

Little Red Riding Hood

A Traditional Fairy Tale

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Little Red Riding Hood

There was once a little girl who lived with her father and mother in a pretty little cottage at the edge of a village near a wood. At the other end of the wood was another pretty cottage, and in it lived the little girl's grandmother.

The grandmother loved her granddaughter and gave her lots of pretty things, including a lovely red cloak with a hood. The little girl wore it so much that people started to call her Little Red Riding Hood.

One morning Little Red Riding Hood's mother said,

"Sweetheart, put on your outdoor things and go to see your grandmother. She has been ill. You can take this basket of treats to her to cheer her up."

It was a bright, sunny morning, and Little Red Riding Hood enjoyed every moment of her walk through the wood. There were wild flowers all around her as she walked along, and she knew that they would cheer her grandma up even more than cakes and cookies, so she wandered off the path and was just stooping to pick up a flower when, from behind her, a gruff voice said,

"Good morning, Little Red Riding Hood."

Little Red Riding Hood turned around and saw a great big wolf! But she had never seen a wolf before and didn't know that she was supposed to be scared, so she wasn't. She even smiled and said "Good Morning" back, which was naughty because we all know that you must never talk to strangers!

"What have you got in that basket, Little Red Riding Hood?"

"Cake and cookies, Mr. Wolf."

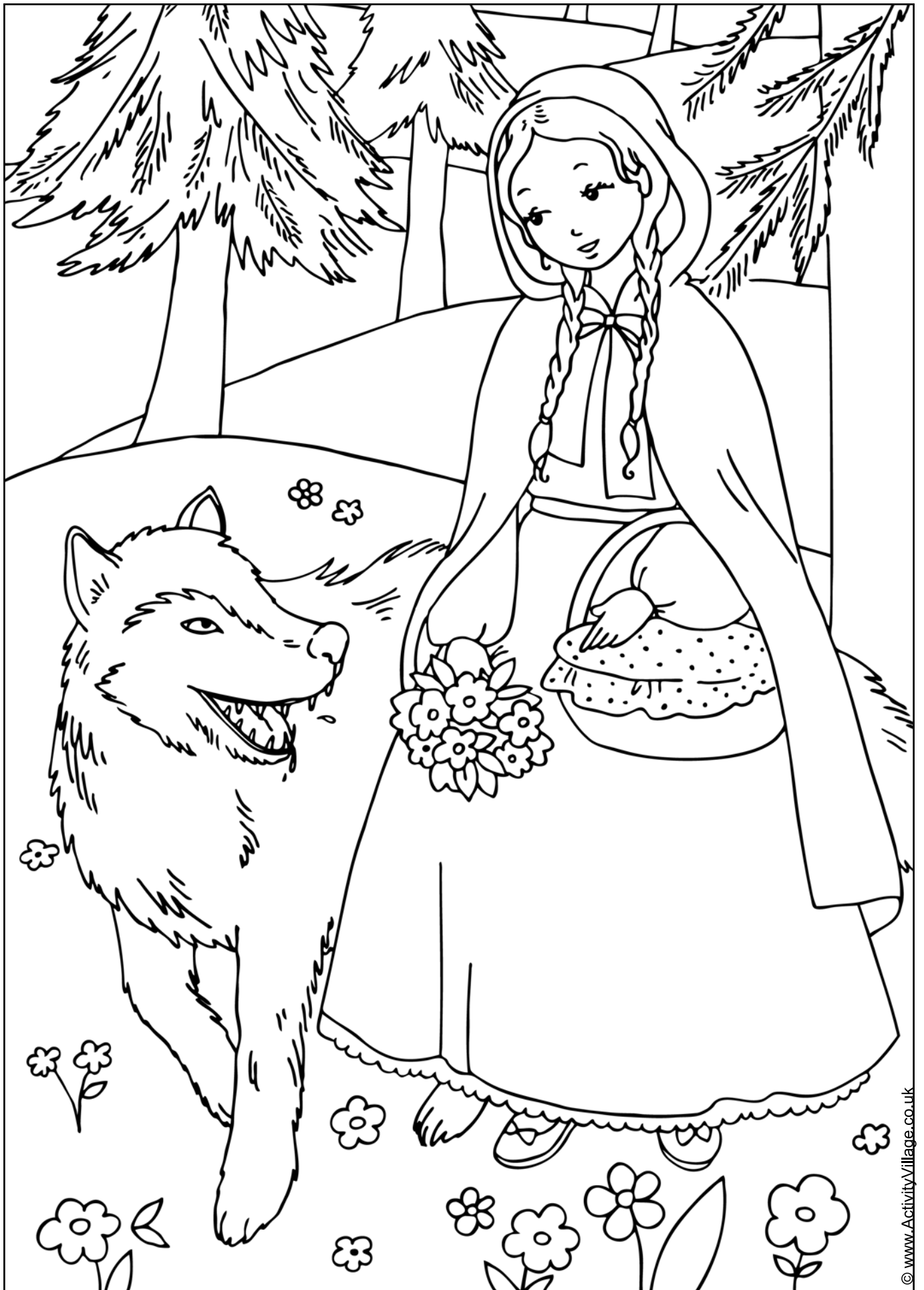
"Where are you going with them, Little Red Riding Hood?"

"I'm taking them to my grandma, who is ill, Mr. Wolf."

"Where does your grandmother live, Little Red Riding Hood?"

"Just along that path, past the rose bushes, and then through the gate at the end of the wood, Mr. Wolf."

Mr. Wolf said goodbye to Little Red Riding Hood and walked off. And the little girl continued to pick flowers and dance a little as she made her way slowly through the woods to see her grandma.



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What Little Red Riding Hood didn't notice was that Mr. Wolf had gone on ahead of her and had quickly found the door of her grandmother's cottage. He knocked lightly.

"Who's there?" called the grandmother.

"Little Red Riding Hood," said the wicked wolf.

"Well then, press the latch, open the door, and walk in," said the grandmother.

The wolf pressed the latch and walked in to find the grandmother all wrapped up and lying in bed. He jumped at her, but she was too quick for him and leaped out of bed and into a closet, slamming the door in his face! As Mr. Wolf was trying to decide how to get her out of the closet and gobble her up, he heard Little Red Riding Hood coming to the door, so he pulled on the grandmother's dressing gown and nightcap and crept into her bed and under the blankets.

Within a moment or two, Little Red Riding Hood bounced into the room saying,

"Good morning, Grandma. I hope you are feeling a bit better this morning! I have brought you cake and cookies and tea, and a lovely big bunch of pretty flowers which I know will make you feel better."



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But then she came closer to the bed and looked at the old lady lying there. She must be very ill!

"My goodness, what big ears you have, Grandmother!" she said.

"All the better to hear you with, my dear."

"And what big eyes you have, Grandmother!"

"All the better to see you with, my dear."

"But, Grandmother, what a big nose you have!"

"All the better to smell with, my dear."

"But, Grandmother, what a big mouth you have!"

"All the better to eat you with, my dear," said Mr. Wolf, as he sprang at Little Red Riding Hood!

Just at that moment Little Red Riding Hood's father was passing the little cottage and heard her scream. He rushed through the door and into the bedroom and the wolf took one look at his angry face and strong arms and ran right away!

They soon found grandmother hiding in the closet, and tucked her back up in bed with a cup of tea and a slice of cake, and Little Red Riding Hood and her father sat down at the side of the bed to have a cookie and laugh over the sight of Mr. Wolf wearing grandmother's nightcap and dressing gown! And, of course, they all lived happily ever after.



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