

# Little Red Riding Hood

Long ago there was a little girl who lived at the edge of a large forest. She lived with her mother and father. Her kind grandma lived on the other side of the forest. The little girl would often walk with her mother and father through the forest to visit her grandma. One day Grandma gave her a riding cape to wear. The cape was a vivid red. The little girl loved the riding cape and wore it everywhere that she went. Soon, the people in her village called her “Little Red Riding Hood.”

One day word reached the family that Grandma was ill and wanted to have Little Red Riding Hood come and visit her. Little Red Riding Hood’s father had gone to a neighboring village to do some trading and her mother was busy with the week’s baking and could not leave the house, so there was nobody to take Little Red Riding Hood to Grandma’s. Little Red really wanted to visit her grandma. So she told her mother that she was sure that she could safely find the way to Grandma’s house. She had been there lots of times and knew to stay on the forest path. Her mother agreed and quickly packed a basket full of good things to eat for the girl to take to Grandma. Little Red tied on her riding hood, kissed her mother goodbye, and started off on the forest path which was to the LEFT side of her house.

As she entered the forest, Little Red Riding Hood started to sing a happy song. She felt very grownup to be able to travel to Grandma’s all by herself. She had not gone very far up the path when she came upon a large log blocking the path. She decided to climb UP over the log. As she once more started down the path, she looked around and saw all the beautiful flowers that were growing in a field by the RIGHT side of the path. She thought that Grandma would love the flowers so she picked a big bouquet. After picking the flowers, she started back on her way. The path wound through the trees first going LEFT and then going RIGHT. After a little while, the path started going UP a hill. When she got to the top of the hill, Little Red Riding Hood looked out across the trees and saw Grandma’s house in a small clearing. She knew that she would soon be there. She happily ran DOWN the hill. As the path leveled out again, it split in to two different paths as it wound around a large tree. She had always raced her parents around the large tree to see who could get to the other side first. This time, she decided to go to the RIGHT of the tree.

As she followed the path around the tree, she was surprised to see someone else coming on the path. It was a large wolf. Little Red Riding Hood was a little nervous, but the wolf gave her a kind smile and asked her where she was going. He spoke so kindly that she soon lost her fear and told him that she was heading to her grandma’s house to take her some goodies because she was sick. The Wolf asked Little Red Riding Hood where her grandma lived.

“She lives in the small cottage in the clearing straight ahead,” Little Red Riding Hood said.

“Oh!” said the Wolf. “I was afraid of that. The path straight ahead is blocked by a flooded stream. If you go that way, you will be soaked to the skin.”

“How will I get to Grandma’s house?” Little Red wondered aloud.

“There is another path through the trees. It will take you a little longer, but you will get to your grandmother’s house safe and dry,” the Wolf told her as he pointed the way through the dense trees.

Little Red Riding Hood saw the faint path. She decided that she would take it. After all, she had heard her father say that there were several paths that led to Grandma’s. She thanked the Wolf and started on the new path to the LEFT. As the Wolf watched her go, he laughed, “Ha, ha! Now I can race ahead on the shorter path and get to her grandma’s house before her. I can have them both for supper!”

The Wolf raced to the RIGHT and DOWN the path that he had told Little Red not to go on, for there really was nothing wrong with it at all. He had tricked the girl so that he could get there before her. He was soon at the cottage. He crept up to the door and was surprised to see it slightly open. He slowly opened it and looked inside. There was no one to be seen.

“No matter,” said the Wolf. “I will dress up like Grandma so I can trick the girl into coming close. Then I can quickly snap her up and still have some dinner.”

The Wolf slipped on one of Grandma’s long, flowery nightgowns, pulled on a fluffy nightcap, and crawled into the bed. Soon, he heard Little Red singing as she walked up the path to the cottage.

She knocked politely on the door.

“Is that you Little Red?” said the Wolf in a high, squeaky voice, trying to sound like an old woman. “Come in. I have been waiting for you.”

Little Red Riding Hood thought that Grandma sounded strange. But she decided that it was probably just because she was sick. She walked into the cottage and saw Grandma in the bed with the blankets pulled way up under her eyes. As she walked closer to the bed, Little Red thought that Grandma looked strange.

“Grandma must be *really* sick!” she thought to herself.

“Come closer darling,” said the Wolf, in his best grandma voice.

Little Red Riding Hood walked closer to the bed and was surprised to see that her grandma had grown big, hairy ears.

“Why Grandma, what big ears you have!” she exclaimed.

“Oh, it is to help me hear you better.” said the Wolf.

Little Red took a step backwards. “Grandma, you have very big eyes.” she said.

“Oh, it is to help me see you better, dear.” the Wolf replied. As he spoke, the blankets slipped past his large nose and down to his chin. Before he could pull them back up, Little Red got a glimpse of his shiny, sharp teeth. She took two steps backwards.

“Grandma, you have very big teeth!” she said as she started to inch her way to the door.

“Oh, it is so I can eat you!” said the Wolf in his normal wolfish voice.

He tried to leap from the bed but his feet got caught in the long nightgown. He tripped as he got all tangled in the blankets. By the time he got himself free, Little Red Riding Hood had dashed out the door.

Little Red ran frantically back UP the path. She saw her father running toward her with an axe in his hand. He ran past her into Grandma's house. Behind him, came Grandma. She told Little Red Riding Hood that she had been feeling better so she had gone for a walk. As she was coming back, she saw the Wolf sneaking inside her house. Grandma had started running to the neighboring village. On her way, she saw Little Red's father. He came back with her to stop the Wolf. He came out a moment later and told Little Red that the Wolf would not bother anyone ever again.

Little Red Riding Hood, her father, and Grandma all sat down and enjoyed the goodies that Little Red had brought in her basket. They were happy that everyone was safe and sound.