

## **Lesson Plan for The Little Red Hen**

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### **Sources:**

- a) This story is told by Dr. Lockett on "Tales for the Young at Heart", 2007.
- b) An adaptation of the story by Dr. Lockett is available at [www.mikelockett.com](http://www.mikelockett.com).
- c) Use any children's book of The Little Red Hen to share the story with the students.

**Audience:** Kindergarten and Primary Grades

**Goals:** The students will act out the story of The Little Red Hen. The students will understand how work is easier if everyone helps do it. The students will be able to discuss the steps of preparing wheat seeds to make bread. Finally, the students will participate in discussions on how friends should help one another.

**Illinois State Learning Standards Addressed: Language Arts: Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations. 2.B.1c** Relate character, setting and plot to real-life situations. **Social Studies: 15.D.1-A**-Demonstrate the benefits of simple voluntary exchanges

**Synopsis of the story:** The Little Red Hen lives with a pig, a dog, and a cat. The hen asks for their help planting and harvesting wheat, grinding the wheat into flour and making the flour into bread. As in the traditional story, the animals do not help with the work and do not get to share the bread at the end. Dr. Lockett's version of the story takes the plot further and describes in an almost believable fashion how a hen could actually plant, water, cut the wheat and more. This helps meet the goal of relating a fantasy character to real-life situations.

**Activity:** Have the children read or listen to the story of The Little Red Hen. Acquire or have the students make masks of the animals in the story. An alternative is to wear a sign with the name of the part they are playing. Have students act out the story. This can be done with the students doing all of the lines or by adding a narrator part. The narrator can guide the students through the story and allow them to act out their own parts during the narration.

### **Story Stretchers:**

**Cooking** - Make bread with the students to eat at the completion of the activity.

**Reading Comprehension** - To encourage retention of the story, encourage the students to tell the story to a family member at home. Ask the family member to verify that the child has done so. Find a way to reward the students that were able to complete the activity. For students that are unable to do this task at home, consider finding a person elsewhere that the student can tell the story to.

**Science** - Plant grass or flower seeds in milk cartons. Experiment by using different conditions to see what makes plants grow better.

**Writing** - Have the students draw a picture of a part of the story. Depending on the level of the students, allow them to either write what the picture is about or dictate the action depicted in their drawing to an adult.