



STUDY GUIDE FOR

# THE LITTLE RED HEN

Adapted by Kevin M Reese

## TO THE PARENT/TEACHER

This guide has been provided to help children benefit the most from experiencing a live theatrical event. The activities described herein are only suggestions. Please feel free to pick and choose the things that will most benefit your children in the time you have available. It is our hope that the performance is not only entertaining, but is a valuable educational experience as well.

You will find that some of the activities contained in this guide are geared for younger, some for older children-- but there is something for everyone. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute any of the enclosed pages and activities for your personal use.

# Theatre Etiquette

- 1> Attending a theatrical performance is a social event. Just as the way you act (and behave) in church or temple is different than the way you act on the playground, there is certain behavior that is appropriate in a live theatre. Discuss with your children the types of behavior that is appropriate when they are members of an audience.
- 2> Explain that they need to act differently when they're watching a live play than if they're watching a movie in a theatre. Live actors can hear the audience's laughter and applause as well as their talking to their neighbor or rustling papers. And their responses-- appropriate or not-- really do affect the actors' performance. The end line is: How would they want to be treated if THEY were up on the stage.
- 2> Audience Participation. Normally, audience members should never talk during the play--and especially not talk directly to the actors (it distracts other audience member and may even make the actors forget their lines). But the plays by KMR Scripts are unique in that we offer the audience special opportunities to participate in the production. They will probably not be asked to come onstage, but there are various times throughout the production where the actors will ask them questions or ask them to use their imaginations and pretend they are animals, trees, or people. At those times we encourage the audience to participate and/or answer them wholeheartedly (but not in an overly loud yell). This has become one of the hallmarks of KMR Scripts productions.

# Vocabulary

Below are some of the more complex words and phrases the students will encounter in the play:

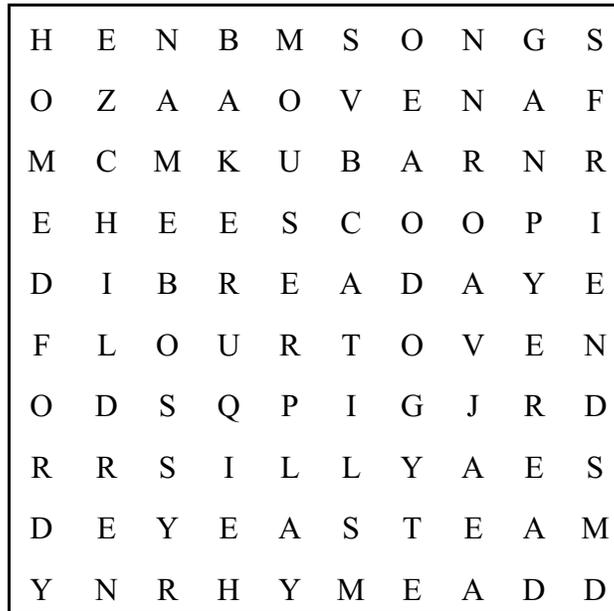
grating on nerves	Boarding House	flour Mill	harvest	multiply	pesky
in a tizzy	Chicken Coop	nicknames	rhyme	rude	sassy

# Activities & Discussion

1. **STORY CIRCLE.** Have the children make up their own version of THE LITTLE RED HEN. Have them sit in a circle. Pick one child to begin the story and go clock-wise around the circle, allowing everyone a chance to add to the story. You may have to limit each child's contribution to one story event (some children are avid storytellers!).
2. **BREAD TASTE TEST.** The animals in THE LITTLE RED HEN each had a favorite way to eat home-made bread. How do your students like to eat fresh, warm bread? Set up a "Bread Buffet" line. Have plenty of warm, sliced bread and as many toppings as you can imagine. Before letting the students eat, have them write their single favorite way of eating bread. Then after they have eaten many slices of bread in many different ways, have them write their favorite way again--this time, we'll see if they've changed their minds after the experience. This is a good way to introduce the students to the concepts of *tolerance* and *acceptance*. There are many different ways of doing something, and as long as it isn't hurtful in some way, we shouldn't criticize others for doing it differently than we would do (and often, if we were only to try the new way, we may discover a better way of doing it ourselves!).
3. **YEAST.** Explain that bread dough is different from cookie dough. Bread dough contains yeast. Pour a package of yeast into a bowl and sprinkle ½ teaspoon sugar on top. Add approximately ⅓ cup water and place the bowl in a warm area that is free from drafts. Allow the students to see the yeast bubble and expand (it begins within one or two minutes). Explain that the yeast does this in the dough and that makes the baked bread fluffy and "full of holes." What other kinds of baked goods are made with yeast?
4. **ONOMATOPOEIA.** Introduce the students to the concept of onomatopoeia (words that sound like what they describe--honk, slither, chirp, etc). The barnyard is full of onomatopoeia: bark, moo, meow, hiss, quack, neigh, snort, cock-a-doodle-doo, etc. Can the students think of other examples?
5. **ANIMAL HOMES.** Fairy tales are full of improbabilities. In THE LITTLE RED HEN, the dog, cat, mouse, and hen all lived together. It would take a very unusual group of animals to do that in real life (but having them live in different places would have changed the story, wouldn't it?) Talk about the real-life homes of these animals. Talk about other animals in the wild as well.
6. **FRIENDS SAY THANK YOU.** When someone does something nice for us, we should always remember to say "Thank you." How else can we show our thanks. We sometimes get in such a hurry with life that we forget to show our friends how much we like them. Have the class list all the ways they can think of to show someone they care. Possibilities are: Making a card, writing a poem, giving a massage, helping with homework, etc. Then challenge them to do at least one of the things from the list within the next week to show a friend or family member how much they appreciate them.
7. **TREASURE HUNT.** The animals had to work as a team when they went on the treasure hunt. You could have the students go on a sort of scavenger hunt. The questions could involve math, social studies, or health skills. The important thing is, they need to work as a team.

# Little Red Hen

## Word Search



© 2000, Kevin M Reese. All Rights Reserved.

### *Words to Find:*

HEN  
BAKE  
BREAD  
DOG  
NAME  
MILL

SONGS  
TEAM  
READ  
DAY  
CHILDREN  
FLOUR

CAT  
MOUSE  
FRIENDS  
BOSSY  
RHYME  
YEAST

COOP  
SILLY  
BARN  
OVEN  
PIG  
PLAY

# THE LITTLE RED HEN

