

Talking About Stories

The Little Red Hen with illustrations by Jerry Pinkney

Little Red Hen finds some seeds and wants to plant her wheat to make bread. But when she asks for help in the barnyard, all the animals say, “Not !” So, Little Red Hen must do all the work herself.

This is a wonderful book to read aloud with your child. There are many activities you can do as you read *The Little Red Hen* together. Don’t try to do all the activities suggested here the first time you read the book. But don’t worry! If your child enjoys this book, she will enjoy reading it with you over and over again. Reading and talking about stories with your child gives her opportunities to practice important skills, like making predictions and recognizing that a story has a beginning, middle and end.

So, let’s get started!

Before you begin reading *The Little Red Hen*, talk about the animals you might find on a farm. Would you find a cow on a farm? How about a dinosaur? Talk about the different chores there might be on a farm, like milking the cows, planting and harvesting the crop, or feeding the pigs. What kinds of chores are there to do in your home?

When you read the book, ask your child to point out the animals as you describe them—*little red hen, tall black goat, short brown dog*. Try describing other things you see in the pictures in the same way, like *big yellow sun* or *tiny red ladybug*. Encourage your child to shout out, “Not !” each time you come to that part of the story. Ask your child what he thinks will happen when Little Red Hen finishes all her chores.

Some new words you and your child might discover as you read this book are *cheery, thresh, mill, trudged, kneaded* and *aroma*. Talk about what these words mean and any other new words as you come to them.

After you’ve read the story, ask your child to help you bake something or help you finish another chore. Talk about how much more fun it is when you work together to get the job done. When you’ve finished, enjoy eating what you baked together, or congratulate your child on accomplishing the task.

If your child enjoys *The Little Red Hen*, look for these other books at your library or bookstore: *Little Red Riding Hood*, with illustrations by Jerry Pinkney, *Move!* by Robin Page and *A Good Day* by Kevin Henkes.



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