

# LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Once upon a time a little girl lived with her parents on the edge of a small forest. The little girl was of a kind and gentle nature and was beloved by everyone especially her parents. Her father made her wonderful wooden toys and her mother sewed beautiful clothes for her to wear. Her favorite outfit was a red cloak with a hood. She wore it so often that everyone called her Little Red Riding Hood.

One day her mother said, "Little Red Riding Hood, I want you to take this soup and loaf of bread to your grandmother. She is feeling under the weather today. This food will help her to be up and around in no time at all."

So Little Red Riding Hood put on her cloak and hood and took the basket of food which her mother gave to her.

"Be careful to stay on the path and do not wander into the woods," cautioned her mother. "Go straight to Grandmother's house and do not talk to strangers."

"Yes, mother," replied Little Red Riding Hood.

Grandmother lived on the other side of the small forest and Little Red Riding Hood set off skipping happily down the path. By and by she spied some lovely flowers growing along the edge of the path.

"Those pretty flowers will make Grandmother very happy," she thought.

She stooped to gather a handful of the flowers. That is when she spied some posies growing a little way in from the path. Merrily she ran to collect the colorful blooms. Once she picked the posies, she saw yellow daisies dancing in the breeze and decided to add them to the growing bouquet. Forgetting the words of her mother, soon Little Red Riding Hood had strayed quite a distance from the path.

All of a sudden Little Red Riding Hood heard a noise and looked up to see a wolf staring at her. He was dressed in pants with suspenders and sported a fancy tie.

"How do you do, little girl," greeted the wolf. "Who are you and what brings you into the forest today?"

"My name is Little Red Riding Hood. I am on my way to Grandmother's house to take her some soup and bread. She is not feeling well. These pretty flowers I found will make her feel better," replied Little Red Riding Hood.

"Where does your grandmother live?" asked the sly wolf.

"She lives in a cottage on the other side of the forest," revealed Little Red Riding Hood. "But I am afraid I have lost my way. Do you know the way back to the path?" she asked.

Now the sly wolf was already planing how he would trick Little Red Riding Hood.

"I will show you the way to the path so that you can continue to your grandmother's cottage," replied the wolf.

The wolf took Little Red Riding Hood back to the path and sent her on her way to grandmother's house. Then he dashed back through the woods by a shortcut and arrived at the little cottage well before Little Red Riding Hood.

The wolf knocked on the door of Grandmother's cottage. As Grandmother was sick in

bed, she yelled out, "Who is there?"

The wolf disguised his voice and replied, "It is I, Little Red Riding Hood. I have brought you some soup and bread."

"Just lift the latch and come in," said Grandmother.

The wolf lifted the latch and entered the cottage. When Grandmother saw the wolf, she was so frightened that she jumped out of bed and locked herself in the closet. The wolf found some of Grandmother's clothes. He quickly put on her nightgown and cap and jumped into the bed just as he heard Little Red Riding Hood knock on the cottage door.

"Who is there?" asked the sly wolf in his grandmother voice.

"It is I, Little Red Riding Hood, Grandmother," replied the little girl.

"Just lift the latch and come in," said the wolf.

Little Red Riding Hood lifted the latch and entered the cottage. She saw Grandmother in bed. However, when she got closer to the bed, she noticed something different about her grandmother.

"Grandmother, what big ears you have!" exclaimed Little Red Riding Hood.

"The better to hear you with, my dear," replied the sly wolf in his grandmother voice.

"And Grandmother, what big eyes you have!" exclaimed Little Red Riding Hood.

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

"Oh, Grandmother, what big teeth you have!" exclaimed Little Red Riding Hood.

"The better to eat you with," shouted the wolf and jumped out of bed and sprang at the little girl.

Little Red Riding Hood screamed and ran out of the door with the wolf chasing her. There happened to be a woodcutter in the nearby forest who heard all of the commotion. He quickly ran to Grandmother's cottage and saw the wolf chasing Little Red Riding Hood. With one swing of his ax he cut off the wolf's tail. The wolf went howling into the forest and was never seen again. The woodcutter and Little Red Riding Hood went into the cottage and found Grandmother hiding in the closet. Then they all sat down and had some of the delicious soup and bread that Little Red Riding Hood had brought.

Later Little Red Riding Hood headed back home through the forest. Never again did she forget her mother's warning to stay on the path and never to talk to strangers.

*The End*