

THE LITTLE RED HEN

By Heather Forest

Pre-Kindergarten

Outcome:

The students will learn about sharing, helping, and cooperation.

Materials:

Popsicle sticks, glue sticks, Animal Puppet worksheet, scissors, crayons

One small and one large circular sponge, yellow paint, shallow tray for paint, white paper, orange and black markers or crayons

Chow Mein noodles, butterscotch or other flavor “Hard Shell” topping, mini marshmallows, paper bowls, napkins, refrigerator

Optional: Shake-It-Up Tales (Margaret Read MacDonald, August House, 2000)

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introductory Activity:

Teacher asks students to raise their hands if they have ever asked someone else to help them. Then teacher asks students to keep their hand raised if the person they asked for help did not help them. Ask these students to share their story about needing help and not receiving help. Then ask the other students to share their experience of receiving help when they needed it.

Teacher Reading of Story:

Teacher tells students they will listen to a story about a farm animal that needed help. They need to listen carefully to determine which animals were helpful and which animals were not helpful.

Comprehension:

- Who did the little Red Hen live with?
- What did the little Red Hen find while pecking at the ground?
- What did the dog, cat, and mouse say when asked to help?
- What did the little Red Hen say when no one would help her?
- What did the hen say when the other animals wanted to eat the cake?
- Did the hen share the cake with the other animals?

Interpretation:

- Why did the dog, cat, and mouse not want to help the hen?
- If you were one of these animals, would you have helped the hen?
- What lesson did dog, cat, and mouse learn?
- How does working together make working fun?
- Name some ways you can be helpful at school and at home.

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Follow Up Activities:

- What tasks did the hen need help with? Name all of them.
 - plant the wheat
 - pull the weeds
 - cut the wheat
 - take the wheat to the mill
 - grind the wheat into flour
 - bake the cake
- Pantomime these different tasks.
- Draw a picture of one of these tasks.
- Make Popsicle stick puppets and act out the story.
Materials: Popsicle sticks, glue sticks, Animal Puppet worksheet, scissors, crayons
- Divide the students into four groups: hens, cats, dogs, and mice. Ask students to sing songs they know by using only the sound that their animal makes. Teacher asks all students to sing one song in unison, using their group's animal sound.
- Rhyming Words
Teacher re-reads story with students stressing words that have a rhyming word in the next sentence. Teacher omits the rhyming word and has the class provide the rhyming word.
 - A little Red Hen lived in a **house**, with a frisky dog, a cat, and a _____.
- Certificate of Helpfulness
 - Each day for a week, class gathers in a circle and shares how teacher and students have been helpful to each other.
 - Teacher presents helpful students with a Certificate of Helpfulness.

Extensions:

- Farmer and Chicken game
Teacher chooses one student to be the farmer. The other students are the chickens. The chickens walk behind the farmer. At some point, the farmer yells, "It's feeding time!" and the students run back to a predetermined spot. The farmer places any students that he/she tags into the "hen house". The hen house may be a space behind a chalk line or barrier. These students stay in the hen house during the next turn.
- Sponge Paint Chicks
Materials: One small and one large circular sponge, yellow paint, shallow tray for paint, white paper, orange and black markers or crayons
 - Place paint in tray.
 - Students dip the large sponge in the paint and place the sponge on their paper to make a print. That is the chick's body.
 - Students use the smaller sponge, dip in paint, and place it above and to the left of the larger circle, touching the larger circle. The small circle serves as the chick's head.
 - After the paint dries, students draw a beak, eyes, and webbed feet.
 - Students can draw in a farm background if they choose.

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Extensions cont.:

- Alternate Art Activity

Materials: Washable yellow paint, shallow tray, black and orange markers or crayons, white paper

Students dip their thumbs into paint and print on paper.

When paint dries, students draw chick's beak, eye, wing, legs and webbed feet. Picture is a profile of a chick with the beak to the left of the print and the wing to the right of the print. The eye is off center to the left.

- Hen's Nest Snack

Materials: Chow Mein noodles, butterscotch or other flavor "Hard Shell" topping, mini marshmallows, paper bowls, refrigerator

1. Spread the noodles in the bottom of a paper bowl.
2. Squeeze the topping over the noodles.
3. Refrigerate until cold and stiff.
4. Add mini marshmallows as eggs.
5. Eat and enjoy.

- Bake a cake using a cake mix. Compare the ease of this method to the Little Red Hen who had to plant the wheat, harvest the wheat, and grind the wheat to make the flour. Ask, "Who will help me bake this cake?" "Who will help me eat this cake?"

- Read *The Little Old Woman Who Hated Housework* p. 115, Shake-It-Up Tales, Margaret Read MacDonald, August House 2000. Compare and contrast this tale where the little old woman gets too much help, with the story of The Little Red Hen.

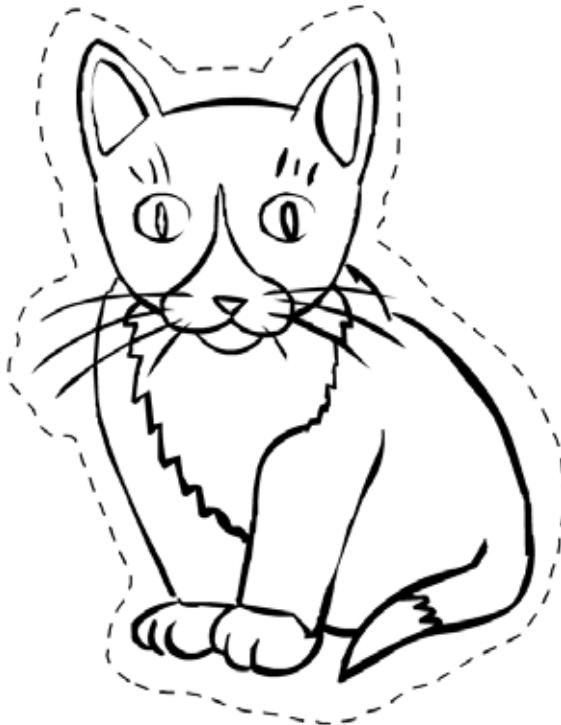
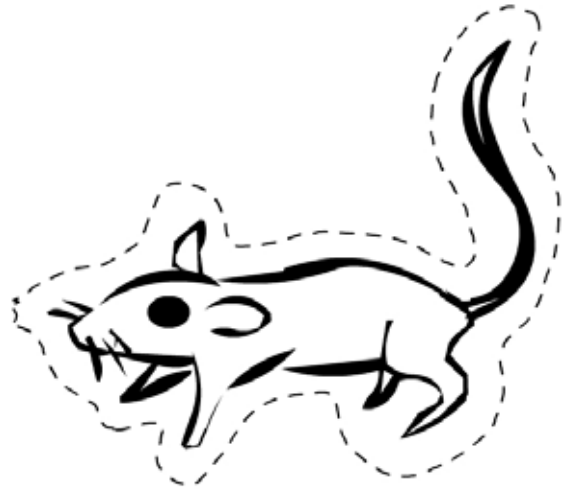
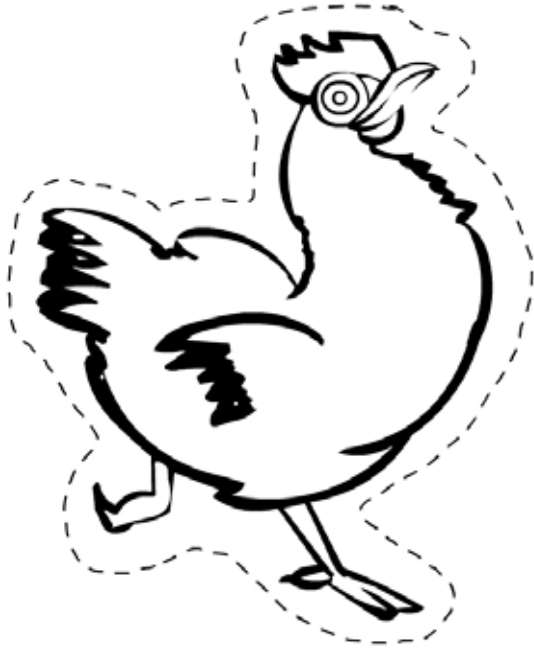
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Name _____ Date _____

Animal Puppets



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Certificate of Helpfulness

Thank you for helping!

