

The Little Red Hen

By: Halli Rider

Adapted from the classic fairytale

Synopsis:

This family-friendly play follows a young hen, called Red, on her adventures with her barnyard friends. One day she stumbles upon a wheat field and gets an idea to make bread. Red decides to ask her friends if they would like to help in her baking process. Will they help the little red hen?

Or will they turn away her offer for their own self-interest?

Character List

RED (F): A young hen who knows what she wants, and works hard.

ROO (M): A cocky rooster who loves when the sun rises and has a kind heart.

MAX(M): A happy dog who cannot stay focused, but means well.

HAMLET(M): An old pig who believes he is above all of the other animals.

CLARIBELL(F): A dainty cow that doesn't like to get her hands dirty.

NOTES FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

SETTING & PLACE: A comforting farm on the countryside

COSTUMES: Farm-friendly clothing. The rest is up to the costumer! Have fun!

NOTES:

- Have fun with the wheat!
- I would suggest that the plant life is oversized, but that is ultimately up to the director!
- Gender-bent casting is A-OK, just change pronouns accordingly.
- Target audience is all ages!

Scene 1:

[The sound of a Rooster crowing is heard. Lights slowly fade up on an old-faded big red barn with big grass and shrubbery around. ROO is sitting smugly on top of the barn. HE continues to crow until RED angrily opens up the chicken coup on the side of the barn. SHE is dressed in sleepwear, and ROO has clearly interrupted her peaceful slumber.]

RED: Will you quiet down up there, Roo? Some of us like to sleep!

ROO: *[As if HE has done nothing wrong]* Well, good morning! What are you doing all cooped up in there? The day is wasting away!

RED: The sun is barely up!

ROO: And sooner or later, it will be down! Up and attem, Red!

RED: Oh, how I long for the sun to be down. That way I no longer have to listen to you crowing at the top of your lungs!

ROO: That's not very nice.

RED: Neither is the sound of your crowing.

ROO: I beg to differ! I think I sound quite charming. You know, I bet I'm the best sounding and looking rooster on this farm.

RED: You're the only rooster on this farm!

ROO: Which makes me the best! ... Come on! What would you do without me?

RED: Sleep. Peacefully.

ROO: But then you would never wake up on time, and the days would pass before you even had a chance to enjoy them!

RED: Yeah, yeah. I'm up! I'm up!

[RED closes the window, there is a bit of ruckus before RED exits the barn, now in HER regular clothes]

ROO: Now, was that so bad?

[Lights rise very slowly- the sun is rising]
Aw, Red. Just look at the sunrise! Isn't it beautiful?

RED: If you mean blinding, yes.

ROO: Doesn't it make you want to proudly face the day? Give it everything you've got?

RED: It makes me want to go back to sleep, but I might as well get up since you won't stop until I do.

ROO: Hey, Red. Why don't you try to make the best of your day?

RED: I already do that.

ROO: Just a friendly reminder. And who better to remind you than good old Roo?
[Commotion can be heard off stage. CLARIBELL and MAX enter in a tiff.]

MAX: Oh come on, Clairibell!

CLARIBELL: Not a chance, I just got my hooves done yesterday.

ROO: Hey, Max! Clairibell! What's the ruckus about? I thought it was my job to make a bunch of noise in the mornings.

CLARIBELL: Max wants me to play fetch with him.

RED: And what's the issue?

CLARIBELL: I'm not touching something that Max has had in his mouth! Max can ask Hamlet to play with him.

MAX: You know he'll say no! He'll say he's too busy trying to *[Mocking]* "block out the sounds of our incompetence."

ROO: I could play fetch with you, Max!

MAX: Really?!

ROO: Sure thing! I ain't got nothing going on. Come on!

MAX: Okay!
[turning to RED and CLARIBELL. In an excited whisper]
We're gonna play fetch!
[MAX and ROO exit excitedly. CLARIBELL is relieved]

CLARIBELL: Oh thank goodness. *[collecting herself]* Good morning, Red! What are you up to today?

RED: Not sure yet. Roo's got the idea in my head that I have to make the best out of my day.

CLARIBELL: You know what always helps me when I need to figure something out?

RED: What?

CLARIBELL: Going on a walk to clear my mind.

RED: A walk?

CLARIBELL: Yep!

RED: I don't know-

CLARIBELL: Why don't you try it, and if it doesn't help, you can try something else?

RED: ... Oh, alright.

CLARIBELL: Well then, I'll leave you to it.

RED: Where are you headed off to?

CLARIBELL: I'm gonna go watch Max and Roo play fetch.

RED: I thought you didn't want anything to do with Max playing fetch.

CLARIBELL: I don't want to get my hooves dirty, but I sure do like to watch him run around! I'll see you later!

RED: Where am I even supposed to walk to?

CLARIBELL: That's for you to decide! Just start Mooving your feet! They'll take you where you need to go!