

Little Red Riding Hood- version 1

(written by Leanne Guenther)

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 red 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, mummy," 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 a while, listened to the frogs croaking and then picked a few more.

Little Red Riding Hood was enjoying the warm summer day so much, that 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 voice as friendly as he could muster.

"I'm on my way to see my Grandma who lives through the forest, near the brook," Little Red Riding Hood replied.

Then she realized how late she was and quickly excused herself, rushing down the path to her Grandma's house. The wolf, in the meantime, took a shortcut...

The wolf, a little out of breath from running, arrived at Grandma's and knocked lightly at the door.

"Oh thank goodness dear! Come in, come in! I was worried sick that something had happened to you in the forest," said Grandma, thinking that the knock was her granddaughter.

The wolf let himself in. Poor Granny did not have time to say another word, before the wolf gobbled her up!

The wolf let out a satisfied burp, and then poked through Granny's wardrobe to find a nightgown that he liked. He added a frilly sleeping cap, and for good measure, dabbed some of Granny's perfume behind his pointy ears.

A few minutes later, Red Riding Hood knocked on the door. The wolf jumped into bed and pulled the covers over his nose. "Who is it?" he called in a cackly voice.

"It's me, Little Red Riding Hood."

"Oh how lovely! Do come in, my dear," croaked the wolf.

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

"Grandmother! Your voice sounds so odd. Is something the matter?" she asked.

"Oh, I just have touch of a cold," 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 her voice quivering slightly.

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

Almost too late, Little Red Riding Hood realised that the person in the bed was not her Grandmother, but a hungry wolf.

She ran across the room and through the door, shouting, "Help! Wolf!" as loudly as she could.

A woodsman who was chopping logs nearby heard her cry and ran towards the cottage as fast as he could. He grabbed the wolf and made him spit out the poor Grandmother who was a bit frazzled by the whole experience, 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."

"There, there, child. You've learned an important lesson. Thank goodness you shouted loud enough for this kind woodsman to hear you!"

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.

Little Red Riding Hood- version 2

(told by Alison Probert)

There once lived a little girl who was so pretty and good, she was the apple of her mother's eye. Her grandmother, who loved her no less and perhaps even more, made a little red riding-hood especially for her. She wore it so much that soon everyone called her Little Red Riding Hood.

Her mother was baking one day and asked her to take a cake and some butter to her grandmother who had fallen sick.

Little Red Riding Hood set off straight away, carrying her basket full of good things. Her path led through the woods where she came face to face with an old wolf.

"Where are you going?" asked the wolf.

Little Red Riding Hood, who had been told she should not talk to wolves, said, "I am going to my grandmother's house with a cake and some butter from my mother!"

"Is it far off?" asked the wolf.

"Oh, quite a way," said Little Red Riding Hood. "Just past that mill you see over there. The first house on the right in the village."

"I think I will visit her too," said the wolf. "You take this path and I will take the other. We shall see who gets there first."

The wolf took the shortest path and ran on as fast as he could, but Little Red Riding Hood was in no hurry. She amused herself along the way chasing butterflies, picking flowers and gathering nuts.

Meanwhile, the wolf arrived at grandmother's cottage and knocked at the door.

"Who is it?" grandmother called.

Putting on a very high voice, the wolf replied, "Your grand-daughter, Little Red Riding Hood with cake and butter from my mother."

"Lift the latch and let yourself in," said the old lady, who was still lying ill in bed.

The wolf needed no second bidding. Once inside, he leaped on the old lady and in an instant had eaten her all up. He was still very hungry, so climbed into grandmother's bed and waited patiently for Little Red Riding Hood to arrive.

At last she knocked at the door. Little Red Riding Hood thought her grandmother must indeed have a very bad cold, for she called, "Who is it?" in a deep and husky voice.

"It is your grand-daughter, Little Red Riding Hood with cake and butter from my mother," answered the little girl.

"Lift the latch and let yourself in," said the wolf as sweetly as he could. "Put the cake and the butter on the table and climb onto the bed with me."

Little Red Riding Hood was most surprised at the sight of her grandmother in her nightdress.

“What strong arms you have, Grandma!” said Little Red Riding Hood.

“All the better to hug you with, my dear,” said the wolf.

“What long legs you have, Grandma!”

“All the better to run with, my dear.”

“What big ears you have, Grandma!” said Little Red Riding Hood.

“All the better to hear you with, my dear,” said the wolf.

“What huge eyes you have, Grandma!”

“All the better to see you with, my dear.”

“But Grandma, what sharp teeth you have!” said Little Red Riding Hood.

“All the better to eat you with!” cried the wolf and he sprang upon Little Red Riding Hood and ate her all up.

Little Red Riding Hood- version 3

(Northern Ballet 2020 tour)

Once upon a time, a little girl is having a tea party with her mother, father and grandmother. Grandmother gives her a new red hood, and she puts it on dancing around the room. She will call herself Little Red Riding Hood from now on! Grandmother starts to feel ill, so Mother takes her home and Little Red decides to bake a cake to help her feel better.

In the nearby forest a wolf is taking a walk, admiring all the beautiful flowers. A bear is selling honey jars to a fox and badger as he passes. Wolf is delighted as he is very hungry, but the other animals are frightened and run away. Wolf feels very sad, as he meant them no harm and just wanted to buy some honey.

Little Red sets off to Grandmother's house with the cake and a tin of biscuits. Wolf smells the treats and offers to buy the food, but Little Red tells him they are for her sick grandmother. Thinking he could sneak into the grandmother's house to look for food, Wolf suggests Little Red pick some of the flowers, and whilst she is distracted, he hurries off.

In her house in the forest, Grandmother is ill in bed. When the doorbell rings she opens the door but no one is there. She decides to go and have a hot bath. Meanwhile, Wolf has slipped inside the house and hides under the bed. Grandmother takes off her nightcap and pyjamas, places them on the bed, then heads into the bathroom.

Wolf searches for food, but Little Red arrives so he puts on Grandmother's pyjamas and hat as a disguise. Little Red gives him the basket of goodies, and the starving wolf devours them in one go. Little Red is surprised by this lack of manners and takes a closer look. Grandmother looks strange indeed, with very big eyes, ears and teeth! Little Red pulls off the hat and realises it's the wolf! He explains everything to her, and she goes to fetch Grandmother.

Wolf is very sorry for his behaviour. He only ate the treats because he had not been able to get any food all day, as everyone fears him and runs away at first sight. Little Red feels sorry for Wolf and decides to help him.

They return to the forest and find Bear hiding behind the honey cart. Little Red explains there is no reason to be scared and takes him to meet Wolf, who is playing with some flowers. Understanding at last, Bear apologises and offers him free honey. Wolf thanks Bear, and thanks Little Red for everything that she has done for him, and the three of them dance together!

Sometime later Little Red is having another tea party, only this time she has invited her new friends, Wolf and Bear! The house is filled with love and laughter, and Little Red feels very grateful that she is surrounded by such a special family. Everyone stands up and joins together in a dance.