



## A Lesson on The Little Red Hen by Mary Claire Murphy

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Reading, Language Arts, Hard Work, Farm, Vocabulary, Farm Animals

**Lesson Description:** In this lesson students will read *The Little Red Hen* individually and then reread it in groups. Students will determine the definition of vocabulary words given to them and use this information to answer the questions. The class can come together to discuss the questions or post to an online environment set up by the instructor. Student will also complete an essay. This lesson can take up to two days to complete, and the instructor can share examples of the essays after being graded.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

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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

by

**Content:** There were many animals on the farm. They lived there happily. Every day the farm family took care of them.

The little Red Hen was in the farmyard with her chickens when she found some grains of wheat. That is a small seed that can grow into a plant.

Who will plant this wheat? she said. Please plant it. Then we can have more grain when the plant grows.

Not I, said the Goose.

Not I, said the Duck.

I will, then, said the little Red Hen. She was disappointed. The other animals should have helped. But she planted the grains of wheat by herself. She watered it, too. Every day she checked the plants to see how they grew. After a month, the wheat grew into plants.

The wheat plants had many more seeds. Those can be planted or used to make food. When the wheat was ripe she said, Who will take this wheat to the mill? The mill is a place where people grind the seeds. It turns into flour. Then you can make bread from the flour.

Not I, said the Goose.

Not I, said the Duck.

I will, then, said the little Red Hen, sadly. I will do it myself. So then she took the wheat to the mill.

When she brought the flour home she said, Who will make some bread with this flour?

Not I, said the Goose.

Not I, said the Duck.

I will, then, said the little Red Hen. She was disappointed again.

When the bread was baked, she said, Who will eat this bread?

I will, said the Goose.

I will, said the Duck.

No, you won't, said the little Red Hen. You did not help. I will eat it myself. Cluck! Cluck! She ate it with her children, the chickens.

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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:** Disappointed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "disappointed" mean in the sentence, "She was disappointed. The other animals should have helped."?

- A: Upset
- B: Cheerful
- C: Afraid
- D: Excited

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "disappointed" correctly

- A: Her dad was disappointed about the good grades.
- B: The students were disappointed because school had been canceled.
- C: His mom was disappointed that he broke the window while playing soccer in the house.
- D: The teacher was disappointed with her students because they got a great report from the art teacher.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Plant **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word "ripe" mean in this sentence, "When the wheat was ripe she said..."?

- A: Not ready
- B: Eaten
- C: Rotten
- D: Ready to collect or eat

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "ripe" correctly?

- A: All the fruit was in the trash because it was ripe
- B: The pumpkin was covered in bugs because it was ripe.
- C: The orange tasted sweet because it was ripe.
- D: I found a banana that was so ripe that I had to throw it away.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Farmyard **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does "farmyard" mean in this sentence, "The little Red Hen was in the farmyard with her chickens...."?

- A: School
- B: Store
- C: A yard
- D: Car

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "farmyard" correctly?

- A: The farmyard is where someone sleeps.
- B: The farmyard is where the animals live.
- C: I went to the farmyard to learn about writing.
- D: The class took cover in the farmyard when the storm came.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Grain **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** In our story, the author writes, "Then we can have more grain when the plants grow. What is the meaning of the word "grain"?

- A: Seed of a wheat plant
- B: Food
- C: Tree
- D: Sand

**Question:** In which of these sentences is the word "grain" used correctly?

- A: The grain made the bread tough to eat.
- B: The grains is my least favorite thing about going to the beach.
- C: The grain of the wood was course and rough.
- D: The grain that the students planted grew into wheat crops.

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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 two peer responses for each topic. Class may also do a class discussion answering these questions.

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### 1 - Does your hard work pay off?

Has there been a time in your life when you have worked really hard for something and then in the end not be rewarded? Do you think that you would act like the Red Hen if someone who did not help want some of your reward??

### 2 - Would you rather be?

Would you rather be like Red Hen and work hard and in the end be rewarded or be like the other farm animals and be lazy but want part of the reward? Why. Explain your reasoning.?

### 3 - Do you agree?

Do you agree that Red Hen kept the bread for herself and her chickens? Should she have shared the bread with Duck and Goose? Why or why not?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Write at least two paragraphs about how you think that the story would be different if the other farm animals would have help Red Hen. Be sure to explain why it would have changed the outcome of the story. Try to use some vocabulary words in your essay.?

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