



**The Little Red Hen**  
Retold by Heather Forest  
Illustrated by Susan Gaber

**Outcome:**

The students will learn about sharing, helping, and cooperation.

**Materials:**

- Book, *Little Red Hen: An Old Fable*
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue sticks
- “Animal Puppet” worksheet
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Sponge (one small, one large circular)
- Yellow paint (shallow tray for paint)
- White paper
- Orange and black markers or crayons
- Chow Mein noodles
- Butterscotch or other flavor “Hard Shell” topping
- Mini marshmallows
- Bowls and napkins

**Optional:**

*Shake-It-Up Tales*, Margaret Read MacDonald. August House. 2000.

**About the Book:**

Guided Reading:

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Lexile Level:

510L

Character Traits:

Citizenship

Fairness

Sharing

Region:

Europe, Russia

ISBN:

978-0-8748-3795-7

978-1-9391-6097-3



# The Little Red Hen

Pre-Kindergarten

## **Instructional Plan:**

### **Introductory Activity:**

- Ask students to raise their hands if they have ever asked someone else to help them.
- Ask students to keep their hand raised if the person they asked for help did not help them.
- These students to share their story about needing help and not receiving help.
- Ask the other students to share their experience of receiving help when they needed it.

### **Read the Story:**

- Tell students they will listen to a story about a farm animal that needed help. They need to listen carefully to determine which animals were helpful and which animals were not helpful.

## **Questions for Assessing Students' Comprehension:**

- Who did the little Red Hen live with?
- What did the little Red Hen find while pecking at the ground?
- What did the dog, cat, and mouse say when asked to help?
- What did the little Red Hen say when no one would help her?
- What did the hen say when the other animals wanted to eat the cake?
- Did the hen share the cake with the other animals?

## **Questions for Interpretation:**

- Why did the dog, cat and mouse not want to help the hen?
- If you were one of these animals, would you have helped the hen?
- What lesson did dog, cat and mouse learn?
- How does working together make working fun?
- Name some ways you can be helpful at school and at home.



# The Little Red Hen

Pre-Kindergarten

## Follow Up Activities:

### Materials:

- Popsicle sticks
- Glue sticks
- “Animal Puppet” worksheet
- Scissors and crayons

### Directions

- What tasks did the hen need help with? Name all of them.
  - Plant the wheat.
  - Pull the weeds.
  - Cut the wheat.
  - Take the wheat to the mill.
  - Grind the wheat into flour.
  - Bake the cake.
- Pantomime these different tasks.
- Draw a picture of one of these tasks.
- Make popsicle stick puppets and act out the story.
- Divide the students into 4 groups: hens, cats, dogs and mice. Ask students to sing songs they know by using only the sound that their animal makes.
- Ask students to sing one song in unison using their group’s animal sound.
- Rhyming words
  - Reread the story with students stressing words that have a rhyming word in the next sentence. Omit the rhyming word and have the class provide the rhyming word.

A little Red Hen lived in a **house**, with a frisky dog, a cat and a -----.
- Certificate of Helpfulness
  - Each day for a week, class gathers in a circle and shares how teacher and students have been helpful to each other.
  - Present helpful students with a Certificate of Helpfulness.



## The Little Red Hen

Pre-Kindergarten

### **Follow Up Activities Continued:**

#### Extension Activities:

##### Farmer and Chicken Game

##### Directions:

- Choose one student to be the farmer. The other students are the chickens.
- Chickens walk behind the farmer. At some point, the farmer yells, "It's feeding time!" and the students run back to a predetermined spot.
- The farmer places any students that he/she tags into the "hen house". The hen house may be a space behind a chalk like or barrier. These students stay in the hen house during the next turn.

##### Sponge Paint Chicks

##### Materials:

- One small and large circular sponge
- Yellow paint (shallow tray for paint)
- White paper
- Orange and black markers or crayons

##### Directions:

- Place paint in tray.
- Students dip the large sponge in the paint and place the sponge on their paper to make a print. That's the chick's body.
- Students use the smaller sponge, dip in paint, and place it above and to the left of the larger circle, touching the larger circle. The small circle serves as the chick's head.
- After the paint dries, students draw a beak, eyes, legs and webbed feet.
- Students can draw in a farm background if they choose.

##### Read *The Little Old Woman Who Hated Housework*

- Page 115 of *Shake-It-Up Tales* (MacDonald)
- Compare and contrast this tale where the little old woman gets too much help, with the story of *The Little Red Hen*.



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## **Follow Up Activities Continued:**

### Extension Activities Continued

#### Alternate Art Activity

##### Materials:

- Washable yellow paint (shallow tray)
- Black and orange markers or crayons
- White paper

##### Directions:

- Students dip their thumbs into paint and print on paper.
- When paint dries, students draw chick's beak, eye, wing, legs and webbed feet.
- Picture is a profile of a chick with the beak to the left of the print and the wing to the right of the print. The eye is off center to the left.

#### Hen's Nest Snack

##### Materials:

- Chow Mein noodles
- Butterscotch or other flavor "Hard Shell" topping
- Mini marshmallows
- Paper bowls

##### Directions:

- Spread the noodles in the bottom of a paper bowl.
- Squeeze the topping over the noodles.
- Refrigerate until cold and stiff.
- Add mini marshmallows as eggs.
- Eat and enjoy!

#### Bake a Cake

##### Directions:

- Compare the ease of this method to the Little Red Hen who had to plant the wheat, harvest the wheat and grind the wheat to make the flour. Ask, "Who will help me bake this cake?" "Who will help me eat this cake?"





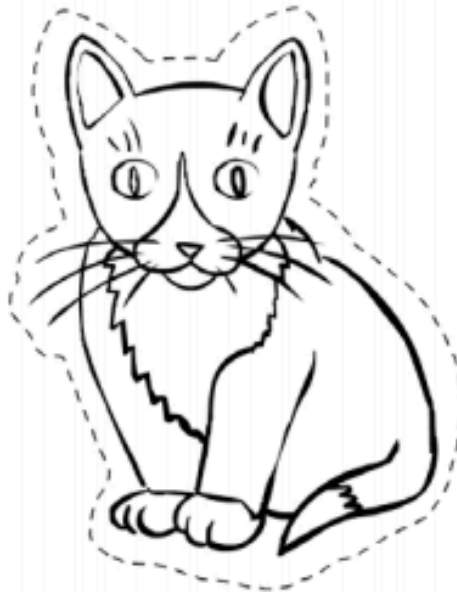
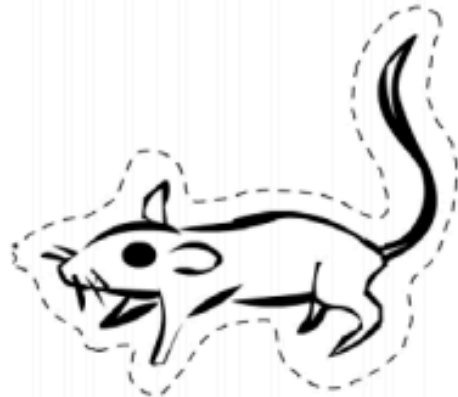
# The Little Red Hen

Pre-Kindergarten

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Animal Puppets





# The Little Red Hen

Pre-Kindergarten

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Certificate of Helpfulness

Thank you for helping!

