

THE RED HEN

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by Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley

Ages: 3 - 6; Grades: Pre-K - 1

Themes: Animals and Pets, Problem Solving, Cooperation, Friendship

Running Time: 6 minutes

SUMMARY

From the authors who brought you a fresh take on *Chicken Little* comes another retelling of the story of the busy Red Hen. Excited about finding a splendid new cake recipe, the Red Hen sets off to solicit help from her friends. Soon enough, she discovers that they aren't interested in helping. Rolling up her sleeves, the Red Hen takes on the task herself. When her masterpiece is done, you can guess who eats it!

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make predictions.
- Students will practice fluency and sight words.
- Students will discuss the moral or lesson of the story.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Give students a mini-lesson on making predictions. Tell them that strong readers make predictions about what will happen next in the story, based on clues. Make connections by giving students examples of real-life situations where they can make a prediction (e.g. *dark clouds are clues that it might rain*).

Invite students to talk to partners about predictions that they can make about real-life situations. After students have practiced making predictions about real-life situations, read a short section of the book *The Red Hen* or another text and encourage students to make one or two predictions. Then, tell students that they will be watching the movie *The Red Hen*. Encourage students to watch and listen to see if their predictions are confirmed. Stop the movie periodically to give students time to make several more predictions.

Discuss generosity with students. Define the term and generate a list of examples of generosity, with class input.

Guiding questions:

- Why is generosity important?
- How can generosity help make our classroom/neighborhood/city/country/world a better place?
- When are some times that we are generous in the classroom? At home?

Tell students that they are going to see a movie with some characters that don't show a lot of generosity. Stop the movie periodically to ask students what they would do or think instead, if they were showing generosity.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Guide students through determining the lesson or moral of the story at the end of the movie. Ask:

- What did the Red Hen learn about the cat, the rat, and the frog?
- How do you think the cat, the rat, and the frog felt at the end of the story? Why do you think they felt that way?
- What do you think that the cat, the rat, and the frog learned from their actions in the story?
- What do you think the cat, the rat, and the frog will do the next time the Red Hen asks them for help?

Conclude with an interactive writing activity in which you work with the students to write the moral or lesson of the story.

Do a shared reading activity using the big book available from Scholastic Publishing, *The Little Red Hen* or scribe the text from the movie *The Red Hen* on chart paper. The story's repetition will give students the chance to increase their fluency; while more advanced readers will be able to read the non-repetitive parts as well. As the class gets proficient with the reading, emphasize using expression for the dialogue. Use a pointer to track the text, and invite student volunteers to point after modeling for the first one or two readings. Point out sight words that students have learned.

Bake the Simply Splendid Cake in cupcake form for, or with, the class. If baking with the class, emphasize the idea of everyone pitching in to help. Give each student an un-iced cupcake to decorate. After students have finished decorating and icing, have them trade cupcakes with a classmate to reinforce the concept of giving and sharing. Enjoy the cupcakes together!

OTHER RELATED TITLES FROM WESTON WOODS:

Chicken Little, by Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley

The Emperor's New Clothes, by Hans Christian Andersen, retold and ill. by Nadine Westcott

Rapunzel, by Paul O. Zelinsky

The Three Billy Goats Gruff, by P.C. Asbjornsen and J.E. Moe, ill. by Marcia Brown

The Three Little Pigs, by James Marshall

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs! by Jon Scieszka, ill. by Lane Smith

The Ugly Duckling, by Hans Christian Andersen, adapted and ill. by Jerry Pinkney