

# NATIONAL YOUNG READERS WEEK

An Annual Celebration of Reading Created by Pizza Hut® and The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

## *The Little Red Hen and the Ear of Wheat*

by Mary Finch

Bold, full-page illustrations adorn each page of this slightly different version of a traditional folktale about hard work and second chances.

### Read

#### Before:

Before you read:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *The little red hen worked really hard planting, growing and harvesting the wheat. What would you like to plant and grow? What would you do with what you grow?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- *I wonder what will grow from those seeds?*

#### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

#### Rare Words in *The Little Red Hen and the Ear of Wheat*:

- grain: a small, hard seed from a food plant such as wheat, corn, rye, or oats
- plant: to put or set in the ground for growth
- soil: the ground as producing vegetation or as cultivated for its crops
- scratched: to dig, scrape, or tear out or off with or as if with the nails, claws
- shone: to give forth or glow with light
- harvest: to gather a crop
- mill: a building equipped with machinery for grinding grain into flour
- basket: a container made of twigs, thin strips of wood, or other flexible material woven together
- ground: to reduce to fine particles or dust by grinding
- miller: a person who owns or operates a mill
- fine: very small, as in powder or dust
- flour: the finely ground meal of grain
- dough: flour combined with water, milk, etc., for baking into bread, cake, etc.
- yeasty: containing any of various small, single-celled fungi used in the baking of bread
- loaf: a shaped mass of baked bread

## Rare Words in *The Little Red Hen and the Ear of Wheat*: *continued*

- crusty: to have a crisp or thick crust
- straight: without bend, angle or curve
- delicious: highly pleasing to the senses, especially taste or smell

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Who lives in the small brown house?
- What color is the roof?
- What did the hen find lying on the ground? What is she going to do with it?
- Did the rooster help her scratch the soil? How about the mouse?
- What did the hen do after she planted the grain?
- Describe what the ear of wheat looked like after the sun shone on it.
- Where did the hen take the grain after it was harvested?
- What did the miller turn the wheat into?
- What did the hen make with the flour?
- Who wanted to help the hen eat the bread, even though they had not helped?
- What happened when she found another grain of wheat?
- Who scratched the soil to plant the grain? Who watered it?
- Describe the colors in the rooster's tail.

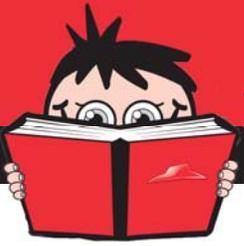
## Do

### Putting Things in Order: Sequence Cards

**You will need:** copies of the Sequential Cards, scissors, construction paper and glue

After reading the story, talk about all the steps the hen took throughout the story. Hand each student a copy of the sequential cards, glue, scissors and a piece of construction paper. Allow them enough time to cut out each rectangle. Next, have the students place the cards in correct order. Re-read the story, allowing the students to check their answers. Once the cards are in sequential order, have the students glue each rectangle onto the construction paper. If desired, have the students retell the story.

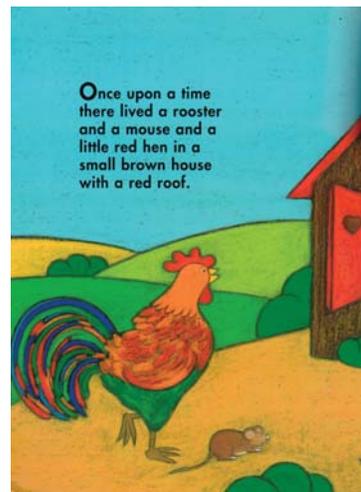
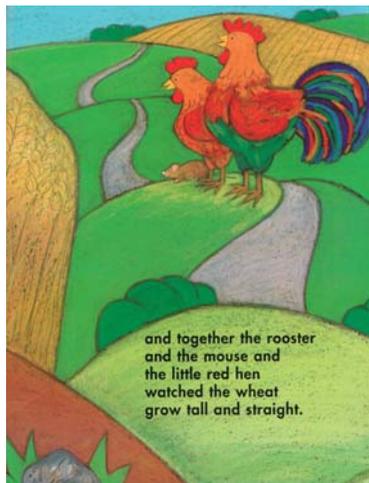
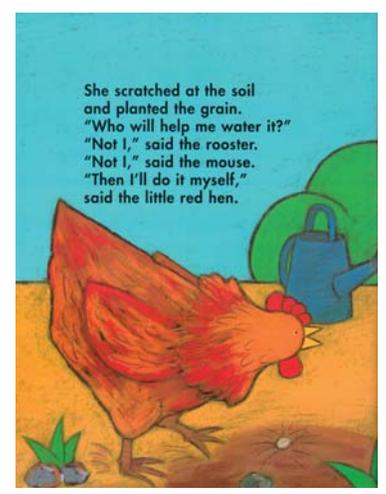
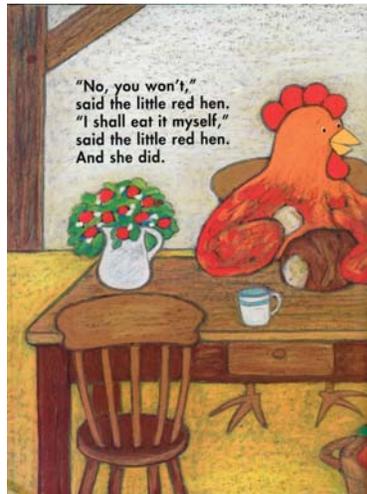
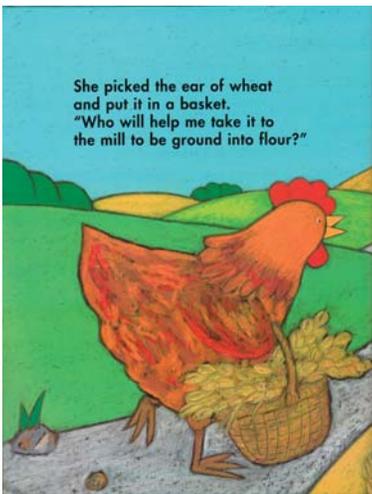
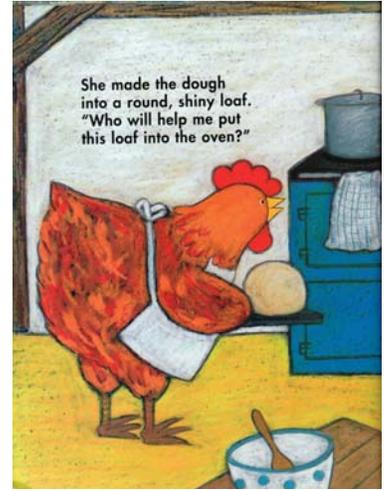
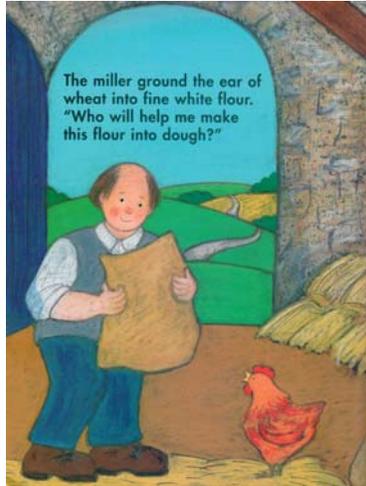
*If desired, bake a loaf of wheat bread by using the recipe located in the back of the book.*



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## The Little Red Hen and the Ear of Wheat Sequence Cards



She picked the ear of wheat and put it in a basket.  
"Who will help me take it to the mill to be ground into flour?"

The miller ground the ear of wheat into fine white flour.  
"Who will help me make this flour into dough?"

She made the dough into a round, shiny loaf.  
"Who will help me put this loaf into the oven?"

"No, you won't," said the little red hen.  
"I shall eat it myself," said the little red hen.  
And she did.

She scratched at the soil and planted the grain.  
"Who will help me water it?"  
"Not I," said the rooster.  
"Not I," said the mouse.  
"Then I'll do it myself," said the little red hen.

and together the rooster and the mouse and the little red hen watched the wheat grow tall and straight.

Once upon a time there lived a rooster and a mouse and a little red hen in a small brown house with a red roof.