



SCHEDULING TIME



1. Show length

- a. This mini-musical is designed for young participants and a young audience. When produced, it should take approximately 25 minutes.
- b. Staging and directions have been written for a full stage production. Of course, you may modify both to simplify the production if you wish.

2. Practice time

- a. If you are going to present this as an in-class production, you can be much more laid back about intensity and length of practice. In such a case, *after you have organized your planning*, set aside about two weeks to practice and present the show.
- b. If you are going to have a larger, stage production, you will need three or more weeks—after you have organized the planning to be done by you, your colleagues, and parents.
- c. Anticipate the brevity of most young students' attention span and practice accordingly.
- d. Practice only small portions of the musical at first—dividing actors, chorus, choral readers, etc., in separate areas of the school if you are doing the stage production. Coordinate practice times with the adults who are leading the separate production components.

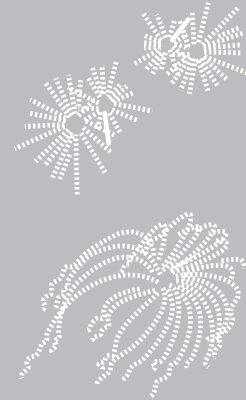
3. Full rehearsals

- a. Bring all the participants together just a few times before the actual performance to go through the entire show.
- b. Have a **technical performance** in which participants walk through the performance. Do blocking (teaching actor/actress movements), use scenery, props, music and light cues. Stop the rehearsal for changes.
- c. Hold a **full rehearsal** in which no costumes are worn since young students get them dirty or tear them so rapidly.
- d. Stage a **dress rehearsal** only once. The leading roles should wear costumes. Have all crews do their thing: props, lights, etc. Consider not having chorus and choral readers wear their headbands. If you do, some will get ruined and you must be prepared with a few extras in case of loss or “injury.”



Little Red Hen

A Mini-Musical Mello-Drama



Cast:

Little Red Hen
Rooster, Dog, Cat, Pig, Chicks
Chorus and Readers
Crews for Lights, Props, and Scenery

Directions for using the two microphones: Rooster uses mike at left stage; other characters use mike at right stage.

At the beginning the curtain is closed. The Chorus and the Readers shout and wave while standing on the risers ...

and then the Chorus sings ...

Readers and Chorus sit on the risers, and the Readers begin the story...

The house lights dim, the curtain opens, and a spotlight represents sunrise ... The animals are sleeping on bales of hay...

Chorus/Readers:

Howdee!

Chorus: Overture

This is a tale of shiftless country livin'.
It also is a tale of friendly givin'.
The hen will work her heart out for her chicks,
While others stand around in an awful fix.
Oh even tho the sky is blue and breezy,
There ain't no way to tell this story easy.
Just watchin' all those folks a layin' sleepin',
Will set us workin' folk to mighty weepin'.

Readers:

Our story begins in the West
Where ranchin' is always the best.
Except in this case
There's a run-down place
'Cause some of them wanted to rest.

Readers:

The sun is rise'n like bread.
While everyone sleeps in their bed.
We need Mr. Rooster—and soon ...
To get this bunch up before noon.

Overture (Chorus)

Words and Music by
Maggie Heiser &
Sandy Terrell

Lively G7

C C

This is a tale of shift-less coun-try
ev-en tho the sky is blue and

F C G7

liv-in'. It al-so is a tale of friend-ly giv-in'. The
breezy, There ain't no way to tell this stor-y eas-y. Just

C F

hen will work her heart out for her chicks, _____ While
watch-in' all those folks a lay-in' sleep-in', Will

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for a chorus. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The music is in common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Lively'. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: G7, C, C, F, C, G7, C, F. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system shows the beginning of the chorus with a G7 chord. The second system has two C chords. The third system has F, C, and G7 chords. The fourth system has C and F chords. The fifth system has C and F chords. The lyrics are: 'This is a tale of shift-less coun-try ev-en tho the sky is blue and liv-in'. It al-so is a tale of friend-ly giv-in'. The breezy, There ain't no way to tell this stor-y eas-y. Just hen will work her heart out for her chicks, _____ While watch-in' all those folks a lay-in' sleep-in', Will'.

Dear parent,

Our class is presenting *Little Red Hen*, a mini-musical, on this date: _____ . We are writing you to ask you for help with the costumes. Your daughter or son will tell you which part she or he is playing in the show. Members of the Chorus and Choral Readers will be wearing western shirts and hats. (The girls will be wearing special Minnie Pearl hats we will be making out of construction paper. The boys will be wearing bandanas.) Students who have certain roles will dress as a cat, a dog, a pig, and young chickens. There will be a rooster and a leading role—Red Hen. Some sewing may be necessary.

If you would like to get involved and help us in any way with the costumes, please contact us. (Oh yes—we may need some help finding cardboard refrigerator cartons which we can paint for our country background sets. Maybe you would like to help us find such cartons.)

If you wish to help, call our teacher, _____ , at this number: _____ .

Finally, we hope you are able to come to see our musical show. You will be receiving an invitation soon.

Thank you!

