

# Sample Read-Aloud Strategy

## The Little Red Hen



**Say:** Today I'm going to read a story called *The Little Red Hen* by Paul Galdone. Let's look at the pictures and see if you can tell me what the story is going to be about.

**Do:** Encourage the children to respond as you turn the pages of the book from beginning to end. This activity is sometimes called a "picture walk." After the children have offered their ideas, say:

**Say:** This story is about a little red hen who needed help and asked for help while baking bread. While I'm reading, try to decide if you think the little red hen did the right thing or the wrong thing with her bread at the end of the story and why. As I read, try to remember what happened first, second, third, and at the end of the story.

**Do:** Ask questions that build additional background knowledge and set a purpose for listening. Have you ever asked people for help? Did they help you? Has anyone ever asked you for help? Once the children are familiar with this questioning technique, you can ask them to think of their own questions.

**Say:** Now that I've told you a little bit about the story, let's read it.

**Do:** Show the children the pictures as you read. Stop occasionally for reactions, comments, and questions. To engage the children, you can ask the following discussion questions: "Can you remember what help the little red hen has asked for so far? How have the other animals acted about giving help?" If the children don't respond, you can model a response by saying, "These animals aren't very helpful to the little red hen. Each time the hen asks for help, the animals all answer, 'Not I.'"

**Say:** Now that we've read the story, who can tell me what the little red hen wanted help with first? Second?

**Do:** Let the children respond and ask them to retell the story using the pictures in the book to help them recall the story sequence. Finally focus on the second goal, making inferences and ask:

**Say:** If you were the little red hen, what would you have done with the bread? Do you think the hen did the right thing? Why or why not? What lesson can we learn from this story?

Mandel Morrow, Lesley & Gambrell, Linda B. (2004). *Using Children's Literature in Preschool. Supporting Reading Comprehension: Responding to Books*, 3, 37-47.

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