

Directions: Read the story and answer the questions.

Rooster's Place in the Sun

by Bob Morrow



1 The sun peeked over the horizon, big and bright and red as a cherry, just as Rooster told it to do.

1 Rooster had popped awake before the reddish ray of dawn, leaped atop a fence post, spread his wings, arched his tail, and crowed, "COCKA- DOODLE-DOO! WAKE UP, SUN. GET UP, GET UP!"

3 Rooster fancied that he woke the sun every day and sent it on its walk across the sky. He was very, very proud of himself.

4 One morning as Rooster perched atop the fence post, admiring his work and preening his glossy red, green, blue, and black feathers, he had a brilliant idea.

5 Oh ho, thought Rooster. If the sun obeys me, that means I am very important. And *that* means the other animals must obey me, too!

6 Rooster flapped to the ground and rushed to put his kingdom in order. He raced across the barnyard until he came to Pig, who was just making himself comfy in the wallow.

7 "Pig," squawked Rooster in the bossiest voice, "I wake the sun each day and send it on its way, and you must obey me, too!"

8 "Hogwash," snorted Pig. "The sun doesn't need you. Besides, I'm resting, and you're bothering me." Then Pig, who had just finished a big breakfast, rolled over in a cozy bed of mud and went to sleep.

9 Rooster was quite angry. He felt that Pig had been disobedient and rude, hardly a proper way for a subject to behave. But then he thought, Well, what can one expect from someone who sleeps in the mud? He felt a little better and strutted up to Cow, who was munching clover.

10 "Cow!" screeched Rooster, hopping up and down in frustration.

11 "I WAKE THE SUN EACH DAY AND SEND IT ON ITS WAY, AND YOU MUST OBEY ME, TOO!"

12 Cow just looked at Rooster. Then "Moohooohoo!" Her massive sides shook with laughter. "Oh go away, silly Rooster," she gasped when she finally caught her breath. "The sun doesn't need the likes of you!"

- 13 Rooster was completely put out now and sat down under a tree to sulk.
- 14 Old Owl, who had been trying to nap on a branch, said softly, "Rooster, you'll not believe it and you surely won't like it, but the sun will awaken each day, whether you tell it to or not."
- 15 Owl was right. Rooster did not believe it, and he most certainly did not like it. He stomped to the chicken house, where he sat in a corner and pouted.
- 16 Suddenly he had another brilliant idea. "Aha!" he said, shaking his tail feathers. "I will refuse to crow and awaken the sun tomorrow. Then they'll all come begging me to set things right, and *then* they'll do as I tell them!"
- 17 Rooster was so pleased with his plan that he didn't sleep at all that night. The next morning he was on his fence post before the first rays of dawn began to lighten the sky.
- 18 Now we'll see, now we'll see, thought Rooster, quivering with anticipation. He was barely able to restrain his urge to crow.
- 19 Moments later, the sun rose over the horizon, big and bright and red as a cherry, even though Rooster had not told it to do so.
- 20 First Rooster was amazed. Then he was crushed, broken, defeated, and deflated. It took all the energy he could muster just to get down from the fence post.
- 21 He wandered about the barnyard for a long, long time, his head bowed, his wings and tail dragging on the ground. The other animals were right, thought Rooster. The sun doesn't need me. Nobody needs me.
- 22 Rooster choked on a sob. He was very sad and feeling more sorry for himself with each passing moment. Meanwhile, the sun rose higher in the sky, not at all concerned with Rooster's feelings.
- 23 Just then Pig came along. "Hey!" he snorted in a very grumpy voice. "Where were you this morning?"
- 24 "Huh?" sputtered Rooster.
- 25 "Yeah," Pig said, shaking his head and blinking his eyes. "You didn't crow this morning. I overslept and now I feel terrible and I missed breakfast, too, and if you're going to do your job, at least do it right."
- 26 "That goes for me, toooo," moaned Cow. "I feel dreadful, and it's all your fault. The farmer had to wake me this morning. I've never been so embarrassed in my life."
- 27 Rooster stood blinking and thinking. His job? He was beginning to feel better.
- 28 Suddenly he flapped his big wings and strutted about, crowing in his loudest voice, "GOOD MORNING TO ALL OF YOU!"

29 "Too late for that today," muttered Pig as he shuffled away. "Just don't let it happen again."

30 "Maybe the sun doesn't need me, but THEY DO, THEY DO, THEY DO!" he crowed.

31 Rooster never missed another wake-up call.

1. What is the meaning of the word *restrain* in paragraph 18?

- A. Hold back
- B. Open up
- C. Let go

2. What is the author's purpose for writing this story?

- A. To describe how animals live peacefully together in a barnyard
- B. To teach a lesson about the effects of ordering others around
- C. To entertain with a funny story about the sun rising

3. According to the story, which sentence tells how Pig and Cow are alike?

- A. They both believe Rooster should be obeyed.
- B. They both think Rooster makes the sun rise.
- C. They both need Rooster to wake them up.

4. Who might benefit most from reading this story?

- A. Someone who lives on a farm.
- B. Someone who orders friends around.
- C. Someone who needs to wake up early.

Answer the short answer questions on the next pages. Create your own scoring rubrics for excellence.

In your own words, write a summary of the story. Include three main events from the story in your summary.

Points	Criteria
Score Point Two	
Score Point One	
Score Point 0	

Based on the information in the story, predict what will most likely happen if Rooster fails to crow tomorrow. Use information from the story to support your prediction.

Points	Criteria
Score Point Two	
Score Point One	
Score Point 0	