



## Study Guide

For

# Little Red Riding Hood

**A Musical for Children  
Based on the Grimm Brothers' Tale**

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**Storybook Musical Theatre**  
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Storybook Musical Theatre is a non-profit, professional children's theatre company operating under a Theatre for Young Audiences Contract with Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.



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## **The Little Red Riding Hood** **Play Synopsis** **Act I**

As the play begins, Fritz the Woodsman is chopping wood. He tells of the recent adventure of a girl, her mother and grandmother. The little girl's name is Ruthie and it's her birthday. Ruthie's mother is worried because she cannot find Ruthie even though she's called for her. Mother finds Ruthie and tells her that it is important to listen carefully to what your mother tells you, but Ruthie is distracted, because she has gotten a special birthday present, a red cape and hood, from her Granny. She loves it and wants to always wear it. Because of this, Mother decides to call her "Little Red Riding Hood." The Woodsman delivers a letter from Granny Fanny who is very ill. Little Red wants to take a basket of food to her, but Mother is concerned about her going into the woods alone to Granny's house. She tells her to stay on the path, not to talk to strangers and to get to Granny's house before dark. Little Red promises to listen to her and Mother allows her to go. She watches as Little Red goes into the woods. In another part of the woods is a very hungry wolf who hasn't eaten in days. Along the same path comes Little Red. As she stops to pick some flowers for Granny, the wolf approaches ready to pounce. Little Red sees him and instead of pouncing he engages her in conversation. He says his name is Reginald Von Wolfington and that he lives in the woods. He is sure he has met her before. Little Red says they couldn't have met, because she has never been in the woods by herself. She tells him her name and that she is taking a basket of goodies to her sick Granny. She even tells him where Granny's house is. The wolf tells her of a "short cut" to get to Granny's house. Little Red tells him that her mother said to stay on this path. The wolf tells her to listen to him, not to her mother. Little Red agrees to take the "short cut." It is, of course, the long way and the wolf is off on the original path to get to Granny's before Little Red arrives there. End Act I.

## **Act II**

As the act begins, Mother is concerned about Little Red's journey. Little Red is concerned about getting to Granny's safely, and the wolf is concerned about finally getting a good meal. At Granny's house,

Granny is suffering from a severe cold and allergies. She dreams of the days when she was younger and could really “shake a leg.” The wolf arrives and knocks on the door. Granny, because of her cold, mistakes the wolf for Little Red Riding Hood and lets him come in. Granny finally puts on her glasses and realizes her mistake. The wolf insists on getting something to eat. Granny offers him soup and a carrot, but the wolf has other ideas, such as eating Granny. This suggestion causes Granny to faint. As he about to eat her, he realizes that it may not be a good idea to eat someone that is so sick. He stashes he away in the closet. The wolf quickly dresses in Granny’s night clothes and hops into her bed hoping to fool Little Red into believing he is Granny. Little Red arrives, enters the cottage and puts down her basket. The wolf, lying under the covers, asks her to come closer to him to give him some food. Little Red comments on how big his ears, eyes, mouth and teeth are and then realizes that it is not Granny after all, but the wolf she had met earlier on her journey. The wolf leaps out of bed and chases Little Red with the intention of gobbling her down As he is about to swallow her up the Woodsman arrives, grabs the wolf by the scruff of the neck and is about to take care of this menace when Little Red discovers Granny in the closet unharmed. The wolf, pleading for his life, promises to become a vegetarian. The Woodsman throws him out of Granny’s house, without harming him, and tells him never to enter these woods again. Mother, having heard about the wolf from the Woodsman, arrives at Granny’s house and they all sing the happy finale! The End

#### **FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND COUNSELORS**

The following common core aligned\* activity ideas and questions may be beneficial to share with your student(s) before and after the play.

##### **BEFORE THE PLAY:**

1. Talk with your child(valet) about attending a live performance and how it differs from watching television or going to movies. Try to help them understand what it means when there are others who want to see, hear, and enjoy the play. Let the children know that they will be able to meet the actors after the show. (CC.16.2.2.C)

2. Read the original story by the Grimm Brothers. Talk with your child(ren) about the different settings and the characters and their feelings. Discuss

how they might be different in the play and how they might look when they come to life on stage. Share the Play Synopsis with them. How is it different than the story you read? How is it the same? Pose the questions, “What would happen if... “Little Red didn’t take the shortcut? If Little Red never told the Wolf where she was going? If Little Red didn’t have the Woodsman’s help?” Have the children use their imaginations to create their own version of the story.(CC1.3.2.H)

3. Little Red loved her Granny very much, She was very special to her. Do you have a relative that is very special to you. What makes that person special? Have your child(ren) write a letter to their special someone or draw a picture..(CC.1.5.2.A)

4. Have the child(ren) draw a map of Little Red Riding Hood’s travels. Have them show where her house, Granny’s house and the wood are located. Show the different paths through the woods and where she met the wolf. Where does the Woodsman belong on the map? (CC.1.5.2.G)

5. Little Red is warned by her mother not to talk to strangers. Why shouldn’t children talk to strangers? What should a child, who is alone or with friends, do when a stranger approaches?

##### **AFTER THE PLAY**

1. The Mother was worried when she could not find Little Red about the house. What would happen if you did not tell your parents where you were? Is it important to let your parents or caregivers know that you went outside to play with a friend and when you will be back? (CC.1.3.2.I)

2. The characters in this play help each other. The Woodsman brings Granny wood and delivers her letter. What are some other ways the characters help each other? Does the wolf help anyone? What are some ways you can help your family, friends, or neighbors? (CC.1.3.2.B)

3. Describe one of the actor’s performances and discuss how that performance added to your enjoyment of the show. Describe the costumes and sets. How did they help to create the world of the story? (CC.1.3.2.G)

4. Adjectives are words that describe nouns - persons, places, and things. Think of the characters in The Little Red Riding Hood. What adjectives might you use to describe each (caring, determined, deceptive, loyal)? Write a letter to one of those characters. Let them know what you noticed about them and why. Feel free to send us your letter. We love receiving them! (CC1.4.2.A, CC.1.4.2.E)