

Name _____



Accountability Counts

The Little Red Hen was a hardworking bird who believed in taking responsibility for her own success. One day, while pecking at the ground, she found some grains of wheat. She immediately saw their potential. If she planted them, cared for them, and turned them into flour, she could bake a delicious loaf of bread. But she also knew the work would take time and effort. Wanting help, she asked her barnyard friends, "Who will help me plant the wheat?"

"Not I," said the Dog, wagging his tail lazily. "Not I," said the Cat, stretching in the sun. "Not I," said the Duck, splashing in the pond.

The Little Red Hen sighed but did not complain. She planted the wheat by herself, watered it, and watched it grow.

As the wheat grew tall and golden, she asked again, "Who will help me harvest the wheat?"

"Not I," said the Dog. "Not I," said the Cat. "Not I," said the Duck.

Though disappointed, the Hen knew she couldn't rely on others. She harvested the wheat herself. When it was time to grind it into flour, she asked for help once more, but received the same lazy responses.

By the time she had mixed the dough and baked the bread, the barnyard smelled wonderful. The Dog, the Cat, and the Duck came running.

"Who will help me eat this bread?" asked the Little Red Hen.

"I will!" shouted the Dog, the Cat, and the Duck eagerly.

But the Hen shook her head. "No, you did not help me with the work, so you will not share the reward."

The story of The Little Red Hen teaches an important lesson about personal accountability. She did not sit around and wait for help, nor did she make excuses. She took responsibility for her work and enjoyed the results. Meanwhile, the other animals learned that ignoring responsibilities can lead to missed opportunities.

The Little Red Hen shows that success comes from effort and determination. Those who do not contribute should not expect rewards. This teaches readers that taking responsibility for one's own actions is a key part of life.