



EIEIO: How Old MacDonald Got His Farm with a Little Help From a Hen

By Judy Sierra

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The Little Red Hen gives old MacDonald some pointers on composting — and a legendary farm is born — in this rhyming, rollicking read-aloud.

Once upon a time, Old MacDonald didn't have a farm. He just had a yard — a yard he didn't want to mow. But under the direction of the wise (and ecologically sensitive) Little Red Hen, Mac learns to look at the environment in a very different way, and whole new worlds start to bloom with the help of some mud, garbage, horse poop, and worms! Judy Sierra's spirited verse, paired with Matthew Myers's exuberant illustrations, yields a fresh take on a children's classic, complete with raised-bed gardens and an organic farmers' market—making this a perfect story for armchair gardeners and devoted locavores of all sizes.

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Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreS-Gr 2—Most children know about Old MacDonald and his animals, but did they ever wonder how he got that farm? Sierra imagines a rollicking suburban scenario that starts when MacDonald gets tired of mowing the lawn and begins to seek out creative alternatives. A grass-nibbling goat is joined by the "smartest hen in history," and the fun begins. The lawn is covered with cardboard and dirt, a horse arrives to help create compost, and the seeds of the farm are planted. Myers's illustrations capture the fun with expressive animals and grumpy, bow-tied neighbors. This title offers a great way to extend the song into a lesson about the plant cycle and suburban farming. An excellent purchase for general collections as well as curriculum support.—Martha Link Yesowitch, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, NC

From [Booklist](#)

A sustainability take on the old nursery rhyme, this humorous go-round places the Little Red Hen in the role of consultant to Old MacDonald. Sierra quickly veers from the original situation—here, MacDonald only has a suburban yard. And he's sick of mowing it. So he gets a goat, but the goat just grazes. He goes online to get a chicken and ends up with the world's smartest chicken, the Little Red Hen, who tells him he'll never have to mow again if he just follows her instructions. The yard is covered in cardboard, paper, and dirt and gets extremely muddy, which leads to a neighborhood protest. When the hen and MacDonald bring in manure to build a worm farm, the protests escalate. At last, though, the once-useless plot of grass has been transformed into a local farm, everyone rejoices, and MacDonald has become a true farmer. Myers' acrylic-and-oil illustrations are eye-popping, with wildly exaggerated faces and bodies. A fun twist on an old favorite. Preschool-Grade 2. --Connie Fletcher

Review

Sierra has written an ingenious parable that's ripped-from-the-headlines (or HGTV), and she has a two-peas-in-a-pod partnership with Myers, whose sculptural pictures and sly comedy add just the right amount of visual extravagance.

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Myers' inventive acrylic-on-illustration board paintings add a bushel of laugh-out-loud details, from documents attesting to Red's impressive horticultural credentials to an in-your-face depiction of horse poop. ... Bits of Sierra's text can be sung to the familiar tune, rendering this a good choice for spring storytimes and family read-alouds. Sierra's upbeat look at small-scale local farming, fulsomely fertilized by Myers, yields a harvest of good fun.

—Kirkus Reviews

This rhyming narrative is a refreshing twist with two beloved characters. ... The bright, quirky acrylic and oil illustrations bring the story to life, adding many sidebars to the story, coupled with just enough text on each page to make the book great for reading aloud. Curriculum ties to science and health could easily be made.

—Library Media Connection

A sustainability take on the old nursery rhyme, this humorous go-round places the Little Red Hen in the role of consultant to Old MacDonald. ... Myers' acrylic-and-oil illustrations are eye-popping, with wildly exaggerated faces and bodies. A fun twist on an old favorite.

—Booklist

Myers's illustrations capture the fun with expressive animals and grumpy, bow-tied neighbors. This title offers a great way to extend the song into a lesson about the plant cycle and suburban farming. An excellent purchase for general collections as well as curriculum support.

—School Library Journal

Written in rhyme and perfectly complemented by comical illustrations, this very funny story on ecology is a brilliant gem.

—Pocono Record (syndicated from Kendal Rautzhan)

Clever couplets and bright, comic illustrations.

—San Francisco Chronicle

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joyce Johnson:

Here thing why this kind of EIEIO: How Old MacDonald Got His Farm with a Little Help From a Hen are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. EIEIO: How Old MacDonald Got His Farm with a Little Help From a Hen giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no publication that similar with EIEIO: How Old MacDonald Got His Farm with a Little Help From a Hen. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your technique home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of EIEIO: How Old MacDonald Got His Farm with a Little Help From a Hen in e-book can be your choice.

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Oscar Jackson:

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