



LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Once upon a time, in a little valley, there was a tiny little village with a huge church bell that always rang at noon and could be heard all the way over the hills. In this village, there lived a few people, and also a cute little girl with big blue eyes. Her name was Little Red Riding Hood. You could recognize her at once because she wore her beautiful red hood almost all the time. She loved it so much she would even sleep in it, because she got it from her beloved granny. Little Red Riding Hood treated everyone with kindness and respect, she was always helpful, but what she loved best was helping her mommy with baking while singing their favourite songs.

And that is what she was doing today. You could hear her singing all the way in the garden through the window of their little house. She and her mommy were finishing their favourite cake, and the beautiful smell was spreading all around the village.

“Our pie came out excellent today. We should bring a few pieces to granny, too,” said Little Red Riding Hood’s mommy when she took the hot cake out of the oven.

“That’s a great idea! I can go alone, I’m old enough. And I could find granny’s house with my eyes closed. Can I, mommy?” asked Little Red Riding Hood.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

“Well, it isn’t too far, but it is across the forest. You have to promise me you won’t stop anywhere, you won’t stray from the path leading to granny’s cottage, alright?” said mommy and she opened the window to see if there wasn’t a storm on the way. In that moment, there came a loud gong of the big bell letting everyone know that it was noon.

Meanwhile, the Little Red Riding Hood was already giddy and putting her red hood on. Her mommy packed the freshly baked cake and some strawberry syrup for her granny in a little wicker basket.

“Don’t be afraid, nothing bad will happen to me,” she kissed her mommy goodbye, took the little basket and set out.

Their little dog Benny who was guarding their door like a good dog, said goodbye to Little Red Riding Hood, too, by barking his doggie bye-bye.

The little girl sang her songs quietly along the way and from time to time, she even skipped down the path. The summer sun was watching her from the sky and the birds sang their own songs as they flew over her head.

It wasn’t long before she saw the well-known path leading across the forest to her granny’s cottage. She was walking on a meadow more colourful than a rainbow. There were flowers growing since forever, yellow, white, and sometimes violet. And there weren’t just flowers there, but also grasshoppers and crickets playing their music as if it were a concert.

Little by little, all the twittering faded away, because Little Red Riding Hood was entering the forest. Instead of the blooming meadow, there were leafy trees around her. There were very tall trees, fallen leaves and branches that sometimes creaked and cracked when she stepped on them.

Walking on the forest path, the Little Red Riding Hood noticed a beautiful mushroom by an old oak tree. She ran straight for it to put it into her basket and make her granny happy with such a good find. When she squatted by it, she saw an even bigger mushroom close by. And then about ten little ones. She went along, picking the beautiful mushrooms around the forest, and she didn’t even notice the wolf slowly creeping towards her. His fur was on end, he was baring his enormous teeth and he was growling in a very scary way. His mouth was

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

already watering but then he suddenly heard the woodsmen approaching, and so he put his tail down. He hid his terrifying fangs and he carefully approached Little Red Riding Hood, who only just noticed him.

“Where are you going all alone across the forest, little girl?” asked the wolf in a kind voice.

“Dear wolf, that’s easy, I have a basket of treats for my granny,” replied the Little Red Riding Hood.

“And how far away does your granny live?” the clever wolf questioned her quickly because he could smell the woodsmen close by and didn’t want to run into them.

“It isn’t very far, just along this path until the edge of the woods and then you can already see my granny’s cottage.” Without wanting to, Little Red Riding Hood told the wolf everything he needed to know.

At that very moment, the sound of a saw echoed through the forest, and the wolf ran away in the opposite direction and out of sight.

The Little Red Riding Hood stopped picking mushrooms and returned to the path so that she could continue on her journey to her granny’s house.

The wolf was upset and hungry, and he didn’t want to give up on his prey that easily.

“Such a tasty lunch I could have had, if the woodsmen didn’t get in the way,” he thought when he stopped at the edge of the forest. And then he got an idea: “But I know where the granny lives! I can still fill my belly today if I eat the granny and then I wait for the girl when she comes around.” And so he ran like the wind, taking a shortcut straight to granny’s house.

Little Red Riding Hood continued on the forest path and she heard a woodpecker knocking on the bark of a tree with his beak. She looked around the trees to see him, but she couldn’t find him anywhere. Only her head started spinning from looking up and so she was delayed once again. But in a while, she was on her way once more. When she finally came out of the forest, she saw a small hut built by the hunters who came there to look for the forest animals. And after a while, she saw the familiar house with a green roof – her granny’s cottage. She skipped down the hill, swinging her basket, which not only held the yummy food from

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

mommy, but also some good mushrooms that she herself had picked on the way. The freshly baked cake even lured a honey bee that was buzzing around. And the little bee let itself be carried on the basket right up to granny's cottage.

"Granny, graaannyyyy! I'm bringing you something yummy!" called Little Red Riding Hood from far away.

When she came to the cottage, she banged on the door: "Granny, please let me in, it is me, Little Red Riding Hood!"

But even after some time, granny didn't call back from the cottage.

Little Red Riding Hood didn't like it at all, but then she noticed that the door wasn't shut as usual. With all her strength, she pushed on the big heavy door. With an unpleasant squeaky noise she managed to open the door and get in. She was surprised to see how messy granny's house was – the wardrobe was open and all the things had been thrown about on the floor.

"Granny, are you home? It is me, Little Red Riding Hood, and I have some cake for you and also some beautiful mushrooms I found on the way," she shouted as loud as she could, looking for her granny around the cottage.

Suddenly, she heard a strange voice coming from the bedroom: "Here I am, my dear, here. I am lying in bed, so come here, come closer to me."

Little Red Riding Hood came closer to her granny's bed and asked: "Granny, are you feeling under the weather? Are you sick? And why is your voice so strange?"

"Yes, indeed, I am sick, and that's why I'm huddled under the covers that you can barely see me," spoke the voice from under the blanket and then came a sneeze.

"Well, I have a cake and strawberry syrup for you from mommy. That will help you. I will give you some right away, so you're healthy again," said Little Red Riding Hood and she went to get the goodies for her granny.

Then she returned to the bed with a plate of food, but when she was very close by, she saw that her granny not only had a different voice but also very strange eyes and big, huge teeth almost like a wolf.

"Granny, what big eyes you have and what big teeth!" cried Little Red Riding Hood in surprise.

"The better to see you with, my dear. You really look pretty and tasty, so I want to

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

eat you whole!” the impatient wolf gave himself away. He had taken out granny’s clothes, put them on and hid under the blankets to disguise himself from Little Red Riding Hood.

The Little Red Riding Hood jumped away in fear from the bed where the wolf lay disguised as her granny. She ran to another room and up the stairs to escape the wolf, and she slammed the door behind her. But the wolf got so tangled in the big blanket and all of granny’s clothes he had put on, that he couldn’t get out of bed. As he was trying to fight his way out and escape the blanket, a hunter entered the room. The hunter had heard some yelling and came to investigate because he was walking by and saw that the door was ajar. He beat the stuffing out of the greedy wolf, so that the wolf quickly jumped out of the window and ran as fast as he could into the dark forest.

The hunter went to find the scared Little Red Riding Hood in the upstairs room and then they went to find granny together. The wolf didn’t eat her either, because she was very smart and hid in the cellar when the wolf knocked on her door.

“Granny, I’m so happy you are ok. I was so afraid. I will never ever stray from my path or talk to anyone I don’t know. I promise. I have learned my lesson today, and I will remember it for the rest of my life,” added the Little Red Riding Hood and then, together with her granny and the hunter who saved them, they ate the cake that she had baked with her mommy.

And they lived happily ever after. The end.