

The Little Red Hen

1 Once upon a time there was a little red hen who lived on a farm with a cow, a horse, and a cat.

2 In the springtime, the farmer was busy planting the fields. The little red hen was delighted to find some seeds of wheat, and she hurried home to show the other animals.

3 The little red hen said, “Who will help me plant the wheat?”

“Moooo. Not I,” said the cow.

“Neigh. Not I,” said the horse.

“Meow. Not I,” said the kitty cat.

So the little red hen said, “Then I will plant the seeds of wheat all by myself.” And so she planted the seeds of wheat.

4 In the summertime, the wheat grew tall and golden in the sun, and the little red hen asked her friends, “Who will help me cut the wheat?”

“Moooo. Not I,” said the cow.

“Neigh. Not I,” said the horse.

“Meow. Not I,” said the kitty cat.

So the little red hen said, “Then I will cut the wheat all by myself.” And so she cut the stalks of wheat.

5 In the autumn, the days grew cooler, and the farmer was busy bringing in the harvest. The little red hen asked her friends, “Who will help me take the wheat to the mill?”

“Moooo. Not I,” said the cow.

“Neigh. Not I,” said the horse.

“Meow. Not I,” said the kitty cat.

So the little red hen said, “Then I will take the wheat to the mill all by myself.” And so she took the wheat to the mill. The miller ground the wheat into flour, and then the little red hen brought the big bags of flour back home.

6 In the winter the snow fell and the days were short and very cold. The little red hen asked her friends, “Who will help me bake the bread?”

“Moooo. Not I,” said the cow.

“Neigh. Not I,” said the horse.

“Meow. Not I,” said the kitty cat.

So the little red hen said, “Then I will bake the bread all by myself.” And so she took the flour, mixed it and kneaded it, and put it in the oven.

7 And while the bread was baking, it smelled wonderful! The cow and the horse and the kitty cat came running when they smelled that fresh bread.

8 The little red hen took the bread out of the oven and asked her friends, “Who will help me eat the bread?”

“Moooo. I will!” said the cow.

“Neigh. I will!” said the horse.

“Meow. I will!” said the kitty cat.

9 But the little red hen said, “Oh, no, no, no! I planted the seeds of wheat, I cut the wheat, I took the wheat to the mill and brought home the flour, and I baked the bread, all by myself. Now I will eat the bread - all by myself!”

10 And so she did, and it was delicious!