

CHARACTER COUNTS!® WEEK

Little Red Hen

Once upon a time there was a Little Red Hen who lived on a farm with a Lazy Dog, a Sleepy Cat, and a Silly Yellow Bird. One day, the Little Red Hen found some wheat seeds and wanted to plant them.

She asked her friends, "Who will help me plant these seeds?"

"Not I," said the Lazy Dog. "Planting seeds sounds like work."

"Not I," said the Sleepy Cat. "It is time for my morning nap."

"Not I," said the Silly Yellow Bird. "I might eat the seeds by mistake."

"Then I will plant them all by myself," said the Little Red Hen with a sigh.

"Hmph," said the Little Red Hen. She carefully planted the seeds and tended them all through the spring. When the seeds were grown, it was time to cut the wheat. "Who will help me cut the wheat?" asked the Little Red Hen.

"Not I," said the Lazy Dog. "Cutting wheat sounds like work."

"Not I," said the Sleepy Cat. "It is time for my morning nap."

"Not I," said the Silly Yellow Bird. "I might eat the wheat by mistake."

"Hmph. Hmph," said the Little Red Hen. Then the Little Red Hen worked from sun up to sun down all by herself harvesting the wheat. When she finished, she was very tired and went to bed.

The next day she got up bright and early because there was work to be done. "Who will help me take the wheat to the mill to make flour?" she asked.

"Not I," said the Lazy Dog. "Taking the wheat to the mill sounds like work."

"Not I," said the Sleepy Cat. "It is time for my morning nap."

"Not I," said the Silly Yellow Bird. "I might eat the flour mill by mistake."

"Really, Silly Yellow Bird? You might eat a flour mill?" asked the Little Red Hen.

"Oh. Well, no," said the Silly Yellow Bird, "I would not eat a flour mill. I just don't want to do it."

"Hmph! Hmph! Hmph!" said the Little Red Hen. She then dragged the heavy wheat to the flour mill and ground the wheat into flour all by herself. It was very late when she got home from the mill, and she went to bed quite tired.

The next day she woke up early and tried one more time to get her friends to help her.

"Who will help me make this flour into bread?" she asked hopefully.

"Not I," said the Lazy Dog. "Making bread sounds like work."

"Not I," said the Sleepy Cat. "It is time for my morning nap."

"Not I," said the Silly Yellow Bird. "I just don't feel like it."

She was so disappointed she could not even "Hmph." Instead, she baked the bread herself. When the bread was almost done, the yummy smell from the baking filled the farm. Soon the Lazy Dog, the Sleepy Cat, and the Silly Yellow Bird were at her doorstep.

"Can we help you eat the bread?" they asked.

"I don't know," said the Little Red Hen. "Lazy Dog, eating bread sounds like work. Sleepy Cat, isn't it your morning nap time? Silly Yellow Bird, you might eat too much by mistake."

When the Little Red Hen said that, her friends realized they had not been very helpful and now they were sorry. It was not fair that she did all of the work.

"We're sorry, Little Red Hen," her friends said. "We promise to help you from now on! We will do the dishes and clean the yard so you can rest. You have worked very hard and we want to help!"

And they did, so the Little Red Hen shared her delicious, piping hot bread. From then on, everybody shared the work, and everybody shared the bread.