections:

- Before you even read the story, what do you think the 'fabulous friend machine' is?
- What are some of the words that Popcorn used and some of the words that were used to describe her?
- How did she make others feel?
- Would you describe yourself or any of your friends or family like this?
- How did Popcorn initially react to the 'fabulous friend machine'?
- Why do you think she referred to it as this? What was it really?
- Do you have an electronic device that you use for school and or at home?
- What do you do on it?
- How did Popcorn's behaviour change and how did her relationship with her real friends change? How did they feel about it?
- Do you think you spend less time playing and being with your friends because of electronic devices? Do you think this is a bad thing? Explain.
- Were Popcorn's new online 'friends' really friends at all? Discuss.
- How can you make sure that you only connect with your 'real' friends online?
- Who was it that saved Popcorn from the wolves? What does this tell you about real friendship?

Activities:

- As a class, research appropriate sites for school children about 'staying safe online'. After you have prepared your research, write a report demonstrating what you have learnt.
- Popcorn won the prize for being the *friendliest* chicken. Create a list of other positive awards and make your own medals representing these.