

# Red Riding Hood

## 1. I love red!

A young girl skipped along the path, her blond pigtails swinging in the breeze. She wore her favourite long cape and hood made of beautiful red velvet. And that was the reason everyone called her Little Red Riding Hood.



Just ahead of her was a pretty village of rose-covered cottages and a church with a tall spire. Little Red Riding Hood lived near the village with her Ma and every morning she went there to buy things from the village shop.

'Hallo, Little Red Riding Hood!' said the shopkeeper. 'What are you and your Ma having for supper tonight then, eh?'



'We need red onions, red cabbage and some carrots for vegetable stew please, Mrs Midgley. Oh yes, and those lovely red cherries and raspberries for pudding.'

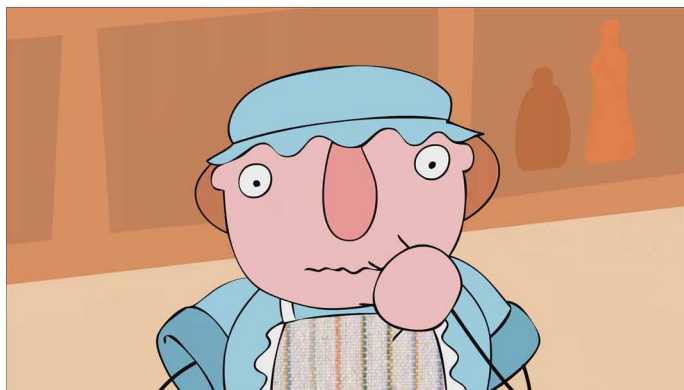
'I can see why everyone calls you Little Red Riding Hood!' laughed Mrs Midgley. 'Such a fine red cape!'

'My Grandma made it', replied the girl. 'It's really comfortable and it's my favourite colour!'



Little Red Riding Hood chatted away merrily about what she had been up to while Mrs Midgley filled her basket.

'Ma and I have a got a new hen, a red one of course! And tomorrow I want to collect fir cones from the edge of the woods at the bottom of our garden. I wonder if I'll see any fairies.'



Mrs Midgley suddenly looked alarmed. 'What's that, duckie? The woods, did you say? Oh, you must be very careful of the woods now,' she said. 'My nephew, the woodcutter, lives in the woods. One night last week, so he told me, he was woken up by a scary sound...the howl of a great wolf! And the next morning he said the ground was covered in the biggest paw prints he'd ever seen. Oh, I can picture that wolf right now, with its long shaggy hair, huge eyes and nasty teeth. Oh, scary's the word alright!'



That evening, Little Red Riding Hood helped her Ma cook the stew for supper.

'Have you heard about a wolf in the woods?' she asked as she chopped the cabbage.

'Oh, that'll be Mrs Midgley and her tall stories!' laughed Ma. 'There have been no wolves in these parts for as long as I can remember. Don't believe a word of it.'

'Don't worry, I won't. Anyway, Grandma lives in the woods. If there was a wolf, she would have told us about it. Wouldn't she..?'



After supper, it was time for Little Red Riding Hood to go to bed. She listened to the sounds of the night coming from the window and slowly they began to lull her to sleep.

What was that? That faint, strange sound coming from the woods? Was it the howl of a wolf? Or did she just dream it?



Yes, of course, it was a dream. There was no wolf. She was absolutely sure of that. But she hoped there were fairies in the woods! She'd always wanted to see fairies!

And, within a few more moments, Little Red Riding Hood was fast asleep.