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## A Lesson on The Little Red Hen

### by Meghan Mcaleenan

**Grade Level:** Grade 4

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** The Little Red Hen, Narrative Writing, Preparedness, Theme

**Lesson Description:** In this lesson students will read the story "The Little Red Hen". After reading, they will answer a couple of vocabulary questions on the story and then participate in a discussion with fellow students on the meaning of the story. The story is about being prepared, and hopefully all of the students will be able to pick that up on their own, but the discussion is not about whether they get that answer, it is about making inferences from the text and interacting with other students. After completing the discussion, students will be asked to write their own story about "being prepared", creating their own characters and following the form of a narrative. They should be using their knowledge of how a story is structured, and implementing proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

#### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.4.4c: Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### The Little Red Hen

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**Content:** Once upon a time, there was a little Red Hen, who lived on a farm all by herself. An old Fox, crafty and sly, had a den in the rocks, on a hill near her house. Many nights the Fox lay awake and thought how good that little Red Hen would taste. But he could not catch the little Red Hen. She was too wise for him. Every time she went out, she locked the door behind her. When she came in again, she locked the door behind her and put the key in her pocket, where she kept her scissors.

At last, the old Fox thought up a way to catch the little Red Hen. Early in the morning, he said to his old mother, 'I'll be bringing the little Red Hen for supper. Then he took a big bag and walked to the little Red Hen's house. The little Red Hen was just coming out of her door to pick up a few sticks for kindling wood. The old Fox hid behind the woodpile. As soon as she bent down to get a stick, into the house he slipped, and scurried behind the door.

In a minute, the little Red Hen came quickly in, and shut the door and locked it. 'I'm glad I'm safely in,' she said. Just as she said it, she turned round, and there stood the ugly old Fox, with his big bag over his shoulder. How scared the little Red Hen was! She dropped her apron full of sticks and flew up to the big beam across the ceiling. There she perched, and she said to the old Fox, 'down below, You may as well go home, for you can't get me.'

'Can't I, though!' said the Fox. 'So, what do you think he did?' He stood on the floor underneath the little Red Hen and twirled round in a circle after his own tail. And as he spun, and spun, and spun, faster, and faster, and faster, the poor little Red Hen got so dizzy watching him that she couldn't hold on to the perch. She dropped off, and the old Fox picked her up and put her in his bag and started for home.

He had a very long way to go, up hill, and the little Red Hen was still so dizzy that she did not know where she was. When the dizziness began to go off, she whisked her little scissors out of her apron pocket, and snip, snip! She cut a little hole in the bag. Then she poked her head out and saw where she was, and as soon as they came to a good spot, she cut the hole bigger and jumped out herself. There was a great big stone lying there, and the little Red Hen picked it up and put it in the bag as quick as a wink. Then she ran as fast as she could till she came to her own little farmhouse. She went in and locked the door with the big key. She laughed.

The Fox went on carrying the stone and never knew the difference. He was excited when he got home. 'Let's cook the Hen!' he said to his mother. 'When I open the bag, hold the cover off the pot and I'll shake the bag so that the Hen will fall in. Then pop the cover on, before she can jump out.'

The Fox lifted the big, heavy bag up until it was over the open pot, and gave it a shake. 'Splash! Thump! Splash!' In went the stone and out came hot water.

The little Red Hen lived happily ever after, in her own little farmhouse.

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## Task 1: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** difference **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author of the story writes "The Fox went on carrying the stone and never knew the difference." What does the word "difference" mean in this sentence?

- A:** not the same
- B:** similarity
- C:** the color
- D:** mood

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the word "difference" correctly

- A:** Can she difference the mountain in time?
  - B:** He feels like a difference.
  - C:** There is a difference between the clouds in the sky and the clouds in the painting.
  - D:** Is the boy's difference happy or sad?
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** sly **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author says "An old Fox, crafty and sly, had a den in the rocks, on a hill near her house." What does the word "sly" mean in this sentence?

- A:** mean
- B:** sneaky
- C:** rude
- D:** funny

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the word "sly" correctly?

- A:** He was always making everyone laugh with his jokes, so the other kids called him sly.
  - B:** The song must be sly to win the award.
  - C:** The painting is very sly.
  - D:** She had to be sly when she came home after curfew, or her parents would find out.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** perched **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author says "There she perched, and she said to the old Fox, down below..." What does the word "perched" mean in this sentence?

- A:** hurt
- B:** sat
- C:** cried
- D:** ran

**Question:** Which of the following sentences uses the word "perched" correctly?

- A:** Sara perched on the fence to watch the race.
  - B:** He perched the egg in his cooking competition.
  - C:** Danny was perched from the game after hurting another player.
  - D:** The cat perched when chasing the mouse.
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## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and and two peer responses for each topic.

### 1 - The Big Idea

What is the main idea of the story? Why was this story written? Use evidence from the story to explain your reasoning.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** The story Te Little Red Hen tells of how the little red hen was able to get away from a fox that wanted to eat her because she was prepared. Write your own story that shares the importance of being prepared like in The Little Red Hen. Create two of your own characters and have one big event that shows how being prepared helps at least one of the characters. You can make the story as long as you want, but you need to introduce the characters, create a conflict, and then resolve the conflict. You should be using proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.?  
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