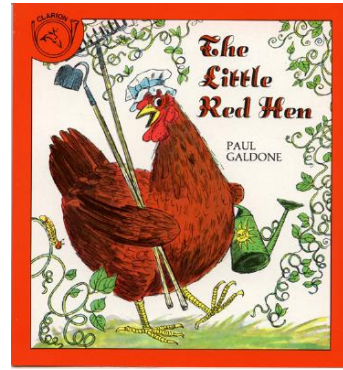


The Little Red Hen

Retold by Paul Galdone



Things to get ready:

1. If you choose to have children retell the story on a flannel board: copy, color, and glue the reproducible animals to a piece of tagboard or cardboard. Attach a piece of Velcro or sand paper to the back of each animal.
2. If you plan to have the children “act out” the story, follow the directions above and attach a craft stick or straw to the cutout animal.
3. If you plan to bake bread, bring in the ingredients.
4. If you want to set up a grinding center, bring in a selection of whole grains (corn, barley, wheat, oats, etc) for the children to grind with a mortar and pestle or another instrument which can grind the grains.
5. If you set up Little Red Hen’s Bake Shop, provide rolling pins, playdough, aprons, cups, spoons, baker’s hats etc.

Getting the children ready to listen:

Gather the children in a group in front of you. Do the finger play or song that they typically sing before you read to them.

For example:

(To the tune of “Happy Birthday)

It’s reading time right now

It’s reading time right now

Put your hands in your lap

It’s reading time right now

(Repeat as many times as you like, adding your own rules for good listening.)

Read aloud Guide

BEFORE you read the book:

1. Show the children the book and read the title.
2. Ask them if any of them has ever heard this story.
Find out what they remember.
3. Ask the children what things they help with at home.
Ask them how they help each other at school. Is it easier to do your job when everyone is helping or when you're working alone?
4. Tell them in this story Little Red Hen has a problem.
Tell them to see if they can figure out what the problem is as they listen to the story.

DURING reading:

1. When each animal says, "Not I" ask why they think the animal will not help.
2. Encourage the children to say the repeated patterns in the story with you.

AFTER reading:

1. Ask, "Do you think it is okay for the hen to decide not to share the bread with the animals that didn't help her?"
"Why or Why not?" "What would you do?"

Activities

You may want to set up the following centers or pick and choose from the following activities:

1. Have children retell the story using flannel board animal characters.
2. Have children act out the story using the characters on craft sticks in front of their faces. Someone will have to be the narrator.
3. Set up an area with different grains for the children to examine and try grinding with a mortar and pestle or other grinding tools. You can keep the grains in a sealed plastic baggie and use a round block to “grind” the grains.
4. Set out playdough, rolling pins, cups, spoons, aprons, etc in the dramatic play corner to create Little Red Hen’s Bakery.
5. Bake bread
6. Bring in a variety of different breads and have a “bread tasting” for snack. Afterward, you can graph the favorites.

Related Books

Little Red Hen, An Old Story by Margo Zemach

The Little Red Hen Makes A Pizza by Philemon Sturges

The Little Red Hen, Help Yourself, Little Red Hen by Alvin Granowsky