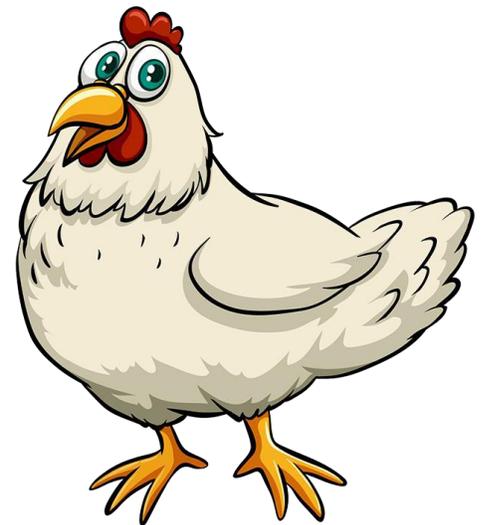*Read the short story. Then answer each question.*

A Big White Hen

There was once a big, white hen that had twelve little chickens. They were very small, and the old hen took good care of them. She found food for them in the daytime and at night kept them under her wings.

One day, the old hen took her chickens down to a small brook. She thought some fresh air and the water would do them good.

When they got to the brook, they walked on the bank a little while. It was very pretty on the other side of the brook, and the old hen thought she would take her chickens over there.

There was a large stone in the brook; she thought it would be easy for them to jump to that stone and from it to the other side.

So she jumped to the stone and told the children to come after her. For the first time, she found that they would not obey her.
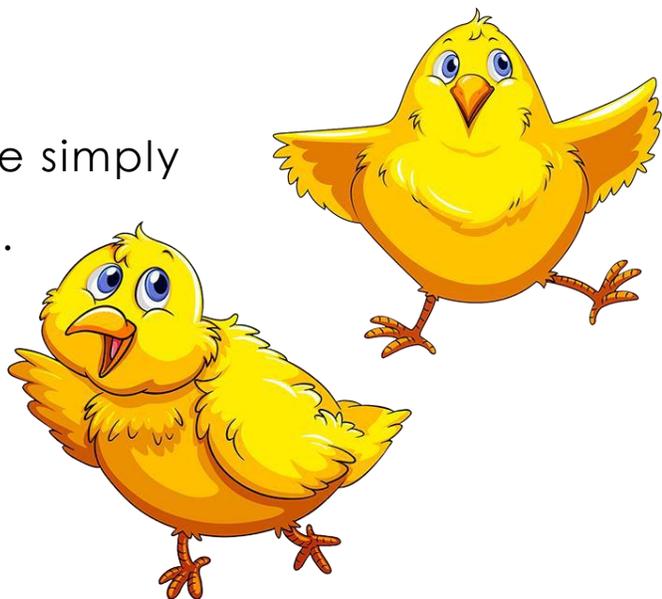
She flapped her wings, and cried, "Come here, all of you! Jump upon this stone as I did. We can then jump to the other side. Come now!"

"O Mother! We can't, we can't, we can't!" said all the little chickens.

"Yes you can if you try," said the old hen. "Just flap your wings as I did, and you can jump over."

"I am flapping my wings," said Chippy, who stood by himself, "but I can't jump any better than I could before."

The chickens' wings were simply too small to jump across.

Questions:

1. How many chickens does the hen have?

   _____

   _____

2. What did the hen find in the brook?

   _____

   _____

3. How should the chickens try to jump?

   _____

   _____

4. Why don't the chickens obey the hen?

   _____

   _____

Answers:

1. How many chickens does the hen have?
    <u>The hen has twelve chickens.</u>

2. What did the hen find in the brook?
    <u>She found a large stone in the brook.</u>

3. How should the chickens try to jump?
    <u>They should flap their wings to jump.</u>

4. Why don't the chickens obey the hen?
    <u>The chicken could not jump, despite flapping their wings. Their wings are too small to jump.</u>