

Tell It Again! **2**

Easy-to-Tell Stories with Activities for Young Children

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The Little Red Hen



IN THIS VERSION OF A FAMOUS ENGLISH TALE, A LITTLE RED HEN ASKS HER THREE LAZY COMPANIONS FOR HELP, BUT THEY REFUSE AND SHE MUST DO ALL THE WORK HERSELF.

Once upon a time, right here in this county, there lived a Little Red Hen who shared her home with three friends—a dog, a cat, and a mouse. Little Red Hen enjoyed working. She kept a neat little house at the edge of a farmer's lush green field. She also had a garden plot beside her house.

One day, when Little Red Hen was planting her garden, she found some grains of wheat left from the farmer's harvest. Little Red Hen was very excited to find the grains of wheat. She ran inside to tell her friends.

At the doorway to her house, Little Red Hen found Beagle, a plump dog.

Beagle was stretched across the entrance. He spent most of the day sleeping and dreaming of chasing rabbits through the woods. He never actually chased them, he just slept and dreamed, dreamed and slept, right there in the doorway. He never moved from his favorite spot.

Pretend to sleep.

Inside, stretched across the windowsill, was Calico, a big, fat cat. She spent most of her day in that position, snoozing and stretching in the warm sun.

She dreamed of chasing mice in the barn. She never actually chased them, she just snoozed and stretched, stretched and snoozed, right there on the windowsill. She never moved from her favorite spot.

Pretend to snooze and stretch.

Pretend to nibble and nap.

Inside the kitchen, stretched across the entrance to a mouse hole, was Brown Mouse. He spent most of his day napping and nibbling, nibbling and napping. He dreamed of finding a large chunk of cheese. He never actually searched for any, he just napped and nibbled, nibbled and napped, right across the entrance to the mouse hole. He never moved from his favorite spot.

Use a sleepy voice.

Little Red Hen was so excited about finding the grains of wheat, she rushed inside the house, hopped over Beagle in the front door, and said in her loudest cluck, "Look at the grains of wheat I found! The garden plot is ready for planting. Who will help me plant this wheat?"

"Not I," said Beagle, as he rolled over and went back to sleeping.

Pretend to yawn.

"Not I," said Calico, as she yawned and went back to snoozing.

Close your eyes.

"Not I," said Brown Mouse, as he wiggled his whiskers and went back to napping.

"Then I will," said Little Red Hen, as she rushed outside with the hoe under her wing and planted the seeds.

After many days, there was a fine stand of wheat. Little Red Hen watered the wheat, pulled the weeds, and watched her crop grow in the garden plot beside the little house. One day, when the wheat was ready, Little Red Hen rushed excitedly into the little house to tell her friends that the wheat was ready to be cut. "Who will help me cut the wheat?" she asked.

"Not I," said Beagle, as he rolled over and went back to sleeping.

Use a sleepy voice.

"Not I," said Calico, as she yawned and went back to snoozing.

Pretend to yawn.

"Not I," said Brown Mouse, as he wiggled his whiskers and went back to napping.

Close your eyes.

"Then I will," said Little Red Hen. And, she rushed outside to harvest the wheat.

She gathered the stalks of wheat. Then, Little Red Hen rushed excitedly into the little house to tell her friends that the wheat was ready to take to the mill to be ground into flour. "Who will help me take the wheat to the mill?" she asked.

"Not I," said Beagle, as he rolled over and went back to sleeping.

Use a sleepy voice.

"Not I," said Calico, as she yawned and went back to snoozing.

Pretend to yawn.

"Not I," said Brown Mouse, as he wiggled his whiskers and went back to napping.

Close your eyes.

"Then I will," said Little Red Hen, as she rushed outside to take the wheat to the mill to be ground into flour. When Little Red Hen returned from the mill, she rushed into the house to tell her friends that the wheat was now flour. "Who will help me bake the flour into bread?" she asked.

- Use a sleepy voice.** "Not I," said Beagle, as he rolled over and went back to sleeping.
- Pretend to yawn.** "Not I," said Calico, as she yawned and went back to snoozing.
- Close your eyes.** "Not I," said Brown Mouse, as he wiggled his whiskers and went back to napping.

"Then I will," said Little Red Hen, as she rushed into the kitchen and began to bake the bread.

- Pretend to sniff the air.** While the bread was baking, Beagle smelled the delicious aroma of baking bread and awoke from his sleeping and dreaming, dreaming and sleeping. He got up from the doorway and came to sit by the stove and wait for the bread.
- Pretend to sniff the air.** Calico smelled the wonderful smell and stopped her snoozing and stretching, stretching and snoozing. She got up from the windowsill and came to sit by the stove and wait for the bread.
- Pretend to sniff the air.** Brown Mouse smelled the heavenly scent of bread baking and stopped his napping and nibbling, nibbling and napping. He got up from the mouse hole and came to sit by the stove and wait for the bread.
- Pretend to slice and butter bread.** Little Red Hen took the warm bread from the oven, sliced it, spread butter over each warm slice and watched it melt. "Who will help me eat this bread?" asked Little Red Hen.
- "I will," said Beagle.
- "I will," said Calico.
- "I will," said Brown Mouse.

"No," said Little Red Hen. "You did not help me plant the grains of wheat.

You did not help me water and weed the wheat. You did not help me cut the wheat. You did not help me take the wheat to be milled into flour. You did not help me bake the bread. Now, you will not help me eat it." And, she ate the whole loaf of freshly baked bread all by herself.

But the next time Little Red Hen asked for help, Beagle awoke from his sleeping and dreaming, and dreaming and sleeping, and he helped. And the next time Little Red Hen asked for help, Calico awoke from her snoozing and stretching, stretching and snoozing, and she helped. And the next time Little Red Hen asked for help, Brown Mouse awoke from his napping and nibbling, nibbling and napping, and he helped.

Now, Little Red Hen loves to tend her garden with her friends, and she loves to bake bread with her friends.



Storytelling Tips

❏ Use motions to create the illusion of the sleeping dog; the stretching, snoozing cat; and the nibbling, napping mouse.

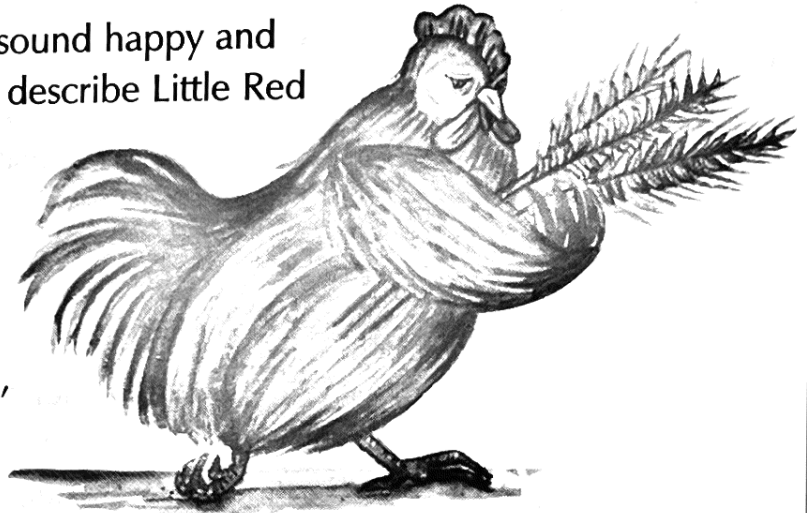
❏ Use your voice to sound happy and enthusiastic as you describe Little Red Hen enjoying her work.

❏ Speak slowly to emphasize the lazy replies from Beagle, Calico, and Brown Mouse. When the Little Red Hen says,

“Then, I will,” make the phrase hurried and excited.

❏ Encourage the children to join you in the recurring phrases, “Not I,” said the Beagle and the Little Red Hen’s words, “Then I will.”

❏ Speak like the animals. For example, “Woof, woof, not I,” said Beagle. “Meow, meow, not I,” said Calico. “Squeak, squeak, not I,” said Brown Mouse. “Cluck, cluck, then I will,” said Little Red Hen. Try to use a very different voice for each character.



Questions

- ❏ Do you ever feel lazy? What do you do when you feel like that?
- ❏ Do you think Little Red Hen should share the bread with Beagle, Calico, and Brown Mouse even though they didn’t help her?
- ❏ Tell us about a time when you helped cook something.

WHAT IS WHEAT?

Materials

Wheat on the stalk (from a farmer, health food store, or bakery)

Metal bowl

Large metal mixing spoon

Steps

- ❖ If you live in a farming area, ask a farmer for wheat from the fields, or purchase wheat on the stalk from a health food store or bakery.
- ❖ Show the wheat to the children in its rawest form.
- ❖ Put the grains of wheat in the metal bowl and crush them with the back of the metal spoon. Show the children how wheat can be ground up to make flour.
- ❖ Give each child a chance to crush some wheat.



TRY TO REMEMBER

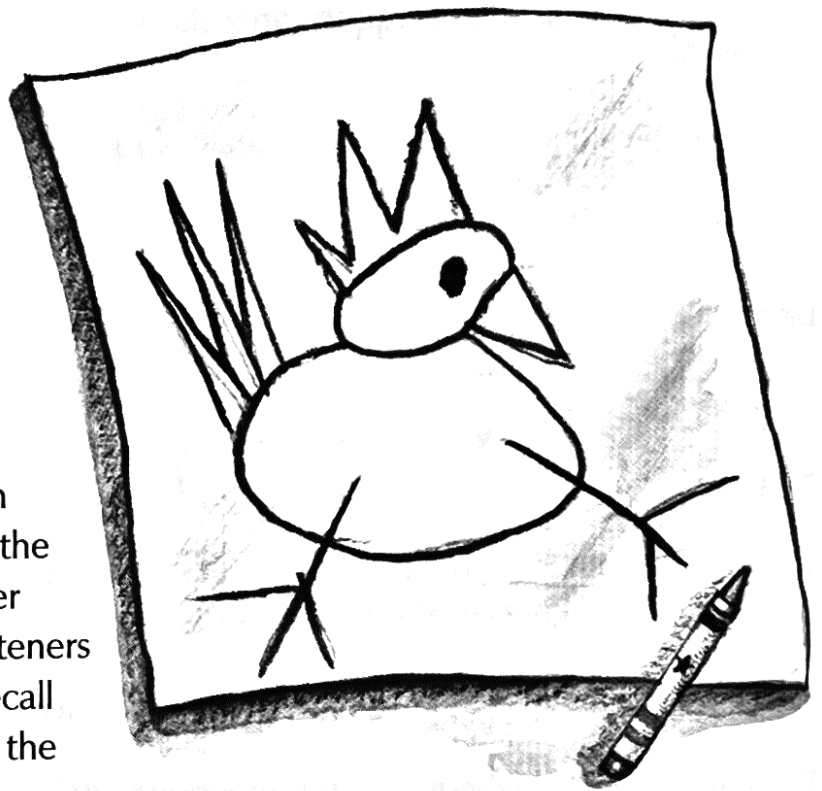
Materials

Paper

Markers

Steps

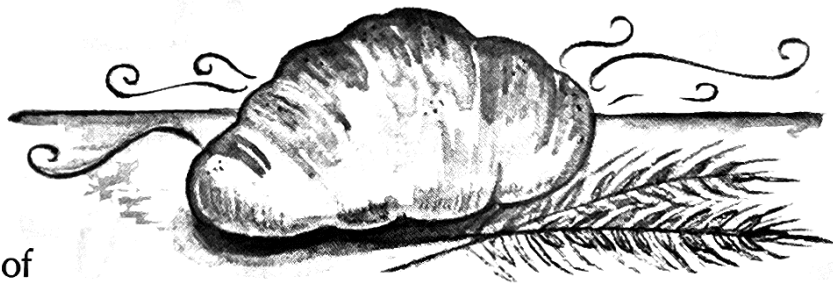
- ❑ Let the children help you recall the story. Remember that younger listeners will probably recall fewer events of the story.
- ❑ Encourage the children to draw a sketch of each character (Little Red Hen, Beagle, Calico, and Brown Mouse) or write their names on a sheet of paper.
- ❑ Retell the story and help the children arrange the pictures of the characters in the order in which they appeared.



LITTLE RED HEN'S BREAD

Materials

Sheet of paper	Mixer
Marker	Spatula
Box of bread mix	Measuring cup
Water	Measuring spoons
Vegetable oil	Bread pan
Bowl	Breadboard
Oven	



Steps

- 1 On the sheet of paper, print the simple instructions for baking bread from the mix.
- 2 Read the instructions aloud.
- 3 Invite the listeners to participate by saying, "Who will help me measure the flour?" The children can reply, "I will."
- 4 Continue with each step of measuring the ingredients and mixing the bread dough with your helpers.
- 5 Bake the bread.
- 6 Turn the baked bread out onto a breadboard for the children to smell and ask, "Who will help me eat this bread?"

Henny-Penny and Four Fine-Feathered Friends



IN THIS VARIATION OF A POPULAR TALE, HENNY-PENNY THINKS THE SKY IS FALLING WHEN AN ACORN HITS HER ON THE HEAD, AND SHE SETS OFF WITH HER FRIENDS TO WARN THE KING.

Once upon a time, there was a pretty little red hen named Henny-Penny. She lived in a barnyard with other fine-feathered friends. The farmer's wife scattered lots of good corn around the barnyard. The barnyard was circled with big oak trees where the fine-feathered friends could rest in the shade.

One day, Henny-Penny was peck, peck, pecking along, eating the corn the farmer's wife had scattered in the barnyard when suddenly something hit her right on top of her head. Plunk! Henny-Penny raised up from her peck, peck, pecking, and said, "What was that?"

Wince and touch your head.

She looked up into the sky and said at the top of her clucking voice,

"Something just hit me on the head. The sky must be falling. Goodness, gracious me! It must be that the sky is falling! I must go and tell the King so that he can warn all the animals and tell all the people in the land."

Look up in a puzzled way.

So, she set off on the path walking as fast as she could to find the King to tell him that the sky was falling.

Soon, Henny-Penny met Cocky-Locky. Cocky-Locky said, "Where are you going in such a hurry, Henny-Penny?"

Rushing along, Henny-Penny said, "I am off to see the King."

"Why are you going to see the King?" asked Cocky-Locky.

"The sky is falling!" said Henny-Penny. "I am going to tell

Look up in a
puzzled way.

the King so that he can warn all the animals and tell all the people."

Looking up at the sky, Cocky-Locky said, "I see the sky. It is not falling."

"Yes, it is," said Henny-Penny. "A piece of it hit me on the head."

With that explanation, Cocky-Locky said, "I will go with you." And he strutted along behind Henny-Penny, who rushed along as fast as her little legs would carry her.

Soon they met Ducky-Lucky, who asked, "Where are you going in such a hurry?"

"The sky is falling!" said Cocky-Locky.
"We are going to tell the King so that
he can warn all the animals and tell
all the people."

Look up in a
puzzled way.

Looking up at the sky, Ducky-Lucky said, "I see the sky. It is not falling."

"Yes, it is," said Cocky-Locky. "A piece of it hit Henny-Penny on the head."

With that explanation, Ducky-Lucky said, "I will go with you." And he waddled along behind Cocky-Locky, who strutted along after Henny-Penny, who rushed along as fast as her little legs would carry her.

Soon they met Turkey-Lurkey, who asked, "Where are you going in such a hurry?"

"We are going to see the King," said Ducky-Lucky.

"Why are you going to see the King?" asked Turkey-Lurkey.

"The sky is falling!" said Ducky-Lucky. "We are going to tell the King so that he can warn all the animals and tell all of the people."

Looking up at the sky, Turkey-Lurkey said, "I see the sky. It is not falling."

Look up in a puzzled way.

"Yes it is," said Ducky-Lucky. "A piece of it hit Henny-Penny on the head."

With that explanation, Turkey-Lurkey strolled behind Ducky-Lucky, who waddled behind Cocky-Locky, who strutted behind Henny-Penny, who rushed along as fast as her little legs would carry her.

Soon they met Goosey-Loosey, who asked, "Where are you going in such a hurry?"

"We are going to see the King," said Turkey-Lurkey.

"Why are you going to see the King?" asked Goosey-Loosey.

"The sky is falling!" said Turkey-Lurkey. "We are going to tell the King so that he can warn all the animals and tell all the people."

Looking up at the sky, Goosey-Loosey said, "I see the sky. It is not falling."

Look up in a puzzled way.

"Yes, it is," said Turkey-Lurkey. "A piece of it hit Henny-Penny on the head."

With that explanation, Goosey-Loosey said, "Then, I will go with you." And Goosey-Loosey waddled behind Turkey-Lurkey, who strode behind Ducky-Lucky, who waddled behind Cocky-Locky, who strutted behind Henny-Penny, who rushed along as fast as her little legs would carry her.

Use a sly, calm voice.

Soon the five friends met Foxy-Loxy. "Where are you five feathered friends going in such a hurry?" asked Foxy-Loxy.

"We are going to see the King," they all said in unison.

"Why are you going to see the King?" asked Foxy-Loxy.

"The sky is falling!" said the five feathered friends in one voice. "We are going to tell the King so that he can warn all the animals and tell all the people."

"Do you know the way to the King's castle?" asked Foxy-Loxy.

Point to your right.

The five feathered friends looked at each other and said in unison, "No, but we think that it is this way."

Point to your left.

Foxy-Loxy said, "Well, let me lead you. I know the way."

So, Foxy-Loxy pointed his nose in a new direction and Goosey-Loosey, Turkey-Lurkey, Ducky-Lucky, Cocky-Locky, and Henny-Penny followed him.

They walked over hill and valley, up and down, until they came to a cave. Foxy-Loxy said, "Through this cave on the other side is the castle where the King lives."

The five feathered friends thanked Foxy-Loxy for pointing the way. But, they never found the King. And they never got to tell him that the sky was falling. Henny-Penny, Cocky-Locky, Ducky-Lucky, Turkey-Lurkey, and Goosey-Loosey were never seen again. But, five different kinds of feathers were spotted all around Foxy-Loxy's cave.



Storytelling Tips

- ❖ Speak Henny-Penny's words in an excited, frightened voice.
- ❖ Add animal sounds by saying, "Cluck, cluck, the sky is falling!" "Cock-a-doodle-doo, the sky is falling!" "Quack, quack, the sky is falling!" "Gobble-gobble, the sky is falling!" "Honk, honk, the sky is falling!"
- ❖ Simplify the story for younger listeners by using fewer feathered friends.
- ❖ Ask the children to say the names of Henny-Penny's friends as they form a line to follow Henny-Penny.
- ❖ Use a hand motion to signal to the children to repeat phrases with you. For example, every time you point to the sky the children say, "The sky is falling."

Questions

- ❖ Why do you think all of Henny-Penny's friends believed her when she said the sky was falling?
- ❖ If the five feathered friends had reached the King, do you think he would have believed them?
- ❖ Have you ever been alarmed by something that later turned out to have a simple explanation?



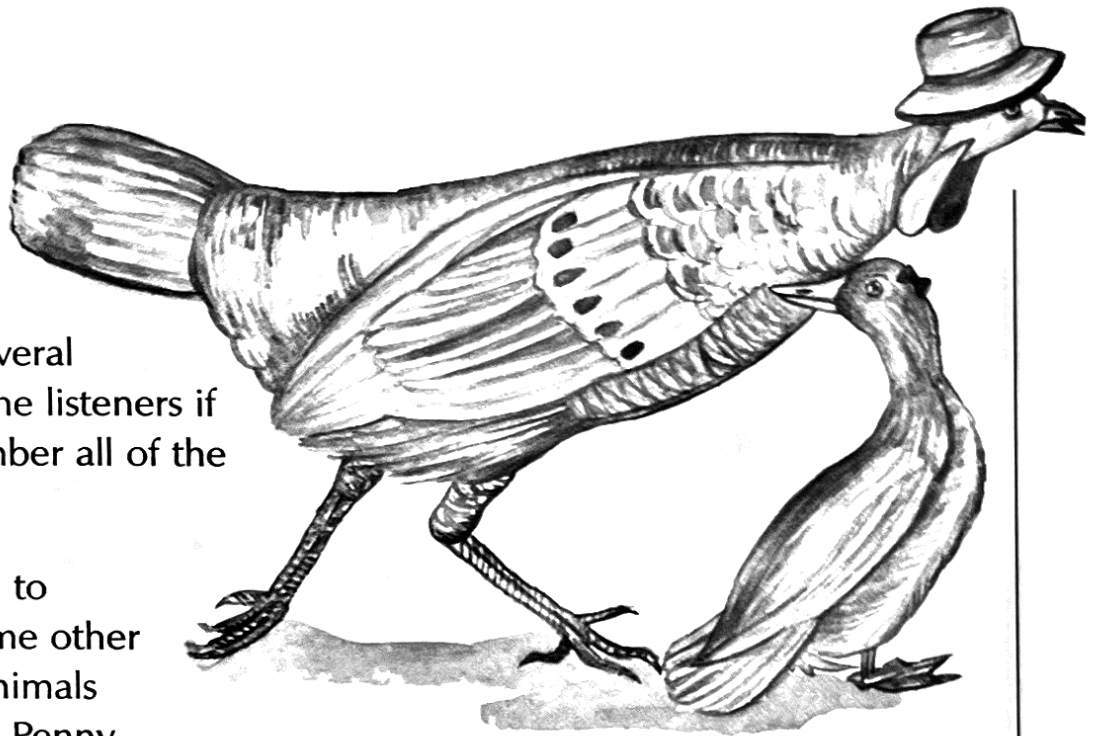
BARNYARD ANIMALS

Materials

None needed

Steps

- ◆ After telling the story several times, ask the listeners if they remember all of the characters.
- ◆ Invite them to think of some other barnyard animals that Henny-Penny could have met in addition to Cockey-Locky, Ducky-Lucky, Turkey-Lurkey, and Goosey-Loosey. You might add Piggy-Wiggy, or Kitty-Katty, or Sheepy-Sleepy.
- ◆ Retell the story, adding the children's new characters.
- ◆ Let younger children retell the story by changing the characters' names—for example, by reversing the words in a name (Lucky-Ducky), by simplifying the names (Duck), or by making up new names (Quacky).



GOSSIP GAME

Materials

Sheet of paper and pencil

Steps

- ④ Write down a phrase such as, "Henny-Penny got so excited and scared all the other fine-feathered friends." Make the phrase long enough that it is hard to remember. Fold the paper and put it away. Do not show it to the children.
- ④ Invite the children to sit in a circle. Whisper the phrase in the first child's ear and ask her to "pass it on" by whispering it to the next child and so forth until everyone has both heard and repeated the phrase.
- ④ When the last child whispers it to you, say it aloud just the way you heard it from him. Unfold the paper, read the phrase that you started with, and compare the two versions.

