

Armadilly Chili

Written by Helen Ketteman
Illustrated by Will Terry



Armadilly Chili is a Texas-sized parody of *The Little Red Hen*. Miss Billie wants to make a pot of “armadilly chili” for the coming cold weather. She calls upon her friends, but each is too busy to help. The friends show up later after smelling the aroma, and each is turned away. As Miss Billie stares at her bowl, she realizes she’s missing an ingredient – friends to share and enjoy the chili.

About the Author/Illustrator

Helen Ketteman was born in Harlem, Georgia. After she married, she moved to Chicago and later to Seattle, Washington. In Seattle, she began writing and learning her craft. When she moved to Dallas, Texas, she published her first book, *Bubba the Cowboy Prince*. She currently lives in San Francisco, California, and continues to write and speak to public school children across the country.

This is Will Terry’s first time to illustrate a picture book. He was born in Washington, D.C., and studied at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He and his family currently live in California.

Accompanying Activities

1. Discussion Questions

- How do you think Miss Billie felt after all her friends refused to help her make the chili? Has this ever happened to you?
- What was the ingredient the chili was missing at the end of the story?
- Why is it important to share with friends?

a. Listening/speaking/culture - The student listens and speaks to gain knowledge of his/her own culture, the culture of others, and the common elements of cultures.

TEKS: *ELA 110.3 (b) 2 A*

b. Listening/speaking/audiences/oral grammar - The student speaks appropriately to different audiences for different purposes and occasions.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 3 C; ELA 110.3 (b) 3 D; ELA 110.4 (b) 3 D*

c. Listening/speaking/communication - The student communicates clearly by putting thoughts and feelings into spoken words.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 4 B*

d. Reading/vocabulary development - The student analyzes the characteristics of various types of texts.

TEKS: *ELA 110.4 (b) 11 H*

e. Reading/text structures/literary concepts - The student recognizes characteristics of various types of texts.

TEKS: *ELA 110.3 (b) 14 G*

Armadillo Readers’ Choice

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2. Reader's Theater

After reading the story, ask four students to help re-enact the story. First ask the students about the sequence of events. Write and/or draw their responses on a chart tablet or SmartBoard. Students will use the chart to help re-enact the story.

Supplies

Wide brim hat with flowers (Miss Billie)

Tall black hat (Tex)

Small straw hat (Mackie)

Bicycle or skating helmet (Taffy)

Large plastic bowl

Wooden spoon

Small bowls

Three paper bags

Optional: Plastic bugs, peppers, and cactus

a. Listening/speaking/audiences/oral grammar - The student speaks appropriately to different audiences for different purposes and occasions.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 3 D; ELA 110.4 (b) 3 D*

b. Reading/comprehension - The student uses a variety of strategies to comprehend selections read aloud/read independently.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 9 C; ELA 110.3 (b) 12 C; ELA 110.4 (b) 9 C*

c. Reading/literary response - The student responds to various texts.

TEKS: *ELA 110.2 (b) 10 C; ELA 110.3 (b) 13 C*

d. Reading/text structures/literary concepts - The student recognizes characteristics of various types of texts.

TEKS: *ELA 110.3 (b) 14 I*

3. Compare and Contrast Activity

Students will compare and contrast elements of the traditional story, *The Little Red Hen*, with story elements in *Armadilly Chili*.

- Tell how each story is similar.
- List differences.
- Why did the author decide to use different characters and items?
- If you wanted to rewrite *The Little Red Hen*, what food would you choose to make? Who would be in the story?

a. Reading/text structures/literary concepts – The student recognizes characteristics of various types of texts.

TEKS: *ELA 110.3 (b) 14 D; ELA 110.4 (b) 11 E*

b. Reading/comprehension – The student uses a variety of strategies to comprehend selections read aloud/read independently.

TEKS: *ELA 110.4 (b) 9 G; ELA 110.4 (b) 11 E*

4. Writing Activity

Students will write a thank-you letter from Miss Billie to one of her friends.

Discuss the format of a thank-you letter.

- a. Greeting: Dear _____,

- b. Body: Use two or more sentences. Be sure to mention the item the animal brought to the party.
 - c. Closing: Yours truly,
 - d. Signature: Miss Billie
- a. Writing/writing processes** - The student writes for a variety of audiences and purposes and in a variety of forms.
TEKS: *ELA 110.3 (b) 18 F*
- b. Writing/purposes** - The student writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, and in various forms.
TEKS: *ELA 110.4 (b) 14 D*

Companion Books

Other Books by Helen Ketteman

Armadillo Tattletale. Scholastic, 2000.
Aunt Hilarity's Bustle. Simon & Schuster's Books for Young Readers, 1992.
Bubba the Cowboy Prince. Scholastic, 1997.
Christmas Blizzard. Scholastic, 1995.
Grandma's Cat. Houghton Mifflin, 1996.
Great Cake Bake. Walker, 2005.
Heat Wave. Walker, 1998.
I Remember Papa. Puffin Books, 1998.
Luck With Potatoes. Orchard Books, 1995.
Mama's Way. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2001.
Not Yet, Yvette. Whitman, 1992.
Shoeshine Whittaker. Walker, 1999.
Year of No More Corn. Orchard Books, 1993.

Little Red Hen Stories

Barton, Byron. *The Little Red Hen*. HarperCollins, 1993.
Crummel, Susan Stevens. *Cook-a-Doodle Do!* Harcourt Brace, 1999.
Finch, Mary and Elisabeth Bell. *Little Red Hen and the Ear of Wheat*. Barefoot Books, 1999.
Galdone, Paul. *The Little Red Hen*. Clarion, 1973.
Kantor, Susan. *Tiny Tilda's Pumpkin Pie*. Grosset & Dunlap, 2002.
Sturges, Philemon. *Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza*. Dutton Children's Books, 1999.
Williams, Rozanne L. *Little Red Hen Makes Soup*. Creative Teaching Press, 2003.