

# THE LITTLE RED HEN



## THE LITTLE RED HEN KUKU MDOGO MWEKUNDU

An Old English Folk Tale  
Hadithi ya Kale ya Kiingereza

Retold and Illustrated  
Imesemwa tena na Kuonyeshwa

na **FLORENCE WHITE WILLIAMS**

Translated by Asante Skuli Africa

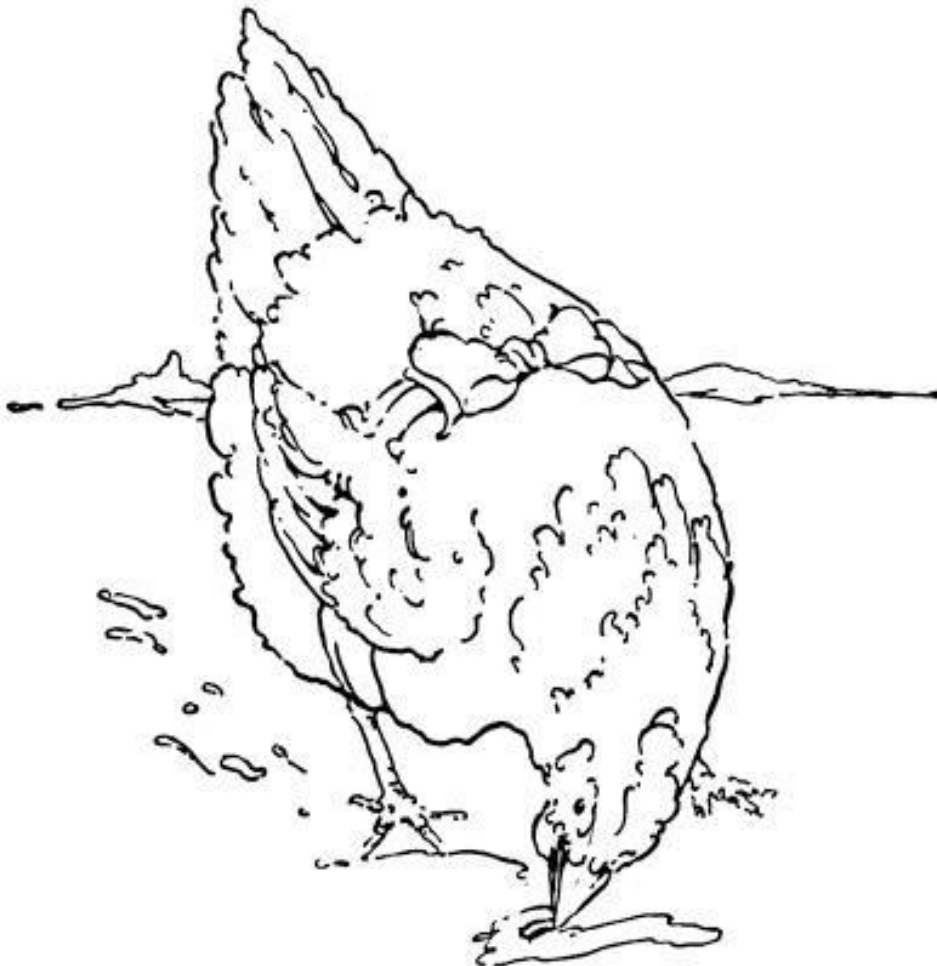


# **The Little Red Hen**

## **“Kuku mdogo mwekundu”**

Little Red Hen lived in a barnyard. She spent almost all of her time walking about the barnyard in her picketty-pecketty fashion, scratching everywhere for worms.

Kuku mdogo Mwekundu aliishi kwenye bustani. Alitumia karibu muda wake wote kutembea kwenye bustani kwa mtindo wake wa kuchokonoa, akikwaruza kila mahali kutafuta minyoo.

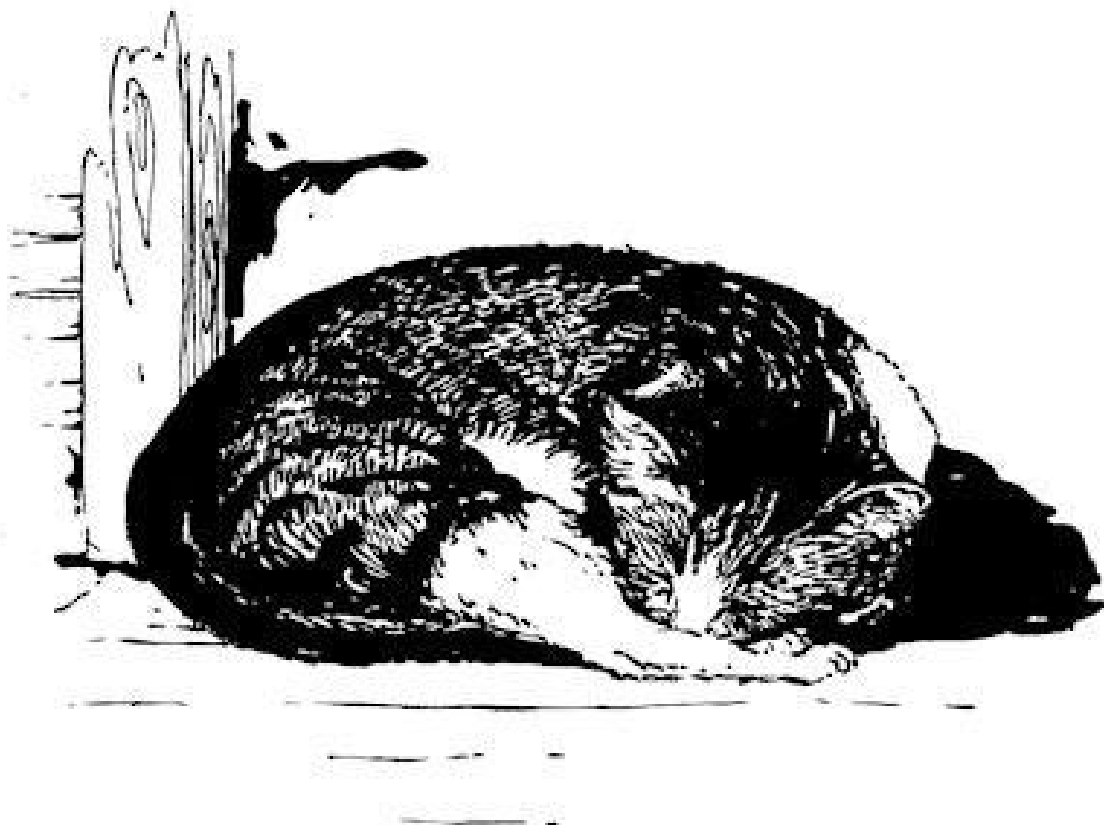


She dearly loved fat, delicious worms and felt they were absolutely necessary to the health of her children. As often as she found a worm she would call “Chuck-chuck-chuck!” to her chickies.

Alipenda sana minyoo yenye mafuta iliyonona na yenye ladha na alihisi ni muhimu kabisa kwa afya ya watoto wake. Mara nyingi alipopata mdudu alikuwa akiita "Chuck-chuck-chuck!" Kwa vifaranga vyake.

When they were gathered about her, she would distribute choice morsels of her tid-bit. A busy little body was she!

Walipokusanyika juu yake, alikuwa akisambaza vipande vyake bora vya habari. Alikuwa na mwili wenye shughuli nyingi!



A cat usually napped lazily in the barn door, not even bothering herself to scare the rat who ran here and there as he pleased.

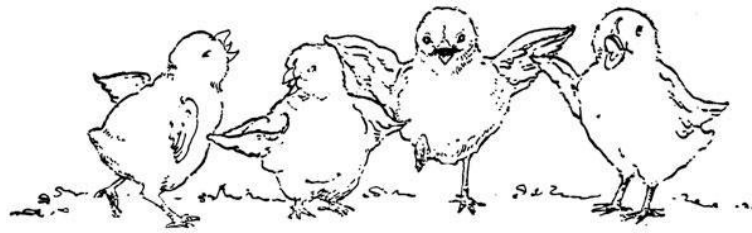
And as for the pig who lived in the sty—he did not care what happened so long as he could eat and grow fat.

Paka kwa kawaida alilala kwa uvivu kwenye mlango wa ghalani, bila kujisumbua hata kumtisha panya aliyekimbia huku na kule apendavyo.

Na kuhusu nguruwe aliyeishi kwenye zizi—hakujali kilichotokea mradi tu angeweza kula na kunenepa.

One day the Little Red Hen found a seed. It was a wheat seed, but the Little Red Hen was so accustomed to bugs and worms that she supposed this to be some new and perhaps very delicious kind of meat. She bit it gently and found that it resembled a worm in no way whatsoever as to taste although because it was long and slender, a Little Red Hen might easily be fooled by its appearance.

Siku moja Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu alipata mbegu. Ilikuwa ni mbegu ya ngano, lakini Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu alikuwa amezoea mende na minyoo hivi kwamba alidhani hii ni aina mpya ya ladha mfano wa nyama. Alimng'ata kwa upole na kugundua kuwa alifanana na mdudu kwa njia yoyote ya kuonja ingawa kwa sababu alikuwa mrefu na mwembamba, Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu angeweza kudanganywa kwa urahisi na mwonekano wake.



Carrying it about, she made many inquiries as to what it might be. She found it was a wheat seed and that, if planted, it would grow up and when ripe it could be made into flour and into bread.

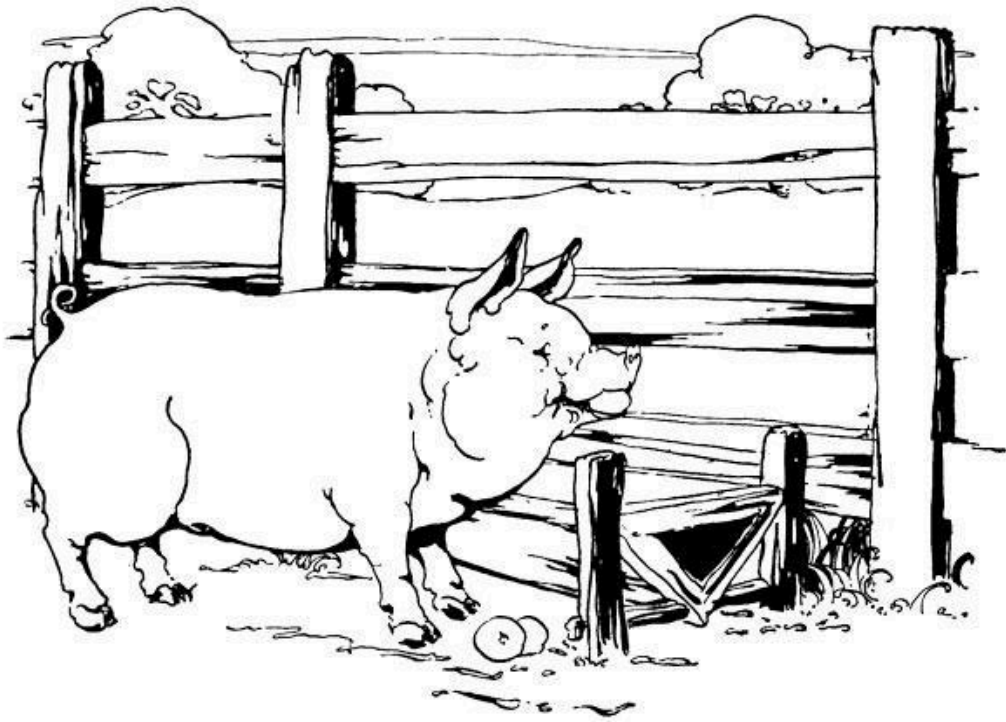
Akiendelea nayo, aliuliza maswali mengi kuhusu inaweza kuwa nini. Alikuta ni mbegu ya ngano na kwamba, ikipandwa, ingekua na ikiiva inaweza kufanywa unga na kisha kutengenezea mkate.



When she discovered that, she knew it ought to be planted. She was so busy hunting food for herself and her family that, naturally, she thought she ought not to take time to plant it.

Alipogundua hilo, alijua inapaswa kupandwa. Alikuwa na shughuli nyingi sana za kuwinda chakula kwa ajili yake na familia yake hivi kwamba, kwa kawaida, alifikiri kwamba hapaswi kuchukua muda kuipanda.





So she thought of the Pig—upon whom time must hang heavily and of the Cat who had nothing to do, and of the great fat Rat with his idle hours, and she called loudly:

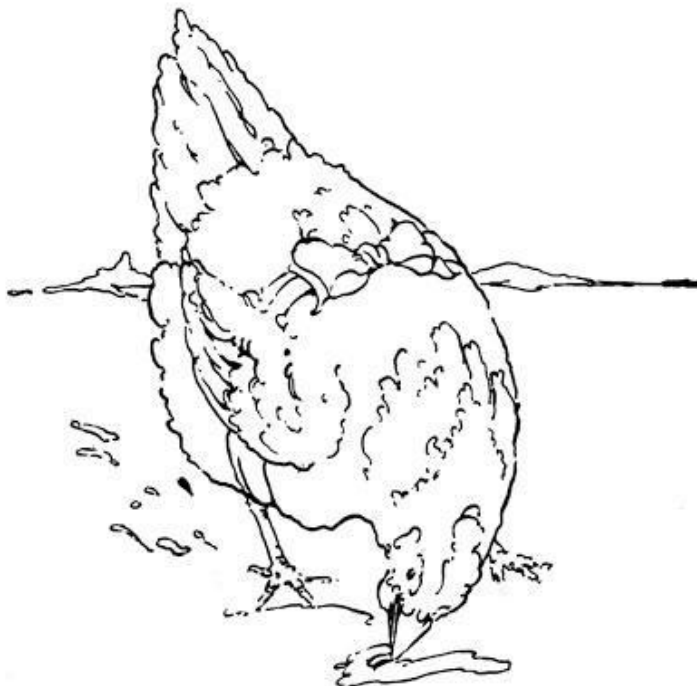
“Who will plant the seed?”

But the Pig said, “Not I,”  
and the Cat said, “Not I,”  
and the Rat said, “Not I.”



Kwa hivyo alifikiria juu ya Nguruwe - ambaye wakati wake unapaswa kutundikwa sana na Paka ambaye hakuwa na la kufanya, na Panya aliyenona sana na masaa yake ya uvivu, akaita kwa sauti kubwa:

“Ni nani atakayepanda mbegu?”  
Lakini Nguruwe akasema, “Si mimi,”  
na Paka akasema, “Si mimi,”  
na Panya akasema, “Si mimi.”



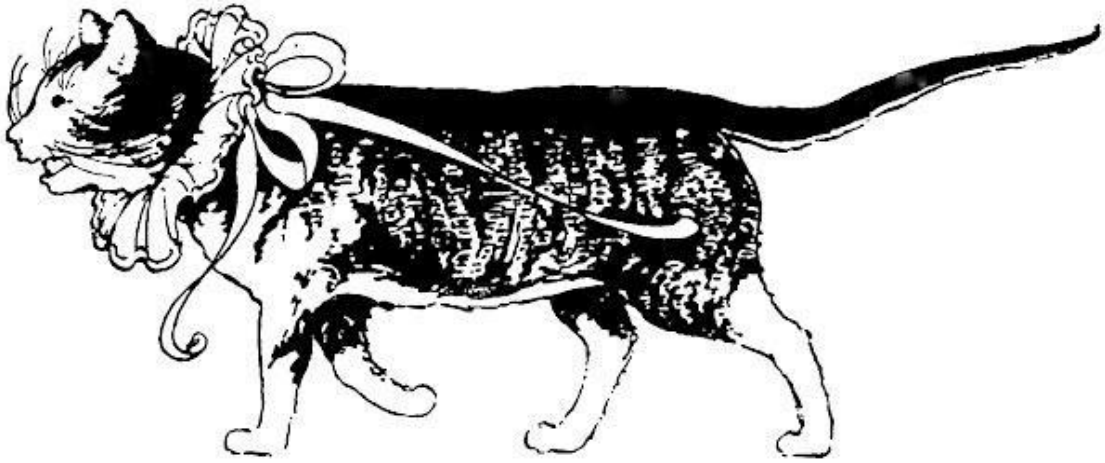
"Well, then," said the Little Red Hen, "I will."

"Sawa, basi," Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu alisema, "nitafanya."

And she did.

Na yeye alifanya.





Then she went on with her daily duties through the long summer days, scratching for worms and feeding her chicks, while the Pig grew fat, and the Cat grew fat, and the Rat grew fat, and the Wheat grew tall and ready for harvest.

Kisha akaendelea na kazi zake za kila siku kwa muda mrefu wa siku za kiangazi, akichuna minyoo na kulisha vifaranga vyake, huku Nguruwe akinenepa, na Paka akinenepa, na Panya akinenepa, na Ngano ilikua ndefu na tayari kuvunwa.



The Cat grew fat, and the Rat grew fat, and the wheat grew tall and ready for harvest.

Paka alinenepa, na Panya alinenepa, na ngano ilikua ndefu na tayari kwa kuvunwa.

calling briskly: "Who will cut the wheat?"

So one day the Little Red Hen chanced to notice how large the Wheat was and that the grain was ripe, so she ran about

The Pig said, "Not I,"  
the Cat said, "Not I,"  
and the Rat said, "Not I."

Kwa hiyo siku moja Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu aliona jinsi Ngano ilivyokuwa kubwa na kwamba nafaka ilikuwa imeiva, kwa hiyo akakimbia huku na huko akiita kwa ukali: "Ni nani atakayeikata ngano?"

Nguruwe akasema, "Si mimi,"  
Paka alisema, "Si mimi,"  
na Panya akasema, "Si mimi."



"Well, then," said the Little Red Hen, "I will." And she did.

"Sawa, basi," Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu alisema, "nitafanya." Na yeye alifanya.





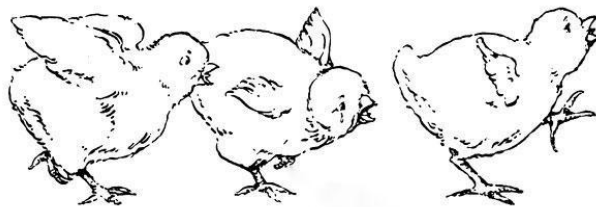
She got the sickle from among the farmer's tools in the barn and proceeded to cut off all of the big plant of wheat.

On the ground lay the nicely cut wheat, ready to be gathered and threshed, but the newest and yellowest and downiest of Mrs. Hen's chicks set up a "peep-peep-peeping" in their most vigorous fashion, proclaiming to the world at large, but most particularly to their mother, that she was neglecting them.

Alichukua mundu kutoka kati ya zana za mkulima ghalani na kuendelea kukata mmea wote mkubwa wa ngano.

Chini walikuwa wamelala Ngano iliyokatwa vizuri, tayari kukusanywa na kupura, lakini

vifaranga wapya zaidi na wa rangi ya njano walikaa chini ya mama yao Bi.Kuku waliweza "kuchungulia-chungulia" kwa mtindo wao wa nguvu zaidi, wakitangaza kwa ulimwengu kwa ujumla. , lakini hasa kwa mama yao, kwamba alikuwa akiwapuuza.



Poor Little Red Hen! She felt quite bewildered and hardly knew where to turn.

Her attention was sorely divided between her duty to her children and her duty to the wheat, for which she felt responsible.

Maskini Kuku mdogo Mwekundu! Alihisi kuchanganyikiwa sana na hakujuua aelekee wapi.

Umakini wake uligawanyika sana kati ya wajibu wake kwa watoto wake na wajibu wake kwa ngano, ambayo alihisi kuwajibika.

So, again, in a very hopeful tone, she called out, "Who will thresh the wheat?"

But the Pig, with a grunt, said, "Not I,"  
and the Cat, with a meow, said, "Not I,"  
and the Rat, with a squeak, said, "Not I."

So the Little Red Hen, looking, it must be admitted, rather discouraged, said, "Well, I will, then."

And she did.

Of course, she had to feed her babies first, though, and when she had gotten them all to sleep for their afternoon nap, she went out and threshed the wheat. Then she called out: "Who will carry the wheat to the mill to be ground?"

Kwa hiyo, tena, kwa sauti ya matumaini, akaita kwa sauti kubwa, "Ni nani atakayeipura Ngano?"

Lakini Nguruwe, kwa mguno, akasema, "Si mimi,"  
na Paka, kwa sauti ya chini, akasema, "Si mimi,"  
na Panya, kwa mlio, akasema, "Si mimi."

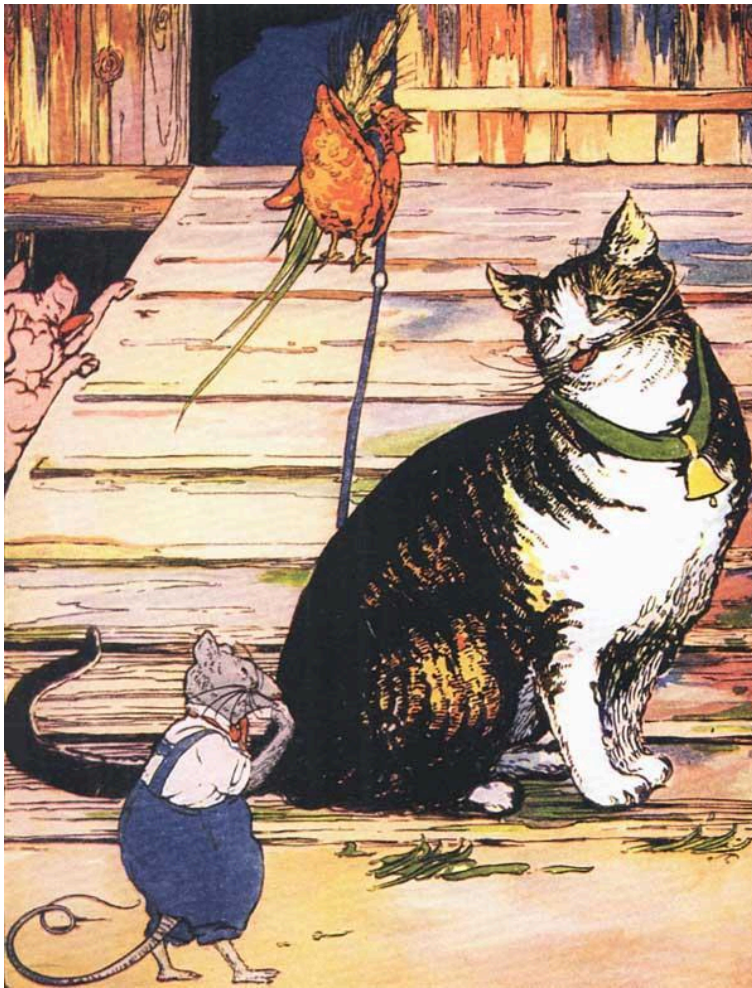
Kwa hiyo Yule Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu, akiangalia, haina budi kukubaliwa, afadhali amekatishwa tamaa, akasema, "Vema, nitafanya hivyo."

Na yeye alifanya.

Bila shaka, ilimbidi kuwalisha watoto wake kwanza, hata hivyo, na alipowafanya wote walale kwa usingizi wao wa alasiri, alitoka na kupura ngano. Kisha akapaaza sauti: "Ni nani atakayeipeleka ngano kwenye kisagio ili kusagwa?"







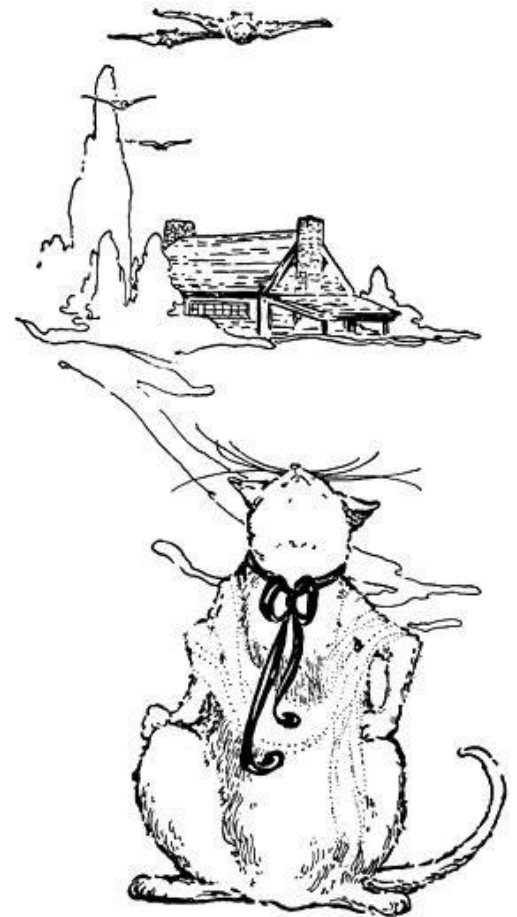
Turning their backs with snippy glee, that Pig said, "Not I,"

and that Cat said, "Not I,"  
and that Rat said, "Not I."

Wakigeuza migongo yao  
kwa furaha kubwa, Nguruwe  
huyo akasema, "Si mimi,"

na Paka huyo akasema, "Si  
mimi,"

na huyo Panya akasema,  
"Si mimi."



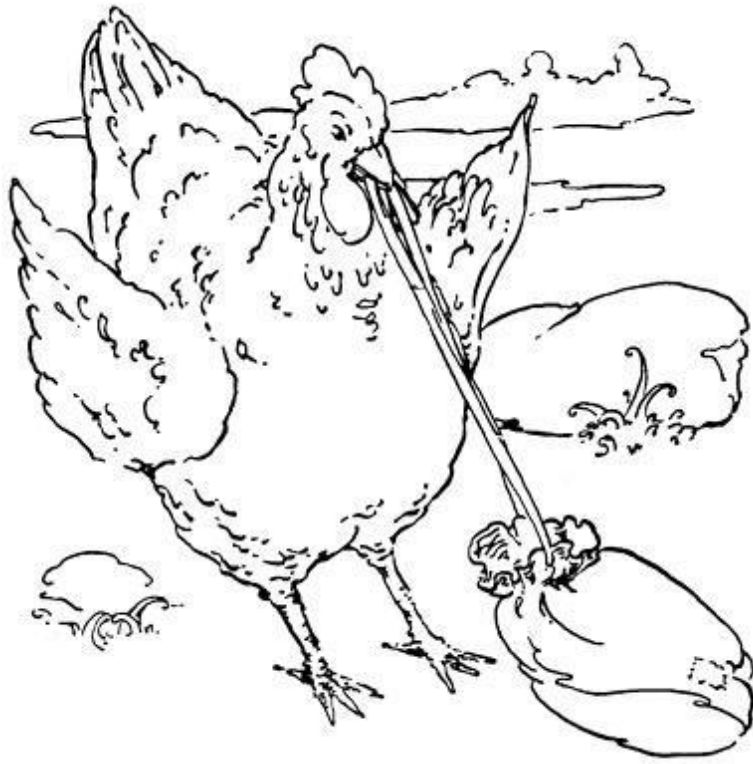
So the good Little Red Hen could do nothing but say, "I will then." And she did.

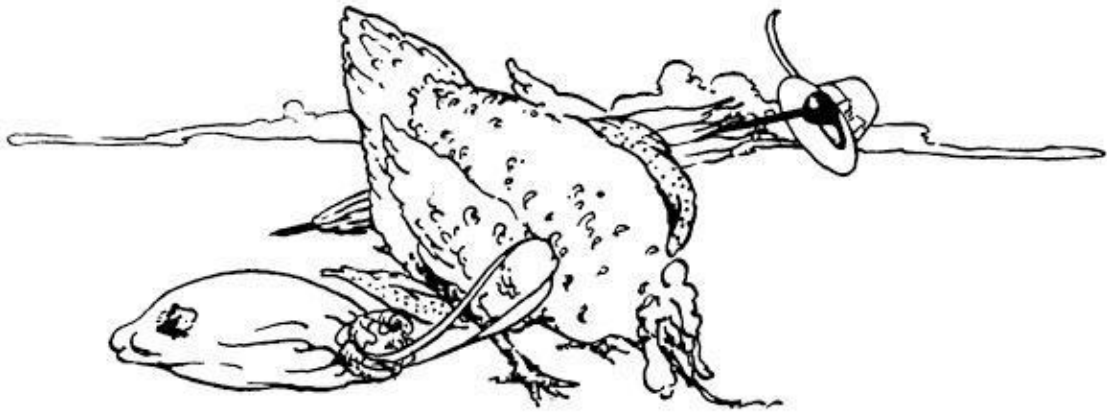
Carrying the sack of Wheat, she trudged off to the distant mill. There she ordered the Wheat ground into beautiful white flour. When the miller brought her the flour she walked slowly back all the way to her own barnyard in her own picketty-pecketty fashion.

Kwa hiyo Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu mzuri  
hakuweza kufanya lolote ila kusema, "Basi  
nitafanya." Na yeye alifanya.

Akiwa amebeba gunia la Ngano, alinyata hadi  
kwenye kinu cha mbali. Hapo aliagiza Ngano  
ikasagwa kuwa unga mweupe mzuri. Msagaji  
alipomletea unga alitembea taratibu kurudi hadi  
kwenye kiwanja chake kwa mtindo wake wa kuchuna.







She even managed, in spite of her load, to catch a nice juicy worm now and then and had one left for the babies when she reached them. Those cunning little fluff-balls were so glad to see their mother. For the first time, they really appreciated her.



Hata aliweza, licha ya mzigo wake, kukamata mdudu mzuri wa juisi mara kwa mara na aliwaacha vifaranga na kuwapa alipowafikia. Wale vifaranga wadogo wenye ujanja walifurahi sana kumuona mama yao. Kwa mara ya kwanza, walimthamini sana.

After this really strenuous day Mrs. Hen retired to her slumbers earlier than usual—indeed, before the colours came into the sky to herald the setting of the sun, her usual bedtime hour.

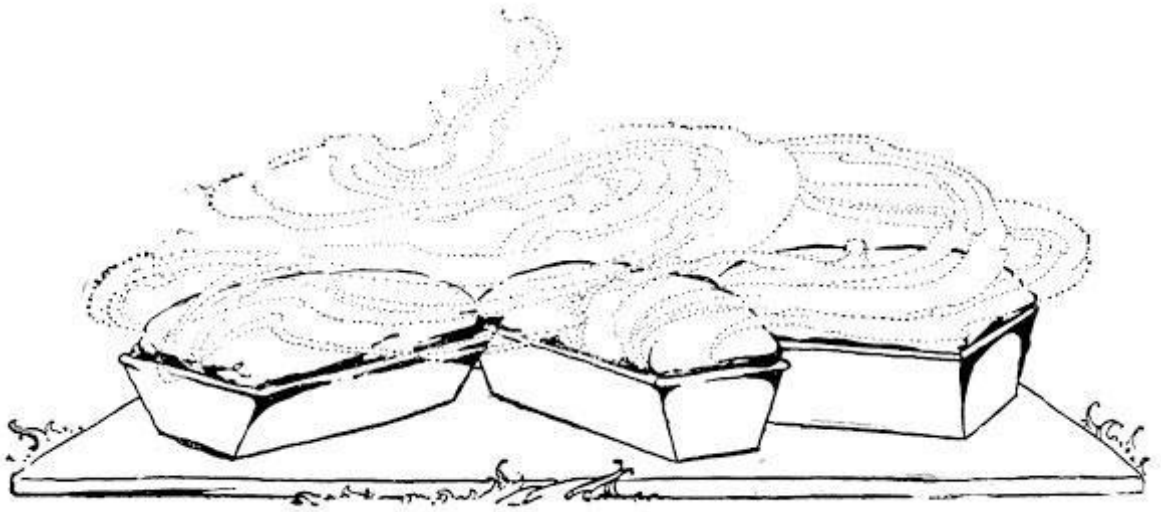
She would have liked to sleep late in the morning, but her chicks, joining in the morning chorus of the hen yard, drove away all hopes of such a luxury.

Even as she sleepily half opened one eye, the thought came to her that today that the wheat must, somehow, be made into bread.

Baada ya siku hii yenye kusumbua sana Bi.Kuku alilala usingizi mapema kuliko kawaida—hakika, kabla ya rangi kuja angani kutangaza kutua kwa jua, saa yake ya kawaida ya kwenda kulala.

Angetaka kulala asubuhi sana, lakini vifaranga vyake, wakijiunga na kiitikio cha asubuhi kwenye uwanja wa kuku, walifukuza matumaini yote ya anasa kama hiyo.

Hata nusura alipofungua jicho moja kwa usingizi, wazo likamjia kwamba leo kwamba ngano lazima, kwa namna fulani, ifanywe mkate.



She was not in the habit of making bread, although, of course, anyone can make it if he or she follows the recipe with care, and she knew perfectly well that she could do it if necessary.

So after her children were fed and made sweet and fresh for the day, she hunted up the Pig, the Cat and the Rat. Still confident that they would surely help her some day she sang out, "Who will make the bread?"

Hakuwa na tabia ya kutengeneza mkate, ingawa, bila shaka, mtu yeyote anaweza kuifanya ikiwa anafuata kichocheo kwa uangalifu, na alijua vizuri kwamba angeweza kuifanya ikiwa ni lazima.

Kwa hiyo baada ya watoto wake kulishwa chakula kitamu na kushiba kwa siku hiyo, aliwinda Nguruwe, Paka na Panya. Angali akiwa na uhakika kwamba bila shaka wangemsaidia siku moja ambapo angeita kwa sauti, "Nani atatengeneza mkate huo?"







Alas for the Little Red Hen! Once more her hopes were dashed! For The Pig said, "Not I," the Cat said, "Not I," and the Rat said, "Not I."

So the Little Red Hen said once more, "I will then," and she did.

Ole wa kuku Mdogo  
Mwekundu! Kwa mara nyingine  
tena matumaini yake yalipotea!  
Kwa maana Nguruwe alisema,  
"Si mimi,"

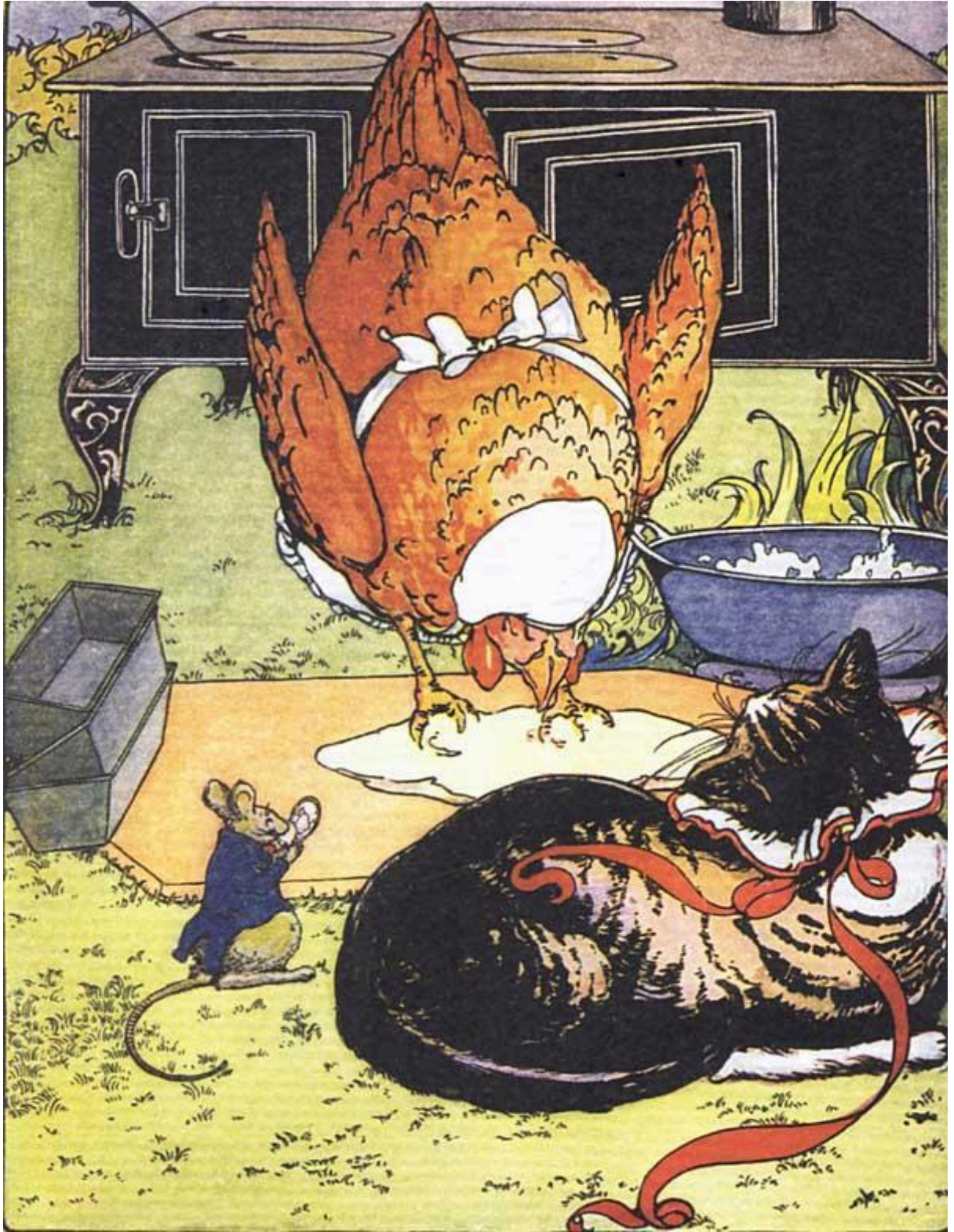
Paka alisema, "Si mimi,"  
na Panya akasema, "Si mimi."

Kwa hiyo Kuku Mdogo  
Mwekundu akasema kwa mara  
nyingine tena, "Basi  
nitafanya," na akafanya.

Feeling that she might have known  
all the time that she would have to  
do it all herself, she went and put on  
a fresh apron and spotless cook's

cap. First of all she set the dough, as was proper. When it was time she brought out the moulding board and the baking tins, moulded the bread, divided it into loaves, and put them into the oven to bake. All the while the Cat sat lazily by, giggling and chuckling.

Akihisi kwamba huenda alijua wakati wote kwamba angelazimika kufanya hivyo mwenyewe, akaenda na kuvaa aproni safi na kofia ya mpishi isiyo na doa. Awali ya yote aliweka unga, kama ilivyofaa. Wakati ulipowadia, alitoa ubao na vibapa vya kuokea, akaufinya mkate, akaugawanya kuwa mikate, na kuiweka katika oveni ili kuoka. Muda wote Paka alikaa kwa uvivu, akicheka na kucheka.



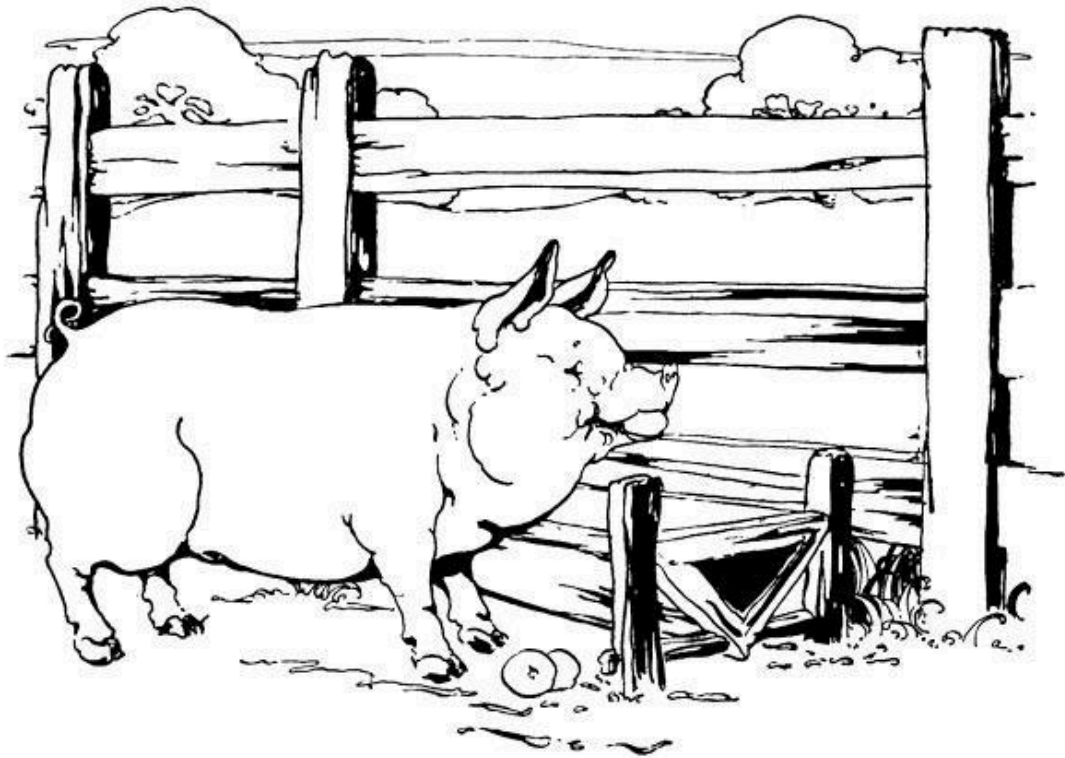
And close at hand the vain Rat powdered his nose and admired himself in a mirror. In the distance could be heard the long-drawn snores of the dozing Pig.

Na karibu karibu na mkono Panya ubatili poda pua yake na kujiangalia mwenyewe katika kioo. Kwa mbali zilisikika mikoromo ya Nguruwe aliyelala kwa muda mrefu.



At last the great moment arrived. A delicious odor was wafted along the autumn breeze. Everywhere the barnyard citizens sniffed the air with delight.

Hatimaye wakati mkuu ulifika. Harufu ya kupendeza ilipeperushwa pamoja na upepo wa vuli. Kila mahali wananchi wa boma walinusa hewa kwa furaha.



The Red Hen ambled in her picketty-pecketty way toward the source of all this excitement.

Although she appeared to be perfectly calm, in reality it was difficult to resist an impulse to dance and sing, for had she not done all the work on this wonderful bread?

Kuku mdogo Mwekundu alipiga kelele kwa njia yake ya kashfa kuelekea chanzo cha msisimko huu wote.

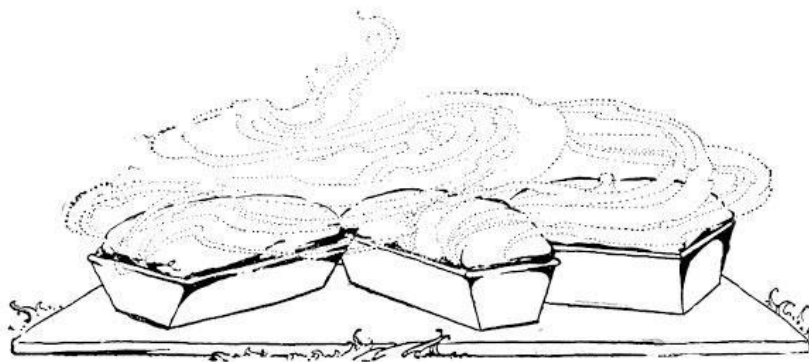
Ingawa alionekana kuwa mtulivu kabisa, kwa kweli ilikuwa vigumu kupinga msukumo wa kucheza na kuimba, kwani hakuwa

amefanya kazi yote juu ya mkate huu wa ajabu?





Small wonder that she was the most excited person in the barnyard!  
Haishangazi kwamba alikuwa mtu aliyesisimka zaidi kwenye ua!



She did not know whether the bread would be fit to eat, but—joy of joys! - when the lovely brown loaves came out of the oven, they were done to perfection.

Then, probably because she had acquired the habit, the Red Hen called: "Who will eat the bread?"

Hakujua kama mkate ungefaa kuliwa, lakini - furaha ya shangwe! - wakati mikate ya kahawia ya kupendeza ilipotoka kwenye tanuri, ilifanywa kwa ukamilifu.

Kisha, labda kwa sababu alikuwa amepata uzoefu huo, Kuku mdogo Mwekundu aliita: "Nani atakula mkate?"



All the animals in the barnyard were watching hungrily and smacking their lips in anticipation, and the Pig said, "I will,"  
the Cat said, "I will,"  
the Rat said, "I will."  
But the Little Red Hen said, "No, you won't. I will."  
And she did.

Wanyama wote kwenye zizi walikuwa wakitazama kwa njaa na kupiga midomo yao kwa kutarajia, na Nguruwe akasema, "Nitaianya,"  
Paka alisema, "Nitaianya,"  
Panya akasema, "Nitaianya."  
Lakini Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu akasema, "Hapana, hutaianya. nitaianya."  
Na yeye alifanya.

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### **Discussion questions:**

Involving children in a discussion regarding a text is a powerful strategy for developing their reading comprehension skills. Some suggested questions to ask about the story are listed below.

#### **Before reading:**

1. Look at the title and cover. What do you think this book is about?
2. What do you already know about hens?
3. What do you know about how bread is made?

#### **During/after reading:**

1. Who is the main character in the story "The Little Red Hen"?
2. What does the Little Red Hen find while scratching the ground?
3. What does the Little Red Hen want to do with the wheat she found?
4. Who does the Little Red Hen ask for help in planting the wheat?
5. How do the animals respond when the Little Red Hen asks for help?
6. What does the Little Red Hen do all by herself?
7. What happens when the wheat is fully grown?
8. Who does the Little Red Hen ask for help in harvesting the wheat?
9. How do the animals react when the Little Red Hen asks for help in baking the bread?
10. Why do you think the Little Red Hen gave the other animals lots of opportunities to help her?
11. What is the story teaching us?
12. What kinds of things can we share?

### **Maswali ya majadiliano:**

Kuwashirikisha watoto katika majadiliano kuhusu matini ni mkakati madhubuti wa kukuza stadi zao za ufahamu wa kusoma. Baadhi ya maswali yaliyopendekezwa ya kuuliza kuhusu hadithi yameorodheshwa hapa chini.

#### **Kabla ya kusoma:**

1. Angalia kichwa na kifuniko. Unafikiri kitabu hiki kinahusu nini?
2. Je! unajua nini kuhusu kuku?
3. Je! unajua nini kuhusu jinsi mkate unavyotengenezwa?

#### **Wakati / baada ya kusoma:**

1. Ni nani mhusika mkuu katika hadithi "Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu"?
2. Je, Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu hupata nini anapokwaruza ardhi?
3. Je, Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu anataka kufanya nini na ngano aliyoipata?
4. Je! Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu huomba msaada wa nani katika kupanda ngano?
5. Je, wanyama hujibuje Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu anapoomba msaada?
6. Je, kuku Mdogo Mwekundu anafanya nini peke yake?
7. Ni nini kinachotokea wakati ngano imekua kikamilifu?
8. Je, Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu huomba nani msaada katika kuvuna ngano?
9. Wanyama hutendaje Kuku Mdogo Mwekundu anapoomba msaada wa kuoka mkate?
10. Unafikiri ni kwa nini kuku Mdogo Mwekundu aliwapa wanyama wengine fursa nyingi za kumsaidia?
11. Hadithi inatufundisha nini?
12. Je, tunaweza kushiriki vitu vya aina gani?