

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Chicken Feed

Norman was given the responsibility for feeding and watering the chickens on the family farm when he was just five years old. He hated the job, but he took both chores quite seriously. His mother depended on the laying hens for eggs and the young roosters for Sunday dinners. She usually had about fifty hens, fifty chicks, and fifty to one hundred young roosters. That's a lot of mouths to feed!

This chore was not one of Norman's favorites. The chickens had to be fed and watered every day, no matter what the weather was or the time of year. Can you imagine trying to pull a wagon across a bumpy dirt path through mud, rain, snow and ice?

Like many boys his age, Norman had a red wagon and he had to pull it from the barn, down the hill and to the water tank, which was about as far away as a football field. He pumped enough water to fill five eight quart pails and then he had to turn around and pull the wagon back up the hill to the chicken coop. As he got older, both he and brother, Michael, made the trip to the tank. Sometimes Norman liked to ride his horse and pull the wagon and his brother up the hill with a rope attached, but Michael often came back soaking wet!

The roosters grew fast and began to develop spurs on the backs of their legs and challenged Norman and Michael every chance they got. Those spurs produced a cut that would sting and hurt!

One day before Norman could pull the wagon close the chicken coop, one young rooster decided to pick a fight with him. Norman picked up a rock and threw it in order to scare it away. Unfortunately, the rock hit the rooster in the head and it began to flop around like it was hurt and dying.

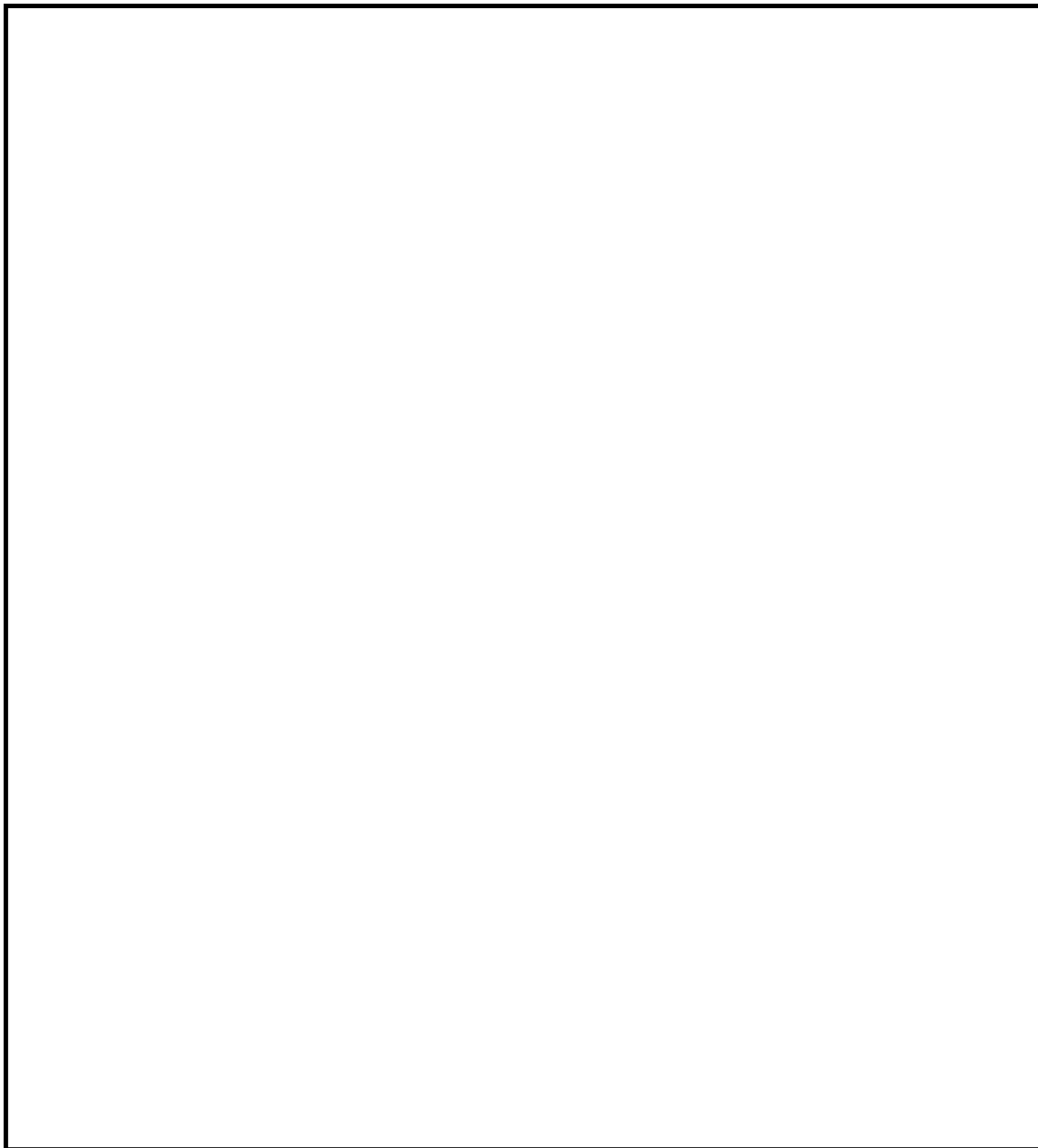
Norman picked up the pails of water and dumped all of them on the rooster, thinking that he'd be in big trouble with his mother if it died. Both boys went back down the hill and refilled the pails and took them back up to splash on what they thought was a dying rooster.

When they got back to the chicken coop, there was no sign of the rooster! It had recovered and rejoined the rest of the rascally roosters! There was a quiet sigh of relief from both boys as they went back to their chores!

Find and circle the special story words. How many did you find?

hurt \_\_\_\_\_ pull \_\_\_\_\_ cut \_\_\_\_\_ kind \_\_\_\_\_ both \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of Norman pulling a wagonload of water to the chicken coop.



# Fill in the Blanks

Read each sentence below. Circle the missing word and write it in the space.

1. Norman had to \_\_\_\_\_ his wagon to the water tank.  
pull      push

2. Rooster spurs can \_\_\_\_\_ and sting.  
cute      cut

3. \_\_\_\_\_ boys had chores to do on the farm.  
Both      Bath

## Yes or No?

- |  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Did the family farm have chickens?      | yes | no |
| 2. Did they eat the hens?                  | yes | no |
| 3. Did Norman have to feed and water them? | yes | no |
| 4. Did he hit the rooster with a rock?     | yes | no |
| 5. Did the rooster die when it was hit?    | yes | no |

## It's a Match!

Draw a line to connect the naming part of the sentence with the action part of the sentence. Read them to yourself to make sure that they make sense. The first one is done for you.

- Norman                      were raised for Sunday dinners.
- His mother                      had to feed and water the chickens.
- The roosters                      tried to attack Norman one day.
- Norman's wagon                      threw a rock at it and hit in the head.
- One rooster                      depended on the layers for eggs.
- He                      held 5 pails of water.

Where did Norman have to feed and water?

What did he put the water in?

What did he pull up the hill to the chicken coop?

What were the roosters for?

What did Norman throw at the rooster?