

The Little Red Hen

About the story

The story of *The Little Red Hen* has a wonderfully simple pattern and is an excellent story to be learned orally. You do have to watch that the children do not chant it so much that the rhythm takes over from the meaning. This story makes a very good first assembly for young children as everyone can chant it together and there are a few 'parts' to mime for those who feel confident.

Getting to know the story well

Read aloud or tell the story to the children. Use some of the following activities to help the children get to know the story well.

Discuss

- Talk about all the different tasks that the little red hen had to do in the story. Ask questions such as: *Why did the animals not help the little red hen? Do you think they would have helped if they had been asked?*
- Ask: *Why did the hen keep the bread at the end? Do you think that the hen should have shared the bread?*
- What do the children think the moral of the story is?

Drama

- Organise a hot-seat session with one child taking on the role of the little red hen. Four- and five-year-olds will want to know why she did not share the bread at the end and how she felt when the animals would not help.
- Taking on the role of the narrator, practise a dramatised version of the tale with all the children taking on the part of an animal of their choice.

Writing in role

- Ask the children to write simple messages from the other animals to the hen, saying 'sorry' for not helping her with her different tasks.

Art

- Provide the children with paint and card and help them to create animal masks to use in a performance of the story.

Watch it

Watch this story being told by Pie Corbett on the CD-Rom.

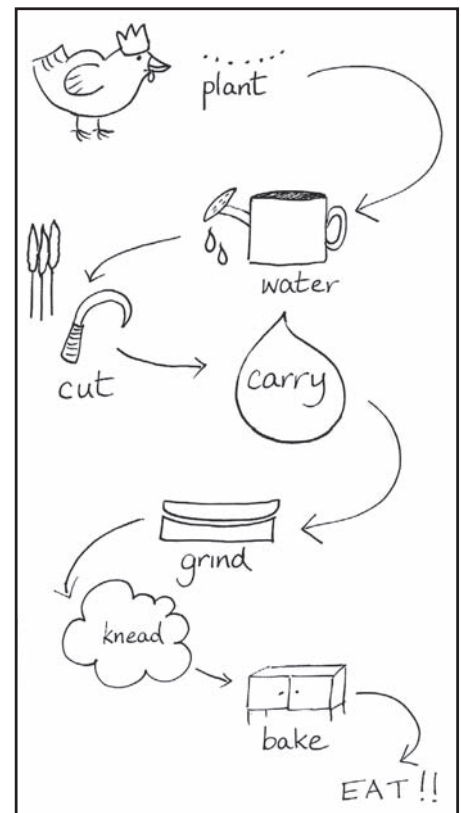


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