



A Lesson on The Little Red Hen by Mary Dang

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: hen and fox

Lesson Description: The goal of this lesson is to give students the opportunity to use the reading and writing habits they've been practicing on a regular basis to absorb deep lessons from the Hen and Fox. By reading and rereading the passage closely, and focusing their reading through a series of questions and discussions about the text.

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.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.6: Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., wildlife, conservation, and endangered when discussing animal preservation).

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: 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.

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: Sly **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: An old Fox, crafty and sly, had a den in the rocks, on a hill near her house

- A: proud
- B: tricky
- C: tiny
- D: weak

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

- A: A footman, thinking no one saw him, was drinking on the sly what was left in the glasses.
 - B: Even the sly rose petal lips looked pale.
 - C: She was too sly to move.
 - D: He was sly of his daughter for getting an A on her spelling test.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: The little Red Hen was just coming out of her door to pick up a few sticks for kindling wood.

WordPhraseTier: 2

Question: The author in our story says "The little Red Hen was just coming out of her door to pick up a few sticks for kindling wood." What does the word "kindling" mean in this sentence?

- A: extinguish
- B: adding
- C: starting
- D: ending

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

- A: In a few minutes the kindling was burning.
 - B: The fire department was called in to kindling the blaze.
 - C: The next chapter addresses the possibility of kindling war.
 - D: After kindling a bottom border, she changed to the red icing.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: There she perched, and she said to the old Fox, down below, "You may as well go home, for you can't get me." **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of the story says "There she perched..." what does the word perch mean in this sentence?

- A: to walk
- B: to sit or rest
- C: to stand
- D: to swim

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

- A: He began to perched the room.
 - B: Alex perched very still and waited.
 - C: He perched to an island that was not far away.
 - D: Jane perched up and down waiting for her mom to come.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: When the dizziness began to go off, she whisked her little scissors out of her apron pocket, and snip, snip! **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author of the passage says "When the dizziness began to go off, she whisked her little scissors out of her apron pocket, and snip, snip!" What does whisked mean in this sentence?

- A: quickly
- B: slowly
- C: moderately
- D: viciously

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

- A: Katie whisked them away to the reception room.
 - B: Josh whisked to the finish line.
 - C: Max was very tired and whisked into class on time
 - D: "Let's not whisk to conclusions," Dean said
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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 - Did the Fox complete his mission?

The Fox was very determined to catch the Hen, how do you think he did?

2 - Let's infer

How do you think the Fox felt after opening the bag?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on a different outcome for the Fox and Hen.?Make sure to provide specific examples, and additional obstacles these two characters could encounter.

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