

Discovering the Real Me

Student Textbook 3

Living Happily Ever After

For children 8 to 9 years of age

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Contents

Dear Reader	1
Chapter 1	
The Little Red Hen	3
Chapter 2	
Cat in the Corner	7
Chapter 3	
A Piece of Straw	11
Chapter 4	
The Crane’s Gratitude	15
Chapter 5	
The Lost Ax	19
Chapter 6	
Try, Try Again	23
Chapter 7	
The Lost Horse	29
Chapter 8	
Be Careful What You Wish For—You Might Get It!	33
Chapter 9	
Stone Soup	37

Chapter 10

The Giant Turnip 41

Chapter 11

The Place of Brotherhood..... 45

Chapter 12

The Tiger’s Whisker 49

Chapter 13

Taro, Son of the Dragon 53

Chapter 14

The Owl..... 59

Chapter 15

Roses and Diamonds, Snakes and Toads 63

Chapter 16

The Princess and the Pea 69

Chapter 17

Out of the Ashes 73

Sources and Origins of the Stories 77

Chapter 1

The Little Red Hen

Hard Work Is Rewarded

A farmer and his daughter were sitting by the fireside on a cold winter night. The farmer asked the daughter to go fetch some more wood for the fire.

“I’m too tired, Father,” she replied. “You do it.”

The father said, “Are you enjoying this fire?”

The daughter smiled, “Yes, I am!”

“Then, if you want to continue enjoying the fire, you need to go fetch the wood. But first, I will tell you a story about the Little Red Hen and her friends who didn’t want to help her.”

The Little Red Hen

It was spring, and the Little Red Hen was looking for her friends in the farmyard.

“Who would like to help me plant the wheat, so we can enjoy some bread in the summer?” she asked.

“That’s so far away,” replied the duck.

The pig agreed, “I just want to relax. It’s spring, after all.”

The cow added, “I like fresh-baked bread, but I want to enjoy this beautiful day.”

“Not I, not now,” said the dog.



So the Little Red Hen planted the wheat all by herself.

Many weeks passed, and the wheat had grown so tall, it was ready to be cut. The Little Red Hen walked busily around the yard, looking for help. It was a warm summer day, and the animals were on their way to the pond to cool off.

“It’s too hot,” they said to her. “Come, get cool with us. Forget about the wheat.”

The wheat needed to be harvested right away, so the Little Red Hen couldn’t join them. Instead, she did all the work herself.

A few days later, the Little Red Hen wanted to thresh the wheat to prepare it to be made into flour. Once again, she asked her barnyard friends, and all they did was make excuses. She threshed the wheat herself, and put it into bags to be taken to the mill where it would be made into flour.

“I need some help to carry these heavy bags to the mill. Who can help me?” she asked.

What do you think they said?

They said, “We’re too busy having fun. We can’t help you.”

The Little Red Hen put the bags in a wheelbarrow and went off to the mill all by herself. When she returned, she turned on the oven and announced that it was time to bake the bread.

“Come one, come all, it’s time to bake the bread!”

Did anyone come to help her bake the bread? No, no one came. So she did it all by herself. She mixed the ingredients and put the loaves into the oven.

The sweet smell of the baking bread filled the yard. The duck, the pig, the cow, and the dog greeted the Little Red Hen gleefully.

“Looks like the bread is ready. We can’t wait to taste it. It smells so good!”

What do you think the Little Red Hen said?

“I’m sorry for you,” she said. “None of you were willing to help with the work to make this bread, so I did it all myself. Now I will eat this all by myself, too!”

And she did!

The farmer’s daughter enjoyed the story. She jumped out of her father’s lap and fetched the wood for the fire.

She said, “Whenever you need help, dear Father, remind me of the story of the Little Red Hen! You work so hard, I want to do things for you!”



QUESTIONS

1. Why did the father decide to tell his daughter a story by the fireside?

2. What did the Little Red Hen plan to make in the beginning of the story?

3. The animals didn't help her. They always had an excuse. What is an excuse, and what are some excuses the animals used in the story?

4. There were a lot of steps to take to make the bread. What were they?

5. Do you think the Little Red Hen should have let the animals eat the bread? Why or why not?

EXERCISE

Some time today or tonight, offer to help your mother, father, or teacher. You will make him or her very happy!