

The Little Red Hen

Retold by Carl Sommer
Illustrated by Ignacio Noe



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Fun Times With

Responsibility / Courage / Fairness



Sommer-Time Stories—Classics
Sommer's lively retelling of this classic folktale.

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First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Sommer, Carl, 1930-

The little red hen / retold by Carl Sommer ; illustrated by Ignacio Noe. -- First edition.
pages cm. -- (Sommer-time stories-classics)

Summary: While Little Red Hen worked in her wheat field, the dog, cat, and duck always had an excuse not to help. At the summer's end, Little Red Hen refused to share her bread with her lazy friends because they refused to share the work"-- Provided by publisher.

ISBN 978-1-57537-084-2 (library binding : alk. paper) -- ISBN 978-1-57537-438-3 (epub)

ISBN 978-1-57537-476-5 (kf8) -- ISBN 978-1-57537-489-5 (pdf)

[1. Folklore.] I. Noi, 1965- illustrator. II. Title.

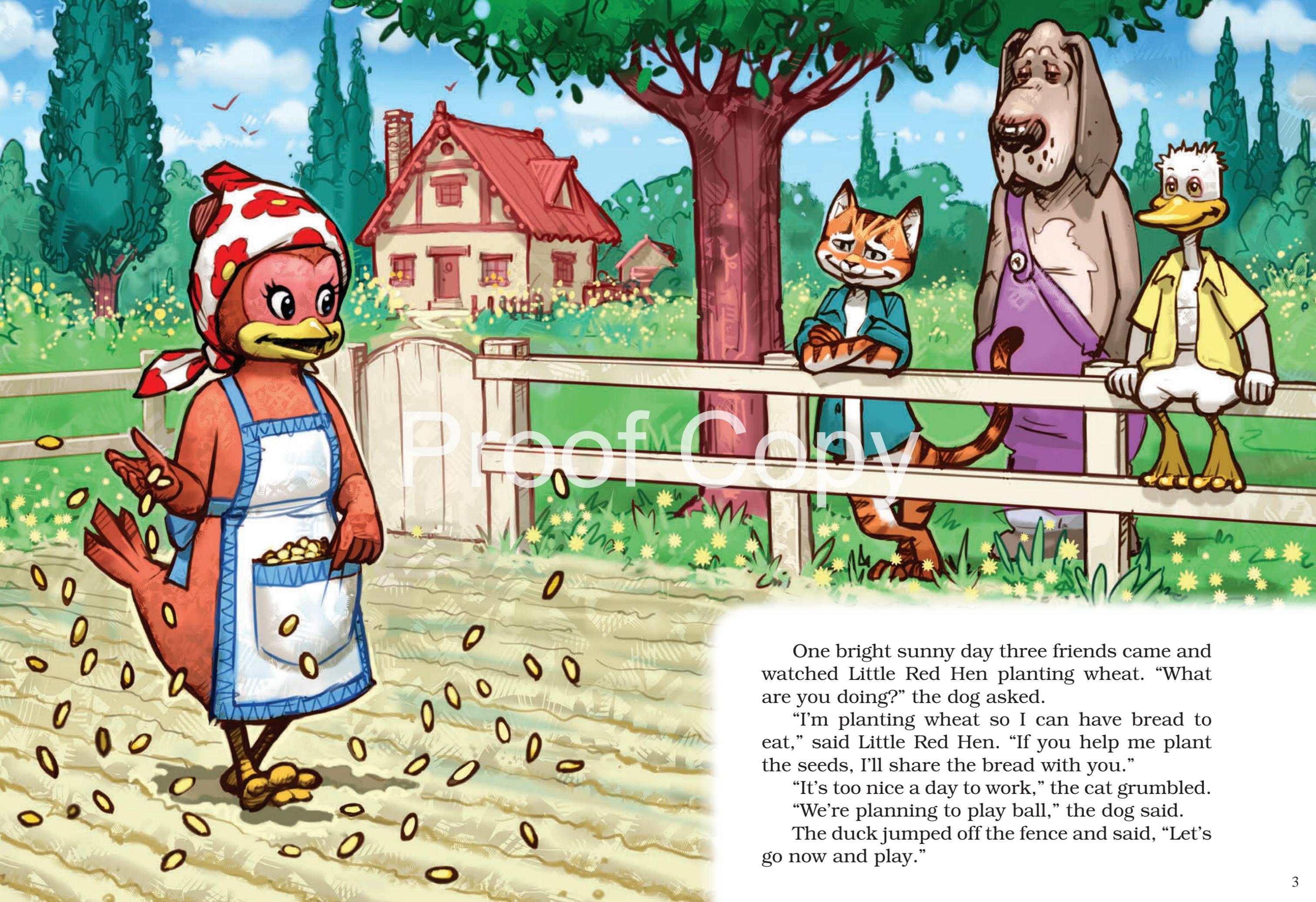
PZ8.1.S6654Li 2014

398.2--dc23

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One bright sunny day three friends came and watched Little Red Hen planting wheat. “What are you doing?” the dog asked.

“I’m planting wheat so I can have bread to eat,” said Little Red Hen. “If you help me plant the seeds, I’ll share the bread with you.”

“It’s too nice a day to work,” the cat grumbled.

“We’re planning to play ball,” the dog said.

The duck jumped off the fence and said, “Let’s go now and play.”

After Little Red Hen scattered the seeds, she used a hoe to put dirt on the seeds. It was hard work, but Little Red Hen planted all the seeds by herself.



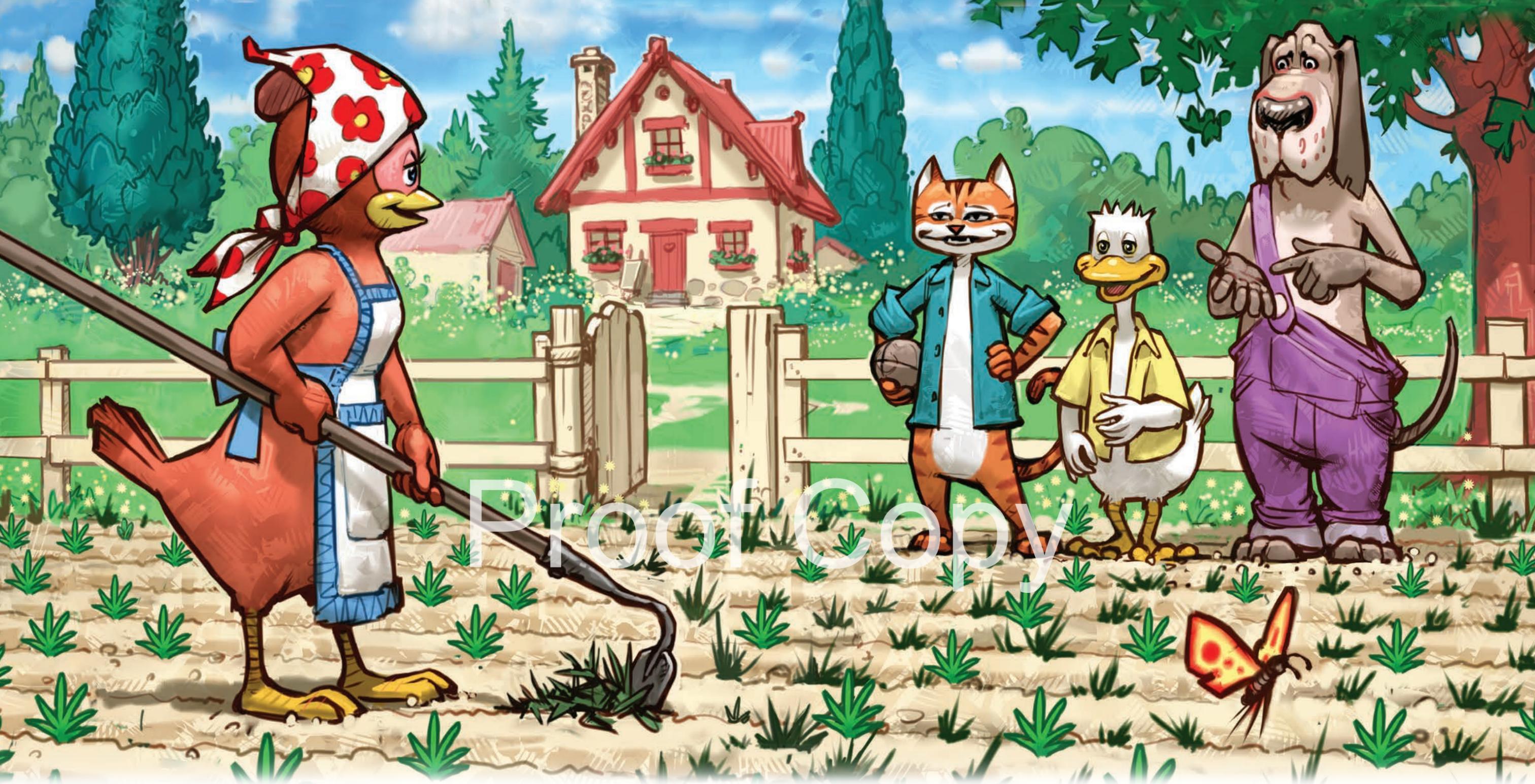
The three friends saw Little Red Hen watering the wheat. “What are you doing now?” the cat asked.

“I’m watering the wheat because it has not rained. Come help me water the wheat, and I’ll share the bread with you.”

The cat yawned and said, “I’m too tired.”

“It’s much too hot to work,” the duck said

“We’re on our way to rest under the shade tree,” the dog said.



One day the dog, cat, and duck saw Little Red Hen with the hoe again. “What are you doing now?” asked the duck.

“I’m using the hoe to dig out the weeds. Weeds take nutrients from the soil. I’m removing the weeds so the wheat can grow to become strong and healthy. Come help me hoe the weeds, and

I’ll share the bread with you.”

“Oh, no,” the duck said. “That’s hard work using a hoe.”

“We might get blisters on our hands when we use the hoe,” complained the dog.

“If we get blisters,” the cat added, “then we can’t play ball.”



The next day the duck ran to Little Red Hen crying, "The fox stole the goose! He stuffed her into a sack and ran into the woods."

Little Red Hen always tried to help others. When she heard what happened, she exclaimed,

"We must try to get the goose back!"

"It's much too late," groaned the duck.

"The least we can do is try," said Little Red Hen.

"It's hopeless," moaned the duck. "The fox is fast and much too tricky for us to catch him."



Little Red Hen dashed to tell the dog and cat. “The wicked fox stole the goose!” she exclaimed. “We must rescue her! Will you help me?”

The dog yawned and said, “We’ll never find that sly fox.”

“We should at least try,” said Little Red Hen. “Foxes are tricky,” the cat explained. “Trying to find the goose will be hard work and useless.”

“Anyway,” the dog said as he rubbed his eyes, “I’m sure by now the fox has eaten the goose.”

Little Red Hen dashed to the next farm. “The wicked fox stole the goose!” she said to Brown Dog. “Would you please help me try to find her?”
“Yes,” said Brown Dog. “I’ll be glad to help.”
“Thank you! Thank you!” exclaimed Little Red Hen.



Little Red Hen and Brown Dog raced into the woods to search for the wicked fox. Suddenly, Brown Dog whispered, “Stop!”

“What’s wrong?” asked Little Red Hen.

“Sniff! Sniff!” went Brown Dog. “I smell a fox!”

“Oh, good!” exclaimed Little Red Hen. “Let’s find him.”

Brown Dog followed the smell as Little Red Hen tagged along.



“We’re close,” Brown Dog said. He poked his head from behind a bush and whispered, “I see the fox. He’s sleeping. What shall we do?”

“Stay here,” whispered Little Red Hen.



Carrying the heavy goose had made the fox very tired. He yawned and said, “I’ll just rest a little while against this tree. Then when I get home, I’ll make myself a great feast. Mmmmm! Mmmmm! It will be such a delicious meal.”

The fox put his sack down and sat against a shade tree. He quickly fell asleep.

Little Red Hen tiptoed to the fox. She tapped on the sack and whispered, "This is Little Red Hen. Don't make any noise."

She took her scissors and cut a hole in the sack. Out came the goose. "Shhhhh!" she whispered. "Go quietly to Brown Dog. He'll protect you."



Little Red Hen put a rock into the sack and sewed it shut. Then Little Red Hen, Brown Dog, and the goose went back to the farm.



As they walked home, the goose said over and over again to Little Red Hen and Brown Dog, "Thank you! Thank you for saving my life!"

When the fox woke up, he picked up the sack and exclaimed, "Mmmmm! Mmmmm! This goose will make a wonderful meal."

The fox quickly boiled a big pot of water. He licked his lips and said, "I can't wait to eat my delicious meal!"

He opened the sack over the boiling pot of water. "Plop!" went the stone as it hit the water. Boiling water splashed all over him, and that was the end of the wicked fox.





By the end of summer, the wheat was fully grown and ready for harvest. Little Red Hen took her sickle and began cutting the wheat.

When the dog, cat, and duck saw Little Red Hen, the dog asked, "What are you doing now?"

"The wheat is ready to harvest. I'm cutting it with a sickle. Come help me cut the wheat, and

I'll share the bread with you."

"That's way too much work," the cat said.

"Oh, no!" groaned the dog. "It's unsafe work swinging that sickle."

"We might hurt our backs doing that kind of hard work," the duck added. "Then we could not play ball."



Little Red Hen cut all the wheat by herself. The next day she began threshing the wheat. When her three friends saw her threshing the wheat, the duck asked, “What are you doing now?”

“I’m sorting the grains of wheat from the stalks,” she said wiping the sweat from her face. “Come and help me thresh the wheat, and I’ll share the bread with you.”

“It’s unhealthy working so hard,” warned the duck. “You’re wearing yourself out. You must learn to rest like us.”

“Don’t you know you could hurt yourself swinging that stick?” asked the cat.

“Working like that is much too dangerous for us,” the dog added. “We may get hurt doing that kind of work.”

Little Red Hen threshed all the wheat by herself. Then she got a wheelbarrow and shoveled the wheat into it.



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When the wheelbarrow was full, Little Red Hen took it to the mill to have the wheat ground into flour.



The next day Little Red Hen made dough from the wheat flour and put it into the oven. The dog, cat, and duck were resting under a shade tree. “Sniff! Sniff!” went the dog. He stuck his nose in the air, smiled, and said, “Mmmmm! Mmmmm! I smell something very delicious!”

“I smell it, too,” the cat said.

“It’s coming from Little Red Hen’s house,” the duck said.

“Let’s go right away!” exclaimed the dog.

The three friends quickly went to Little Red Hen’s house. “We were resting under the shade tree,” the cat said, “and we smelled something very delicious.”

“I’m baking fresh bread,” said Little Red Hen.

“Oh, my!” said the duck. “That’s my favorite food! Can I have some?”

“Can we have some, too?” asked the cat and the dog.





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“I’m sorry,” Little Red Hen said. “You made all kinds of excuses not to help me when I planted, watered, weeded, harvested, and threshed the wheat. If you had helped, I would have gladly shared my bread with you.”

“But since you made all kinds of excuses not to work, then I think it’s wrong for me to share

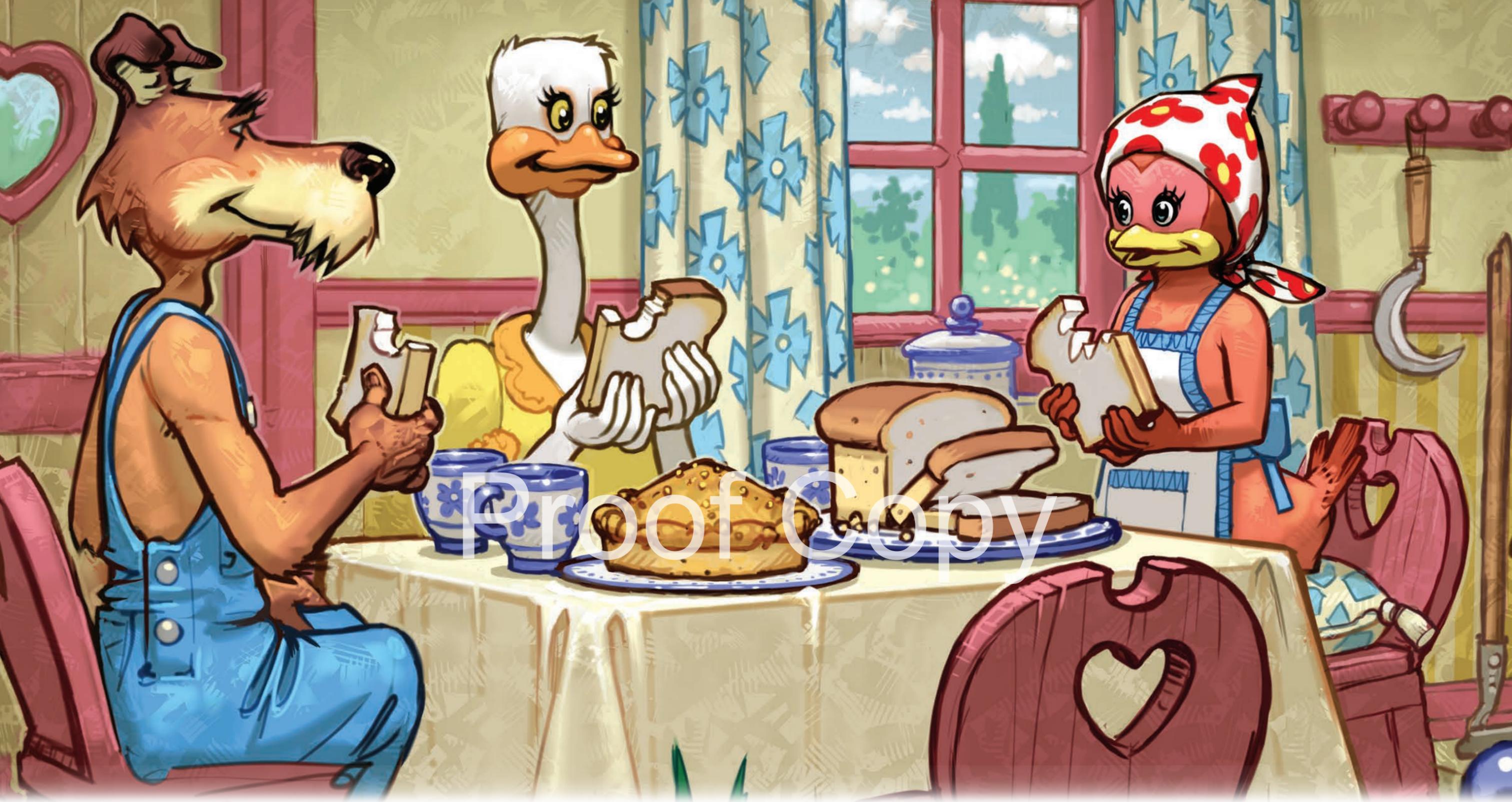
my bread with you.”

“Ohhhhh!” they groaned as they walked away.

“Now we will not get to eat that delicious bread,” the cat said.

The dog moaned, “How foolish we were.”

“Let’s be honest,” said the duck. “We were just too lazy to work.”



However, Little Red Hen had asked Brown Dog and the goose to share the fresh baked bread. The goose had made a homemade pie to show her thankfulness to Brown Dog and Little Red Hen for saving her from the wicked fox.

As they ate, Little Red Hen said to Brown Dog,

“Thank you so much for saving the goose.”

“I want to say a big ‘thank you!’ to both of you for saving my life,” the goose said. “And because of what you did, the wicked fox is no more and all the farm animals can now live in peace and safety.”

Little Red Hen's Homemade Bread Recipe

Recipe for one loaf of bread



Ingredients:

3 to 3 1/2 cups flour
1 cup lukewarm milk
2 tablespoons butter
1/4 cup brown or white sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 package yeast (2 1/4 tsp.)
1 egg
Optional: 1/2 cup of raisins



Directions:

- Heat milk to where it nearly boils.
- Add butter, sugar, and salt.
- Cool to lukewarm.
- Melt yeast in lukewarm liquid (95 to 115 degrees F).
- Add egg.
- Optional: Add 1/2 cup of raisins.
- Slowly put in flour and mix.
- Work the flour to make the dough firm. (It should not stick to your fingers.)
- Take out the dough and place it on a flat surface covered with flour and knead it until it becomes smooth and elastic—about 10 minutes.
- Place the dough in a greased bowl.
- Turn the dough once so top of dough is greased.
- Cover and let dough rise until it doubles in size, about 1 to 2 hours. Place dough in a draft-free warm area about 80 to 85 degrees F. (If the dough stays indented when you poke it, then it is ready.)
- Punch down the dough. Knead slightly. Place dough into a greased pan, about 4" x 9", and wait until the dough doubles in size, about 1 hour.
- Preheat oven and bake at 350 degrees F for about 25 to 30 minutes, or until the top is golden brown.
- Tap loaf to test if done. If it does not sound hollow, bake a few more minutes.
- Remove baked bread from pan, brush top with butter, and cover with cloth for soft bread. Place on wire rack or across the bread pan.
- Enjoy Little Red Hen's Homemade bread!



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