

# The Little Red Hen

Linda Crowther retells this traditional story. Download her versions of 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Town Mouse and Country Mouse' too

**Once upon a time, there was a little red hen who lived on a farm with her farmyard friends, Little Grey Dog, Little Brown Horse and Little White Goose.**

**One day, Little Red Hen found some grains of corn on the ground and decided to plant them.**

**She asked her friends, 'Who will help me plant this corn?'**

**'Not I,' barked Little Grey Dog, 'I'm too busy looking for bones.'**

**'Not I,' neighed Little Brown Horse, 'I'm too busy lying in the sun.'**

**'Not I,' quacked Little White Goose, 'I'm too busy splashing around.'**

**'Then I'll do it all by myself,' said Little Red Hen and she planted the corn in the ground and gave it some water.**

**All summer long the wheat grew and grew until it was ready to cut.**

**'Who will help me cut the wheat?' asked Little Red Hen.**

**'Not I,' said Little Grey Dog, 'I'm having a nap.'**

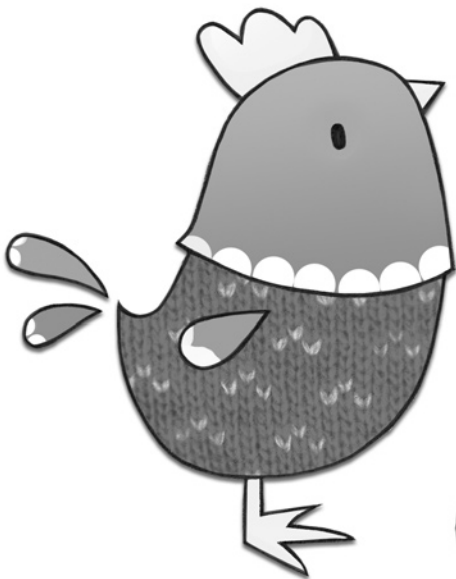
**'Not I,' said Little Brown Horse, 'I'm eating my carrots.'**

**'Not I,' said Little White Goose, 'I'm having a swim.'**

**'Then I'll do it all by myself,' said Little Red Hen and she cut the wheat all by herself.**

**Then she had to take the wheat to the mill to be ground into flour.**

**'Who will help me carry the wheat to the mill?' asked Little Red Hen.**



**'Not I,' replied Little Grey Dog, 'I'm too tired.'**

**'Not I,' replied Little Brown Horse, 'I'm too hot.'**

**'Not I,' replied Little White Goose, 'I'm too worn out.'**

**'Then I'll do it all by myself.' So Little Red Hen took the wheat to the mill and ground it into flour.**

**At last, Little Red Hen had everything she needed to make some bread.**

**'Who will help me bake this bread?' asked Little Red Hen.**

**'Not I,' complained Little Grey Dog, 'It's too hard.'**

**'Not I,' complained Little Brown Horse, 'It takes too long.'**

**'Not I,' complained Little White Goose, 'It's too much work.'**

**'Then I'll do it all by myself,' said Little Red Hen. She mixed the flour into a dough and kneaded it. Then she put it into the oven to bake.**

**When the bread was ready, there was a delicious smell wafting through the farm.**

**'Who will help me eat this bread?' asked Little Red Hen.**

**'I will,' said Little Grey Dog, licking his lips.**

**'I will,' said Little Brown Horse, shaking his mane.**

**'I will,' said Little White Goose, patting her tummy.**

**'Oh no, you won't,' said Little Red Hen, 'I'll eat the bread all by myself!'**

**And she did.**

**Little Grey Dog, Little Brown Horse and Little White Goose all felt very cross with themselves.**

**If only...**