



CHARACTER BUILDING LESSONS

CARL SOMMER

PROUD ROOSTER AND LITTLE HEN

About the Book

Proud Rooster, always ignoring everyone’s advice, gets into all sorts of trouble. Filling his tummy with green strawberries, falling off a tree while showing off, and skating on thin ice after being warned, nearly do him in. But his hard lessons change him forever. Proud Rooster is glad to learn that it is not too late to obey.

In this exciting tale, Carl Sommer reveals the importance of humility, obedience to parents, and self-discipline.



Main Virtues

**Humility/Respect for Parents/
Self-Discipline**

Other Virtues

Assertiveness, Caring, Citizenship, Civic Virtue, Commitment, Community Service, Compassion, Cooperation, Creativity, Diligence, Generosity, Kindness, Obedience to Parents, Respect for Law, Safety, and Trust



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Listening to Parents

As Papa Rooster and Mama Hen watched everyone play, Mama said, “I hope Little Rooster will start learning to obey.”

“So do I,” said Papa. “Lately, Little Rooster has been getting into all kinds of trouble for not listening.”

Wise children listen to their parents.

Humility/Pride

Papa and Mama often tried to teach Proud Rooster, but he would just stick out his chest. He was not going to listen to *anyone*! The only one he listened to was himself.

Humble people listen to others, but the proud do not. The end result is that the proud often get into all sorts of trouble.

Self-Discipline—Avoiding Temptation

Little Hen warned Proud Rooster about the strawberries, “You’d better not eat them. They aren’t ripe. Mama told us, ‘Green strawberries will make us sick.’”

Proud Rooster said, “I’ll just take one little bite.”

But the green strawberries tasted so good, that one little bite became two little bites. And so it went, until Proud Rooster had stuffed his tummy full of green strawberries.

Proud Rooster could have avoided the temptation of eating the green strawberries if he had listened to his mother. Instead, he tasted one strawberry, and it tasted so good that he didn’t stop until his stomach was stuffed full. His disobedience and lack of self-discipline made him terribly sick.

Listening to Correction

Proud Rooster bragged, “I can climb higher than anyone.”

Tom Turkey pointed to the largest tree on the farm. “I dare you to climb to the top of that tree.”

“That’s easy,” boasted Proud Rooster.

Everyone warned him it would be dangerous. But Proud Rooster wouldn’t listen to correction. He was going to show off by climbing the high tree, even if it was dangerous.

The Law of Sowing and Reaping

Proud Rooster fell from the tree, and they rushed him to the hospital. After the doctors examined him, they bandaged him from head to toe.

“Ohhhhhh!!!” cried Proud Rooster. “My head hurts! And my arms and legs hurt, too! Everything hurts!”

There is the law of sowing and reaping—we reap what we sow. Sow

good things—reap rewards. Sow evil—reap trouble.

Being Ridiculed for Doing Right

Proud Rooster said his friends were “All a bunch of babies” because they didn’t do what he was doing. Sometimes one is ridiculed for doing what is right. Never give in to those who want you to do foolish and evil things. We should always do what is right regardless of what others say.

Learning the Hard Way

Proud Rooster thought about all the trouble he had gotten into. “It’s all because I was proud and didn’t listen. I’ve learned my lesson. From now on I’m listening!”

It was Proud Rooster’s troubles that caused him to change. He learned his lessons the hard way. Those who are wise, learn from the mistakes of others.

Being Sorry

There was Proud Rooster, barely able to open his eyes, but he was ready to talk! “I’m sorry for being so proud and not listening,” he whispered. “Papa, is it too late?”

Papa wrapped his arms around his son and said, “No, Little Rooster. You have learned to listen just in time.”

Proud Rooster was willing to say he was sorry for what he did.

Questions

1. When winter was finally over, what did Little Rooster yell?

Little Rooster, yelled, "Yippee! We can finally go outside and play ball again."

2. What did Mama say she hoped Little Rooster would do?

Mama said, "I hope Little Rooster will start learning to obey."

3. A. What did Papa say when Mama said, “I hope Little Rooster will start learning to obey”?

Papa said, "So do I. Lately, Little Rooster has been getting into all kinds of trouble for not listening."

B. Why do Papa and Mama want Little Rooster to learn to obey?

Papa and Mama want Little Rooster to learn to obey because they love him and want to help him stay out of trouble.

4. What was the other name that Little Rooster had around the farm?

The other name for Little Rooster was Proud Rooster.

5. Who was the only one Proud Rooster listened to?

The only one Proud Rooster ever listened to was himself.

Papa and Mama often tried to teach Proud Rooster, but he would just stick out his chest. He was not going to listen to anyone!

6. What would Papa Rooster tell Proud Rooster when he didn't listen?

Papa Rooster would say, "Sometimes little roosters have to learn things the hard way. And sometimes they learn them when it is too late."

7. What did Little Hen say to Proud Rooster when he saw all the green strawberries?

Little Hen said, "You'd better not eat them. They aren't ripe. Mama told us, 'Green strawberries will make us sick.'"

8. What did Proud Rooster say he would do about eating strawberries?

Proud Rooster said, "I'll just take one little bite."

9. A. What did Proud Rooster do after he took one little bite of a green strawberry?

Proud Rooster stuffed his tummy full of green strawberries

The green strawberry tasted so good that one little bite became two little bites. And so it went until Proud Rooster stuffed his tummy full of green strawberries.

B. Why do many boys and girls develop bad habits?

Many boys and girls develop bad habits because at first the bad thing they are doing feels good. Sometimes they get into bad habits because they wanted to try something one time.

Look at smoking. Smoking is a bad habit that harms the body. Be smart—never take the first puff of a cigarette.

C. What are some bad habits of boys and girls, and why are they bad?

Various answers.

10. What happened to Proud Rooster that night?

That night Proud Rooster could not eat his supper. He was sick—terribly sick.

Proud Rooster could have avoided the temptation of eating the green strawberries if he had listened to his mother. Instead, he ate the green strawberries and became terribly sick.

11. What did Proud Rooster brag about when he heard his friends talking about climbing trees?

Proud Rooster bragged, "I can climb higher than anyone."

12. What did Lucy Lamb say to Proud Rooster?

Lucy Lamb said, "You could fall and get hurt."

13. Why did Proud Rooster not want to listen to the warning of Lucy Lamb?

Proud Rooster did not listen to Lucy Lamb because he wanted to show off by climbing the high tree.

14. When Proud Rooster looked down and saw everyone talking, he said, "They must be talking about how good a climber I am." They were not. What were his friends saying?

His friends were saying how foolish he was for trying to show off.

15. What happened to Proud Rooster just when he nearly reached the top of the tree?

The branch snapped and Proud Rooster lost his balance and began to fall.

16. What did Dr. Owl say had happened to Proud Rooster?

Dr. Owl said, "He broke his arms and legs, and his head is badly hurt."

17. How much did they bandage Proud Rooster?

They bandaged him from head to toe.

We reap what we sow. By sowing good things, we reap good rewards; by sowing evil, we reap trouble.

18. What did the sign say about the ice?

The sign said, "Thin ice. Stay away!"

19. What did Proud Rooster yell to all his friends because they would not skate on the thin ice?

Proud Rooster yelled, "You're all a bunch of babies!"

20. Why do some boys and girls make fun of others who want to do what is right?

When boys and girls do wrong things they often want others to do the same. So to get them to follow them, they use ridicule.

Never give in to those who want you to do wrong. Be a person of character who always stands up for that what is right.

21. What happened when Proud Rooster ran as fast as he could and slid far across the ice, yelling, "Wheeeeeeee! This is fun!"?

The ice cracked and Proud Rooster fell into the freezing water.

20. What did Dr. Owl say after he examined Proud Rooster?

Dr. Owl said, "I don't know if Proud Rooster is going to make it. He's suffering from a bad case of frostbite."

21. What did Proud Rooster say about why he had gotten into all sorts of trouble?

Proud Rooster said, "It's all because I was proud and didn't listen."

It was Proud Rooster's troubles that caused him to change. He learned his lessons the hard way. Those who are wise, learn from the mistakes of others.

22. What did Proud Rooster remember that his Papa had warned him about over and over again?

Proud Rooster remembered, "Sometimes little roosters have to learn things the hard way. And sometimes they learn them when it is too late."

24. Proud Rooster could barely open his eyes, but he was ready to talk. What did he whisper?

Proud Rooster whispered, "I'm sorry for being so proud and not listening. Papa, is it too late?"

Proud Rooster was willing to say he was sorry for what he did.

25. What did Papa Rooster say to Proud Rooster after he asked, "Papa, is it too late"?

Papa said, "No, Little Rooster. You have learned to listen just in time."