



# THEATRE IV

## Classroom Connections

# Teacher Resources



**In the Classroom**  
For Teachers & Students  
Grades K - 5

*The Little Red Hen* and the Classroom Connections Study Guide are produced in support of the teaching of Language Arts, Music, Science, and Character Development and supports the teaching of these Virginia Standards of Learning: *English: K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4, K.6, K.8, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.7, 1.9, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7; Social Science: K.6, K.7, K.8, 1.7, 1.10, 2.7, 2.9, 2.10, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, CE.4, CE.9, CE.12; Science: K.1, K.2, K.4, K.5, K.6, K.8, K.9, 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.8, 3.1, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 5.4, 5.5.*

### At the Library



#### ***The Little Red Hen***

by Diane Muldrow (Editor),  
J.P. Miller (Illustrator).  
Little Golden Book Classics,  
2002.

#### ***With Love, Little Red Hen***

by Alma Flor Ada, Leslie Tryon (Illustrator). Aladdin Paperbacks, 2004.

#### ***Favorite Folk Tales from Around the World***

by Jane Yolen.  
Pantheon, 1988.

### On the Web



*The Little Red Hen*  
on Wikipedia: [http://  
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The  
Little\\_Red\\_Hen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Little_Red_Hen)

Council for Economic Education  
(online lesson): [www.econedlink.  
org/lessons/index.php?lesson=389  
&page=student](http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.php?lesson=389&page=student)

# THE LITTLE RED HEN

BOOK, MUSIC, & LYRICS BY  
FORD FLANNAGAN



### Play Synopsis:

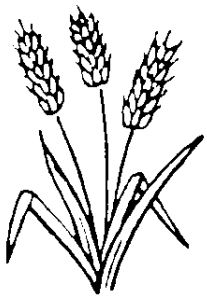
In Theatre IV's musical version of *The Little Red Hen*, our speckled heroine is not very happy. The Little Red Hen is new to the farm and having trouble making friends with the other animals, Cow, Lamb, and Pig.

Meanwhile, Guss the Horse, who is carrying the grain that he will plant for the animals' bread, meets Fox on his way back to the farm. Fox tricks Guss and steals the grain. Fox knows the farm animals will be forced to enter the woods to look for food and Fox will catch them for his dinner.

All the farm animals are in a panic, except Hen. She takes action. Hen finds Guss who explains how to plant the grain and make the bread. Hen returns to the farm with the grain and asks the other animals to help her. Each time Hen asks, "Who will help me plant the seed, harvest the wheat, make the bread?" they answer, "Not I. Not I. Not I."

Hen goes on alone because, "A hen's gotta do, what a hen's gotta do." She plants the seed that grows the wheat that makes the dough that bakes the most delicious bread the animals ever smelled. Guss returns home and convinces the other animals that Hen is very nice. The animals realize they have been unfair to Hen. Even Fox is won over by the lovable Little Red Hen, and every one lives happily ever after.

*The story of *The Little Red Hen* is an English folk tale. Folk tales are short with a simple plot, have characters representing specific traits, feature events repeated, especially in threes, and are based on fantasy. The moral of the story teaches the value of work and personal initiative.*



# Make a Book about Wheat!

1. Illustrate each stage of the wheat growing process. Use the website [www.wheatmania.com](http://www.wheatmania.com) to help you.
2. Cut and sequence the pages to create a book.
3. Number the pages in your book.
4. Add a book cover with an illustration.
5. Staple the book pages together.

The Little Red Hen lives on a farm. Predict which of the following products may come from the farm in our play. Circle your answers. (Hint: Only 4 of these do not come from our farm.)

### PRODUCTS:

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Milk         | Wool      |
| Bananas      | Corn      |
| Potato Chips | Carrots   |
| Wheat        | Hay       |
| Paper        | Chocolate |
| Lettuce      | Eggs      |

<div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <p>The wheat sprouts and establishes roots.</p>	<div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <p>Winter weather causes the young plants to stop growing (called the "dormant" stage).</p>
<div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <p>The wheat seeds (kernels) are harvested when they have dried and developed a hardened outer shell.</p>	<div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <p>The wheat is planted in the fall.</p>
<div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <p>The wheat plants start growing again. As they mature, they produce a seed head - one for each stalk.</p>	<div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></div> <p>Once the seeds in the head of wheat have grown and been pollinated, the plant itself begins to die.</p>



# The Setting of *The Little Red Hen*

Read the descriptions below, then categorize each picture into the proper category of the venn diagram. Remember, some items will be common to two or more categories. Then write a description of the play setting. Explain whether the setting is rural, urban, or suburban.

**rural:** The homes in rural communities are separated by farms, woodlands, and meadows. People living in rural communities usually have to drive into a suburban community to do their shopping at stores. Rural communities are very quiet places.

**urban:** Urban communities include cities. They have more apartment buildings than houses, many office buildings, skyscrapers, stores, and lots of people. They also have cars, subways, buses and other forms of public transportation. Urban communities are very busy places.

**suburban:** Suburban communities are usually located near urban communities or cities. They are towns where people live in homes or apartment buildings. There are stores in these communities to meet the needs of the residents, but no large skyscrapers. Some people living in suburban communities drive to the cities to work.

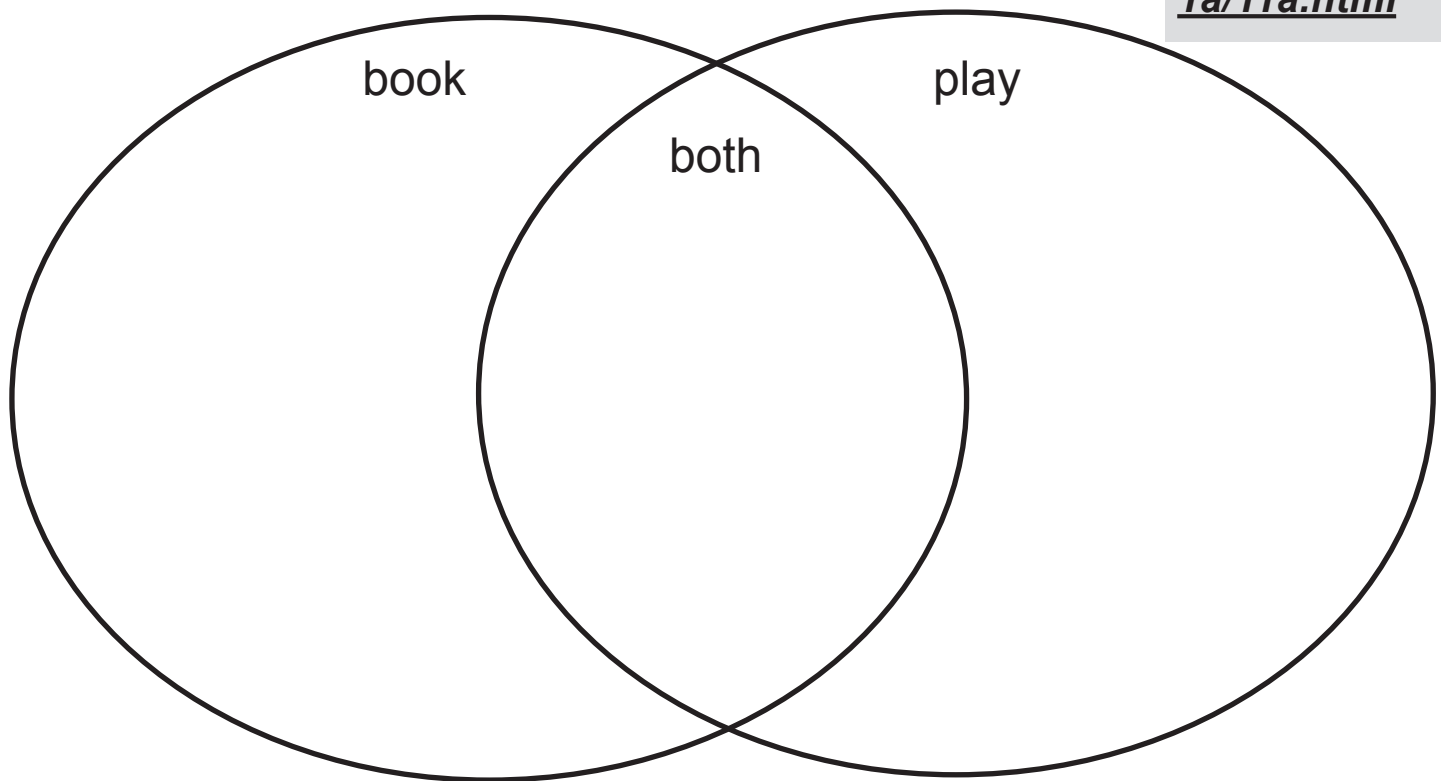
The Venn diagram consists of three overlapping circles. The top-left circle is labeled 'rural', the top-right circle is labeled 'urban', and the bottom circle is labeled 'suburban'. The intersections between the circles are empty, intended for student input. Surrounding the diagram are several icons: a skyscraper (urban), a tractor (rural), a train (urban), a road (suburban), a deer (rural), a windmill (rural), a barn (rural), a road sign (suburban), and a house (suburban).

# Comparing Versions of *The Little Red Hen*

Write your own play, choose characters and even assign dialogue at:

[www.kids-space.org/hpt/1a/11a.html](http://www.kids-space.org/hpt/1a/11a.html)

Compare the book, *The Little Red Hen* to the Theatre IV play, *The Little Red Hen*. Use the graphic organizer below to record your comparisons. What similarities did you find? What differences?



## What did you notice?

1. In what ways were the characters in the play different from the characters in the book? Why do you think different authors or playwrights choose to change the characters in a story?
2. What lesson does the story of *The Little Red Hen* teach? Is the lesson the same in the book as in the play?
3. Why do you think the playwright decided to add music to the play? How does music help get the point of the play across?
4. If you were to write your own version of the story, what kinds of characters, settings, or events would you include that might be different than both of these?



# Be a Theatre Critic

When you write to persuade, your goal is to convince your audience to agree with your position on a topic. To do that, you must present your ideas and support them with reasons and facts that make sense to others. Think about the play *The Little Red Hen*, and use the framed paragraph below to write a letter to a friend giving a critical review of the play.

**criticism:** Involving the careful judgement of critics.

**review:** a discussion by a critic of the quality of something, such as a book or a play .

**persuade:** to convince others of your opinion by effective argument

(date) \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Today I saw a play called \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. I want to tell you why  
you should/should not go see this play too. The  
play was about \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The main character was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ One of my favorite  
parts was when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, there was a lesson in the play. It teaches you that \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Sincerely,  
\_\_\_\_\_

## A Critical Eye...

When critics write reviews about plays, they consider not only the play and the acting, but also the set design, costumes, and props that were used to tell the story. How was the set designed for *The Little Red Hen*? Did the props and costumes help to set the mood or tell the story? Why or why not?



# THEATRE IV

114 West Broad St.  
Richmond, VA 23220  
1.800.235.8687

www.TheatreIV.org

Theatre IV Presents...  
*The Little Red Hen*  
Book, Music, & Lyrics  
by Ford Flannagan.

Theatre IV...

Bruce C. Miller,  
Artistic Director

Phil Whiteway,  
Managing Director

Classroom Connections  
Study Guide written by  
Heather Widener, MAT  
Widener Consulting LLC

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# Cues at the Theatre



## Words to Know

**Playwright:** (n.) a person who writes a play

**Play:** (n.) a story acted out with dialogue

**Adapted:** (v.) changed to fit a new use or situation

**Musical:** (n.) a play that includes songs

**Dialogue:** (n.) words spoken by the characters in a play

**Lyrics:** (n.) words of a song

Using the list above, fill in the word:

A \_\_\_\_\_ that uses music is called a \_\_\_\_\_. Actors in a play speak words called \_\_\_\_\_ and sing \_\_\_\_\_ of a song. The person who writes a play is called a \_\_\_\_\_. Often, a play is \_\_\_\_\_ from another source.

