

The Little Red Hen

Traditional
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Once upon a time there lived a little red hen. One day, the little red hen was pecking the ground for food in the farmyard when she found a grain of wheat.

“A grain of wheat!” she said. “This grain should be planted. Who will help me plant this grain of wheat?”

“Not I,” quacked the duck.

“Not I,” barked the dog.

“Not I!” meowed the cat.

So the little red hen went into the field and dug a hold and planted the grain of wheat all by herself.

Soon the wheat began to grow, and one day it was tall and strong and yellow.

“This wheat is now ripe,” the little red hen said to herself. “Who will help me thresh it?” she asked her friends. But her friends were much too lazy.

“Not I,” quacked the duck.

“Not I,” barked the dog.

“Not I!” meowed the cat.

So the little red hen went and threshed the wheat all by herself, and she found it very hard work. When she had finished she was very tired, so she asked her friends, “Who will help me by taking this wheat to the mill to be ground into flour?”

But her friends were sunbathing in the barnyard.

“Not I,” quacked the duck.

“Not I,” barked the dog.

“Not I!” meowed the cat.

So the poor little red hen had to carry it herself. There at the mill she ground the wheat into flour. Then she took it back home and asked her friends, “Who will help me make this flour into bread?”

But her friends were tired from lying in the sun.

“Not I,” quacked the duck.

“Not I,” barked the dog.

“Not I!” meowed the cat.

The little red hen made a large loaf of bread and she baked it in the oven. Then she went out to her friends and said, “Who will help me eat this loaf of bread?”

“I will!” quacked the duck.

“I will!” barked the dog.

“I will!” meowed the cat.

“But when I asked for your help in planting the wheat and threshing the wheat and carrying the wheat and grinding the wheat and baking the bread, you always said, “Not I!”” said the little red hen. “I think I am just going to go home and share this bread with my chicks.”

And that is just what she did do.

The End