

## Little Red Riding Hood

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who lived in a village near the forest. Whenever she went out, the little girl wore a riding cloak, so everyone in the village called her Little Red Riding Hood.

One morning, Little Red Riding Hood asked her mother if she could go to visit her grandmother, as it had been awhile since they'd seen each other.

"That's a good idea," her mother said. So they packed a nice basket for Little Red Riding Hood to take to her grandmother.

When the basket was ready, the little girl put on her red cloak and kissed her mother goodbye.

"Remember, go straight to Grandma's house," her mother cautioned. "Don't dawdle along the way and please don't talk to strangers! The woods are dangerous."

"Don't worry, mommy," said Little Red Riding Hood, "I'll be careful."

But when Little Red Riding Hood noticed some lovely flowers in the woods, she forgot her promise to her mother. She picked a few, watched the butterflies flit about for awhile, listened to the frogs croaking, and then picked a few more.

She didn't notice a dark shadow approaching out of the forest behind her. Suddenly, the wolf appeared beside her.

"What are you doing out here, little girl?" the wolf asked in a friendly voice.

"I'm on my way to see my Grandma who lives through the forest, near the brook," she answered.

Then she realized how late she was and continued on her way, rushing down the path to Grandma's house.

The wolf, in the meantime, took a shortcut and got to Grandma's house first. He let himself into Grandma's house and gobbled her up in a hurry. Then, he put on Grandma's clothes, jumped into her bed, pulled the covers over his nose, and waited for Little Red Riding Hood.

When Little Red Riding Hood entered the cottage, she could scarcely recognize her Grandmother.

"Grandmother, your voice sounds so odd. Is something the matter?" she asked.

"It's just a cold, my dear," squeaked the wolf, adding a cough at the end to prove the point.

"But Grandmother, what big ears you have," said Little Red Riding Hood as she edged closer to the bed.

"The better to hear you with, my dear," replied the wolf.

"But Grandmother, what big eyes you have, said Little Red Riding Hood.

"The better to see you with, my dear," replied the wolf.

"But Grandmother, what big teeth you have," said Little Red Riding Hood.

"The better to eat you with, my dear," and he leapt out of the bed and began to chase the little girl.

A nearby woodsman heard Little Red Riding Hood shouting "Help! Wolf!" as loud as she could. He ran over, grabbed the wolf, and made him spit out the poor grandmother, who was a bit frazzled, but still in one piece. "Oh Grandma, I was so scared!" sobbed Little Red Riding Hood, "I'll never speak to strangers or dawdle in the forest again."

The woodsman knocked out the wolf and carried him deep into the forest where he wouldn't bother people any longer.

Little Red Riding Hood and her Grandmother had a nice lunch and a long chat.