

The Little Red Hen

A folktale from Europe

Recommended Key Stage: 1 and 2

Synopsis: The Little Red Hen finds some seeds and wants to plant them. She asks her friends for help to plant and water the seeds, but no-one will help. She then asks her friends to help her harvest the corn and grind it into flour, but no-one will help her. None of her friends will help the Little Red Hen to bake bread using the flour but they are all eager to help her eat the bread. At this point the Little Red Hen decides she doesn't want their help any longer.

Part 1: Share the Story

Listen to the story of The Little Red Hen told by Chris Smith or tell the story yourself.

Top storytelling tips:

- Learn the story beforehand so that you can be expressive and maintain eye contact with the students.
- Use actions and sound effects and encourage the students to join in.
- For younger children use a toy bird or other props to bring the story to life.
- Find one or two moments in the story to stop and ask the students to predict what is going to happen next, or how they would feel if they were the characters.

Part 2: Discuss the story

Use the questions below to begin a discussion about the story

Questions	
KS1 - What do you think of when you think of friends? - Do you have anything in common with your friends? Do you like all the same things? - Would you like to be friends with the Little Red Hen or her friends? Why/not? - How do you think Little Red Hen would have felt when her friends refused to help her?	KS2 - How did you become friends with the people around you? What was it that helped you bond? - What do you think of the Little Red Hen's friends? What advice would you give her if you could? - Did you agree with the ending of the story? How else could the Little Red Hen have responded to change the ending?

Part 3: Play the Story

KS1 Activities	KS2 Activities
Persuasion • In pairs – one is the Little Red Hen, and the other is one of the friends in the story. • The Little Red Hen character tries to persuade the other to help with the task of growing, harvesting, baking the bread while the other character should try to persuade the Little Red Hen to give up the tasks and do something else (e.g. play a game or take a trip to the beach). • What tactics will the students use to try and persuade the other to change their tasks? • Feedback ideas – was anyone persuaded to change what they were doing? What ideas did each other use (e.g. bribery, nagging)	Job Interviews • In groups discuss what the Little Red Hen needs from her friends and feedback to the class. Record their ideas in the form of a job description e.g. <i>Little Red Hen in need of a green fingered friend to help sow, weed and water growing plants. Must be handy with a scythe and know how to use a corn grinding machine.</i> • Then, begin with a teacher (and another adult if available) modelling the idea of the job interview. The job description can be used to help formulate the questions to ask the new character. See Resource A for an example of how to start the interview. • Students work in pairs, one being Little Red Hen, the other another animal applying to be her friend. After all the interviews have been completed the Hens can inform the rest of the class whether or not the animal applying was given the job and why/why not.

Part 4: Story Stimulus

Activities
Creative Challenge: - Write a letter from the animals to the Little Red Hen apologising for not helping with the bread making process - How could the Little Red Hen persuade the animals to help during the bread making process? Write a speech that the Little Red Hen could give to the animals (students in the group/class/school) to persuade them to be friendly and helpful. - Use the plot of this story and adapt for another situation – a group of animals not being friendly towards another and refusing to help but wanting the finished product. e.g. planting seeds to grow lovely flowers for a beautiful garden or a bouquet; caring for sheep in order to knit a warm woolly jumper for the winter.

Part 5: Taking it Further

Other stories on the theme of friendship and working together Rat and Cat (China) Snow White (Europe) The Winter Cabin (Asia) The Ant and the Grasshopper (Europe) Wider Curriculum Links PSHE KS1 - about how people make friends and what makes a good friendship - about how to treat themselves and others with respect; how to be polite and courteous - how to listen to other people and play and work cooperatively KS2 - what constitutes a positive healthy friendship (e.g. mutual respect, trust, truthfulness, loyalty, kindness, generosity, sharing interests and experiences, support with problems and difficulties)

Learning Resources

Resource A: Job Interview Example Little Red Hen

LRH: Good morning monkey, thank you for coming in today. I have a few questions to ask, if that's ok?

Monkey: Good morning LRH. It'll be a pleasure to answer your questions. I hope I'm just what you're looking for.

LRH: Do you have any experience in planting and caring for corn?

Monkey: Well, I have planted lots of mango trees, mostly by accident as I've dropped the stone after eating the fruit, but they've all grown really well. I'm sure corn will be similar and I'm a fast learner

LRH: Describe your approach physical labour.