



## The Little Red Hen

- Introduce your child to the story of *The Little Red Hen*. We suggest some of these beautifully illustrated books, which can be found online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), or you can share the story summary found at the end of this document, which emphasizes these story elements:
  - The farm animals are so self-centered that they can't even make music together.
  - Saying "I'm sorry" and offering to help others creates a caring community.
- The music from *Once Upon a Symphony* is found on this [Spotify](#) playlist. Here's how the music helps to tell the story:
  - Symphony No. 83, Mvt. 1 by Franz Joseph Haydn: This music depicts the daily life of the farmyard community.
  - Cocks and Hens from *The Carnival of the Animals*, by Camille Saint-Saëns: This music illustrates the busyness of mother hen and her chicks.
  - Serenade for Strings in E Major, Mvt. 1 by Antonín Dvořák: This music evokes the expansive beauty of the wheat field on the farm.
  - *Simple Gifts*: This folk song celebrates how important it is for the community to come together to get the job done. Sing these lyrics with your students using the first half of the *Simple Gifts* melody.

*When there's work to be done  
Too much for you,  
Call on friends  
They'll know what to do.  
If we all work together,  
The help we provide  
Gets the job done right  
And feels good inside.*

## The Little Red Hen

## Story

*English Fairy Tale  
Adapted by Marissa Lessman  
Summary by Alyssa Crance*

Once upon a time, there was a farm with all sorts of animals – chicks, a horse, a cow, a pig, and a Little Red Hen. On that farm, the Little Red Hen and the rest of the animals spent all day lying in the warm sun and eating yummy food.

One day, the Little Red Hen noticed that the wheat in the field had grown very tall and was ready to be harvested! But the Little Red Hen’s wings weren’t strong enough to harvest the wheat by herself, so she decided to ask her farm friends Horse, Cow and Pig for help.

First, Little Red Hen went to Horse for help. “Would you like to help me gather the most perfect wheat you’ve ever seen?” she asked. But Horse refused – he was training for the Triple Crown!

Next, Little Red Hen asked Cow, “Would you like to help me harvest the most perfect harvest we’ve ever had on this farm?” But Ms. Cow was starting a new job at the Cheese factory, and couldn’t help either.

Little Red Hen tried to ask Pig, as well. “Would you like to help me gather the most beautiful wheat you’ve ever seen?” she asked. But Pig didn’t want to help, and decided to stay in her mud bath.

Dejected, Little Red Hen left. When she wasn’t looking, Horse, Cow, and Pig were so happy that they got out of helping that they celebrated at the pond nearby, skipping rocks and catching frogs. “Really, anything would be better than helping Hen harvest the wheat!” said Pig.

Desperate for help, Little Red Hen turned to her chicks for help, and they agreed! Together, they were able to harvest all of the wheat.

Afterwards, Little Red Hen returned to her kitchen to bake the best bread the farm had ever seen! With help from the chicks, Hen mixed all of the ingredients together to mix the dough until it was ready to knead. But her wings weren’t strong enough to knead the dough herself, so she decided to ask her farm friends again for help.

When she asked Horse, Cow, and Pig for help, though, they all refused again! Little Red Hen was very sad that her friends didn’t want to help, but she knew that her chicks would be able to help again. Together, they were able to knead the dough until it was ready to bake in the oven.

When the bread was finished, Horse, Cow, and Pig tried to ask Little Red Hen for some.

“Oh, hey there, Little Red Hen! What do you have in those beautiful hands of yours? Is that fresh whole wheat bread?” asked Pig.

“Why yes! It’s the most delicious bread this farm has ever seen!” said Hen.

“Yummmm!” said Cow. “Um, can we have some?”

“Yeah, yeah!” agreed Horse. “I’ve had an exhausting day of training and a piece of bread would sure be great. Carbs are good for athletes, you know!”

But Little Red Hen was conflicted – only her chicks helped her make the bread, so she didn’t think that Horse, Cow, and Pig deserved any.

“I don’t think that is very fair that they get to enjoy something delicious like this when they didn’t help me at all,” she said to her chicks.

She decided to not give any bread to them. “I am sorry,” she explained. You ARE my rootin’ tootin’ gang of buddies, but I will not be sharing my bread with y’all today. I asked for your help twice, and both times you said no.”

Horse, Pig, and Cow tried to apologize to Little Red Hen, but she stuck with her decision.

“It was hard to tell my friends that I didn’t want to share the bread with them, but I did appreciate that they apologized,” she said.

Then out of nowhere, something amazing happened! Cow, Pig, and Horse came up to Little Red Hen, and Cow had a pie in her hands.

“Little Red Hen, we’re sorry. We were being greedy by asking you to share your bread when we didn’t help,” said Cow.

They made a blueberry pie just for Little Red Hen!

“We promise from now on, whenever you need help, we’ll be there,” said Pig.

Little Red Hen was amazed! And, because of the chicks help with harvesting, mixing, and kneading the dough, there was enough bread leftover to share with Little Red Hen’s farm friends.

“I hope this has taught you a little somethin’ about pitching in and helping somebody in need, because you never know what an amazing reward you will receive when you help out,” said Hen. “Not just bread, but friendship! And with this kind of friendship, we can all live Happily Ever After!”

The End.