

The Smart Little Red Hen

The Little Red Hen lived on a wheat farm with her 5 chicks. Every day she walked around the barnyard looking for bugs and worms to feed her children. She was a very smart hen and knew that her chicks needed protein to be healthy and strong. She also knew that worms are a good source of protein. So, she would scratch and peck and scratch and peck all day. When she found a worm, she would cluck loudly, and her babies would come running. The Little Red Hen loved fat, delicious worms. Her chicks loved worms, too.



Other animals lived in the barnyard with the Little Red Hen and her chicks. There was a cat, a rat and a pig. It was a very peaceful barnyard. Each animal was happy doing what it liked to do. The cat liked to nap on the porch in the warm sun. The rat wasn't afraid of the cat and liked to run here and there as he pleased. The pig was happy living in the sty. All he wanted to do was eat and grow fat.

One day, the Little Red Hen found some grains of wheat in the barnyard. She was used to seeing bugs and worms, but not grains of wheat. When she realized what they were, she called to all the animals, "Look what I found! Who will help me plant these grains of wheat?"



She was a very smart hen and knew that grains would give her chicks energy to play.

"Not !!" said the cat.

"Not !!" said the rat.

"Not !!" said the pig.

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“Well then,” said the Little Red Hen, “I will.” And she did.

The Little Red Hen planted the grains, watered the soil and waited for the wheat to grow. After many warm, sunny days passed, the grain grew tall. Soon it was time to harvest the wheat. The Little Red Hen needed help and called to the animals, “Who will help me harvest the wheat?”

“Not !!” said the cat.

“Not !!” said the rat.

“Not !!” said the pig.

“Well then,” said the Little Red Hen, “I will.” And she did.

The Little Red Hen got the farmer’s tools in the barn and cut down all the wheat. It was hard work, and she was very tired so she called for help again. “Who will help me take the wheat to the mill to get it ground into flour?”

“Not !!” said the cat.

“Not !!” said the rat.

“Not !!” said the pig.

“Well then,” said the Little Red Hen, “I will.” And she did.

The miller ground the wheat into flour, and the Little Red Hen carried it home. When she got to the barnyard, the Little Red Hen asked, “Who will help me make this flour into bread?” She was a very smart hen and knew that wheat is used to make bread.



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“Not I!” said the cat.

“Not I!” said the rat.

“Not I!” said the pig.

“Well then,” said the Little Red Hen, “I will.” And she did.

The farmer was gone for the day so she could use the kitchen. The Little Red Hen found a recipe and followed the directions. She was a very smart hen and knew how to read. She mixed the dough, then kneaded it. She put the dough in the baking pan and put the pan in the oven. While the bread baked, she cleaned up the kitchen and then left to check on her chicks.

The other animals paid little attention to the busy red hen. They were happy being lazy.

All of a sudden, the cat sat up on the porch. The rat stopped and stood on his hind legs. The pig got up and grunted loudly. All the animals put their noses in the air. The smell of warm bread was in the breeze. Now all the animals were excited.

The Little Red Hen smelled the bread and got excited, too. She ran to the kitchen and took the bread out of the oven. It was golden brown, but needed to cool. By the time the bread cooled, the animals were at the door. All were smacking their lips and jumping up and down.

“Who will eat the bread?” asked the Little Red Hen.



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“I will!” said the cat.

“I will!” said the rat.

“I will!” said the pig.

“No, you won’t,” she said. “I will.”

And she did.

Because she wanted her chicks to be healthy, she gave them some, too.