

Red Riding Hood

7. The big bad wolf has gone

As the Wolf rose from Grandma's bed, Little Red Riding Hood dashed for the door.

'Hooooowl!' roared the Wolf as he pounced...only to trip over the long nightdress he was wearing and fall flat on his face. He clambered to his feet...and the same thing happened again...and again...



Phew! Little Red Riding Hood had just enough time to race upstairs, rescue Grandma, race down again, and lock the front door.

'Let me out! Let me out!' howled the Wolf. I'll get you, just you wait and see!'



Grandma and Little Red Riding Hood walked through the trees as fast as they could. 'I'm sorry, dearie,' gasped Grandma after a while. 'I really can't go on much longer, I'm all out of puff!'

They stopped so that Grandma could take a rest. The Wolf was locked inside Grandma's cottage and in a few hours it would be dark. What on earth were they going to do?'



'What was that noise?' asked Little Red Riding Hood.

'It's the woodcutter,' replied Grandma. 'Let's see if he can help us.'

They reached a clearing where a large man with a beard was chopping logs. 'Ah, you must be Little Red Riding Hood!' he said in a friendly voice. 'My aunt - Mrs Midgley, the shopkeeper - asked me to keep an eye out for you!'



Little Red Riding Hood told the woodcutter everything that had happened. 'I think I know a way to help,' he smiled.

Back at Grandma's house, the Wolf finally gave up trying to escape. There was a knock at the door.

'Who is it?' he called in a grumpy voice.



'Little Red Riding Hood,' came the reply. 'You, me and Grandma need to have chat.'

The Wolf's scowl turned to a nasty smile. 'I've decided to give up meat for fruit and vegetables,' he lied as his tummy rumbled. 'Why not open the door so we can make friends?'

The Wolf got ready to pounce, as Red Riding Hood opened the door.

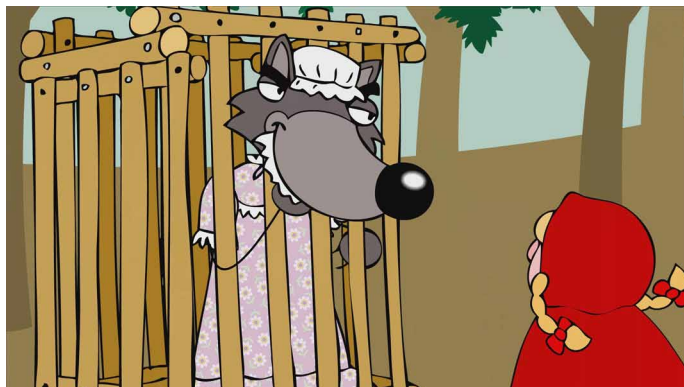
'Now I've gotcha!' he cried as he leapt through the door - and straight into a wooden cage!



'Ho, ho! We're the ones who have got you!' laughed the woodcutter. And he slammed the cage door closed.

'Now what?' asked Grandma. 'If the Wolf doesn't leave our woods for good no-one will ever be safe again.'

Little Red Riding Hood looked at the Wolf as he stuck his paw in his mouth and sulked. He was still wearing Grandma's nightgown and lacy cap. 'I've got an idea...' she said.



They travelled back along the path in the woodcutter's wagon, until they reached a large clearing. The animals gathered round to giggle at the sight of the Wolf in a nightgown.

'Mmm, pink really suits you!' laughed a rabbit.

'Can I try on your lacy cap?' chuckled a hedgehog.



The Wolf hid his eyes in his paws. 'Oh the shame...the embarrassment,' he moaned. 'I'll never live this down. Please let me go.'

'Only if you promise to leave our woods and never return,' said Little Red Riding Hood.

'You've got yourself a deal,' whimpered the Wolf. 'Just let me go!'

Everyone cheered as the Wolf bounded off into the trees...never to return.



'Little Red Riding Hood! Thank goodness we've found you at last,' cried two voices. It was Ma and Mrs Midgley who had come to look for her.

'I think it's time we had that picnic,' said Grandma as her tummy rumbled. 'I'm so hungry I could eat a Wolf!'



Everyone tucked into cake and sandwiches. They were overjoyed that the Wolf had gone!

The celebrations turned into a big party and animals came from far and wide to join in the fun. Even the fairies came and fluttered around happily.



'Now what did I say about going into the woods by yourself, duckie?' said Mrs Midgley.

'I know,' laughed Little Red Riding Hood. 'Even though the Wolf's gone for good, I won't be doing that again!'

And with that, she skipped off to dance with the fairies.

