

"Who Will Help Me?"

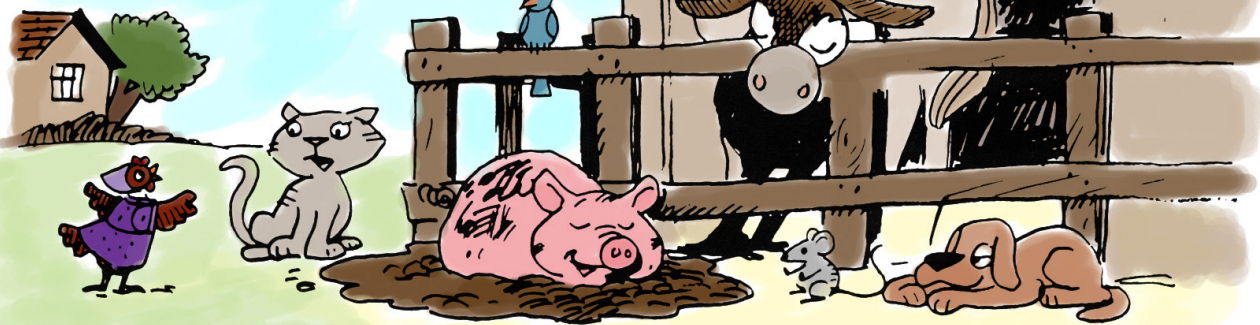
ONE FINE SPRING DAY, MRS. RED, A HEN, DECIDED TO PLANT SOME WHEAT. SHE WENT TO THE BARNYARD WHERE THE ANIMALS WERE RESTING AND WITH A FLURRY OF FEATHERS EXCLAIMED: "I AM VERY EXCITED TODAY! I HAVE BEEN WAITING ALL WINTER TO PLANT THIS SPRING WHEAT. WHO WILL HELP ME PLANT THESE SEEDS?"

THE ANIMALS IN THE BARNYARD WERE ENJOYING THE WARM WEATHER, AND THEY WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE TO DO ANY WORK. THEY DECIDED THE HEN COULD DO THE WORK HERSELF.

"NOT ME," SAID THE HORSE.

"NOT ME," SAID THE DONKEY.

"NOT ME," SAID THE CAT.



"NOT ME," SAID THE PIG.

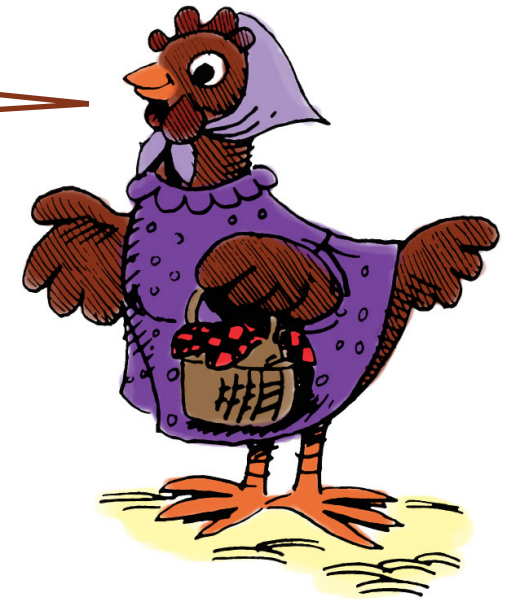
"NOT ME," SAID THE MOUSE.

"NOT ME," SAID THE DOG.

"VERY WELL," SAID MRS. RED. "I WILL PLANT IT MYSELF."

AFTER THE SEEDS WERE PLANTED, THE HEN DILIGENTLY CARED FOR THE WHEAT SEEDS, WATERING THEM AS NEEDED, AND REMOVING ANY BUGS OR WEEDS THAT SPROUTED UP. FINALLY, THE FIRST SHOOTS OF WHEAT BROKE THROUGH THE EARTH, AND MRS. RED WAS DELIGHTED. WHEN LATE SUMMER ARRIVED, MRS. RED HAD A LOVELY CROP.

"IT WILL BE A LOT OF WORK TO HARVEST ALL THIS WHEAT," MRS. RED SAID. "I WILL ASK THE BARN ANIMALS IF THEY WILL HELP ME."



BUT ONCE AGAIN, ALL THE BARN ANIMALS TOLD HER, "NOT ME." SO MRS. RED HARVESTED THE WHEAT HERSELF.

AFTER SHE HAD GATHERED ALL THE SHEAVES OF WHEAT, SHE WENT BACK TO THE BARNYARD. "THRASHING IS A LOT OF WORK," SHE SAID TO THE OTHER ANIMALS. "I COULD USE A HAND. WHO WILL HELP ME?"

"NOT ME," SAID THE HORSE.

"NOT ME," SAID THE DONKEY.

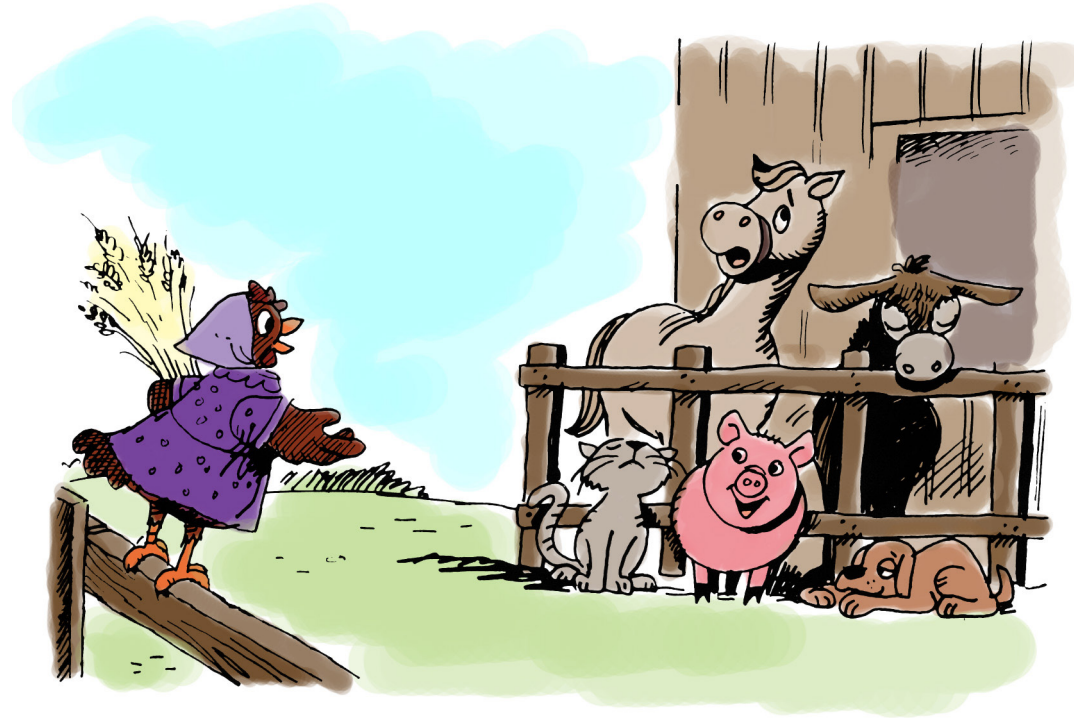
"NOT ME," SAID THE CAT.

"NOT ME," SAID THE PIG.

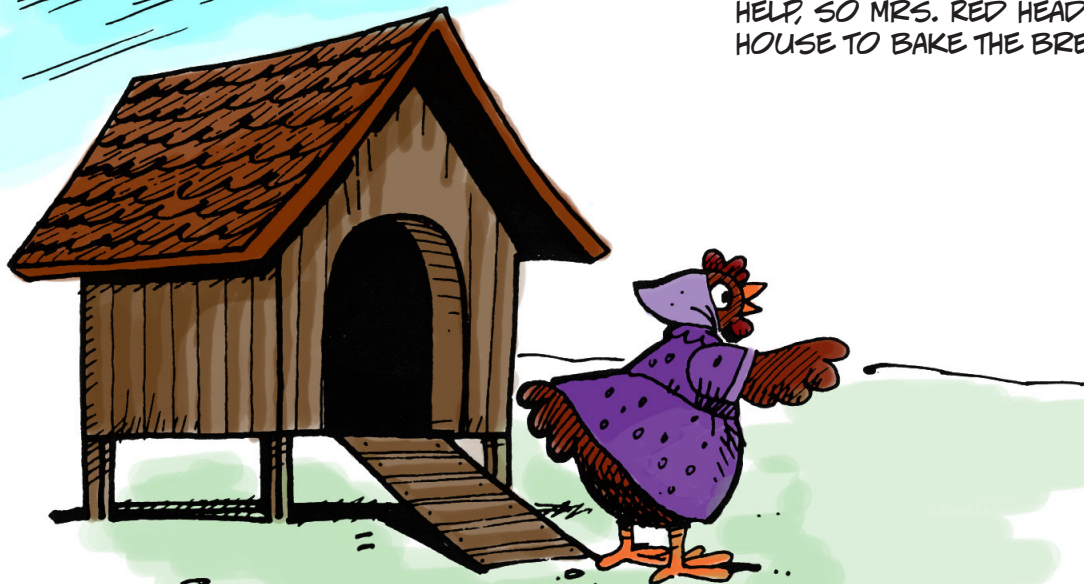
"NOT ME," SAID THE DOG.

"VERY WELL," MRS. RED SAID. "I WILL DO IT MYSELF."

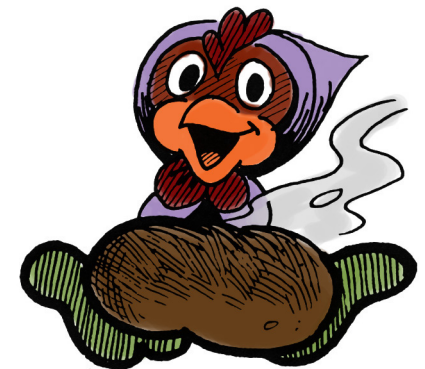
AFTER THE WHEAT WAS THRESHED, MRS. RED WENT BACK TO THE BARNYARD, AND SAID, "I HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE BREAD, BUT I COULD USE SOME HELP TO GRIND THE WHEAT INTO FLOUR AND TO MAKE THE DOUGH. WHO WILL HELP ME?"



AGAIN, NONE OF THE ANIMALS WANTED TO HELP, SO MRS. RED HEADED INSIDE HER HOUSE TO BAKE THE BREAD.



AT LAST THE LOVELY AROMA OF BAKED BREAD FILLED THE AIR, AND MRS. RED BROUGHT HER GOLDEN-CRUSTED LOAF TO THE BARNYARD. "WELL, WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS BEAUTY!" SHE EXCLAIMED. "WHO WILL HELP ME EAT THIS LOVELY LOAF OF BREAD?"



ALL THE BARNYARD ANIMALS
CHORUSED, "I WILL!"

"OH NO, YOU WON'T," MRS. RED
REPLIED. "WHenever I ASKED YOU
FOR HELP, NO ONE WANTED TO
LEND A HAND. SO I WILL EAT THIS
BREAD ALONE."

MRS. RED RETURNED TO HER
HOUSE, SAT DOWN WITH HER LOAF
OF BREAD, AND THANKED GOD FOR
HIS PROVISION AND CARE.

THE BARNYARD ANIMALS WERE
SHOCKED AND SADDENED BY WHAT
MRS. RED SAID. "IF I HAD KNOWN
WE WOULDN'T GET ANY BREAD," THE
HORSE SAID, "I WOULD'VE HELPED
OUT."

"I SHOULD'VE SAID 'YES' WHEN MRS.
RED ASKED," SAID THE DONKEY.

"OH DEAR, OH DEAR," MURMURED
THE CAT.

FROM THEN ON, THE BARNYARD
ANIMALS WERE MORE WILLING TO
HELP WHEN THEY WERE CALLED ON.



DO YOU DO YOUR BEST TO HELP OUT WHEN YOU'RE ASKED? DOING THE
HARD WORK TAKES TIME, AND IT ISN'T ALWAYS WHAT IS THE MOST FUN,
BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO DO WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP OTHERS. YOU MAY
NOT BE ABLE TO COOK A MEAL, BUT YOU CAN HELP SET THE TABLE OR
CLEAR IT AFTER THE MEAL IS DONE. YOU MAY NOT HAVE ALL THE SKILLS
TO TAKE CARE OF THE GARDEN, BUT YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR TOYS AFTER
YOU'VE PLAYED OUTDOORS. THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP.

WHAT DO YOU DO TO SHOW YOURSELF WILLING TO HELP OTHERS?