

## Literature Connections—The Little Red Hen

1. Read a version of The Little Red Hen (such as, Little Red Hen a Whitman Book), giving each character a different voice.
2. Discuss briefly:
  - a. The saying “Many hands make light work.” A task is easier when everyone helps.  
**Division of labor**: does everyone have chores in your family?
  - b. **Justice/fairness**—Is it fair to make one person do all the work? It’s more fair (and fun!) for everyone to help, and everyone shares the benefits. **A family is a team**—they can work together and accomplish so much more, and each person will have so many more benefits (belonging, self-esteem, success, happiness . . .).
3. **Make** a batch of bread, everyone helping. Be sure to include **kitchen math and science**: count each ingredient as you add it, count the strokes or seconds as you stir; watch what happens as you add each ingredient, especially the yeast, and as it bakes. While it is raising:
4. **Review**: Read and finish the story “Little Red Hen 2” by ST, by gluing a grain of wheat in the empty box. **Count** the chicks at the end. Print an extra copy to cut out the pictures and **sequence** them.
5. **Re-enact** the story of the Little Red Hen with puppets.
6. Do the **chicken dance**
  - a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb9FwlubyIQ>
  - b. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xmV5uHWNag>
  - c. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5slspLfmXM>
7. **Freeplay** until the bread is ready to knead. You may wish to provide toys that go with the theme . . . chickens. You can hide and find plastic eggs, do egg relays, make blanket nests to sit on while watching Looney Tunes character Foghorn Leghorn cartoons . . .
8. While kneading the bread it is ok to **play** with it (just be sure to keep hands floured, wear aprons, and accept a little mess)! If you wish to, you can **make** chicken rolls or birdie knots with the bread dough:
  - a. Chicken rolls: make a large ball of dough for the body, a smaller ball of dough for the head. Place them on a greased cookie sheet, or in a greased muffin tin. If they are on a cookie sheet, you can use a little extra dough to make a beak and a wing. Toothpicks can be legs. A raisin, nut, or chocolate chip/candy can be the eye.
  - b. Birdie knots: take a ball of dough and roll it with your hands into a long straight snake. Then tie a knot. Bake on a greased cookie sheet, or in a greased muffin tin.
9. Extensions (while the bread is baking, or another time):
  - a. Finish the “grains booklet” by ST—
    - i. **Glue** a grain of wheat on the second page (you may **draw** a horizontal line and **color** below it, to indicate soil on which to glue the grain of wheat or another grain). Notice the **historic** way of cutting grains (for thousands of years), and the modern way.
    - ii. **Glue or draw** a stalk of wheat or other grain grass on page 3.
    - iii. Note how ways of grinding wheat have changed through **history**, especially the energy sources: human labor, wind or water, electric power.
    - iv. **Glue** pictures or labels of different kinds of hot and cold cereals on page 5. In some countries “cereal” is another name for grain.
    - v. **Glue** pictures of different kinds of breads on page 6.
    - vi. **Glue** pictures, labels, or actual pastas on page 7.

- b. Look at the “grain to groceries sequence” page by ST. Cut the pictures apart, mix them up, and see how fast you can **put them in order**. If you have more than one set, more than one person can play. If you have at least two sets, you can play **Concentration**.
- c. Note that corn is actually a grain.
  - i. **Play** popcorn and pretzels (pretzels are made from wheat flour): when the leader calls out “popcorn”, everyone jumps up and down like popcorn popping. When the leader calls out “pretzels”, everyone stands still and folds their arms, like a pretzel.
  - ii. **Make** popcorn, if you like—perhaps to watch a movie, such as “Chicken Run”, or “Chicken Little”.
- d. **Compare** other Red Hen stories:
  - i. Lazy Fox and Red Hen a WhitmanTell-a-Tale book
  - ii. The Cock, the Mouse and the Little Red Hen A Rand McNally Junior Elf Book
- e. **Listen** to and/or look at other stories/books/non-fiction about chickens.
- f. **Compare** (taste, shape, texture, etc) many kinds of breads, especially yeast breads vs quickbreads.
- g. **Compare** different kinds of grains and their uses.
- h. Plan a **field trip** to a farm or farm store to look at chicks and chickens—if you are brave and have means, raise a chicken or two, or a few.
- i. “The Little Red Hen Story is an old folk tale of the fable type, most likely of Russian origin.” (Wikipedia) Read and talk about other fables, talk about **meaning** and **compare**.
- j. Famous chicken sayings and what they **mean**:  
<https://www.backyardchickens.com/articles/common-chicken-sayings-idioms-other-funny-things-we-say.47662/>
- k. **Compare** other famous chicken characters:
  - i. <https://www.ranker.com/list/list-of-chicken-characters/reference>
- l. Birds
- m. Farm animals
- n. Chickens Aren’t the Only Ones by Ruth Heller: other animals that lay eggs
- o. All things, or stories about things, **Red**
- p. Discuss **real** vs **pretend**.
- q. Check out other kinds of mills and/or milling processes . . .  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_types\\_of\\_mill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_types_of_mill)