

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
For three children to perform
Adapted by Marian Scadden

CHARACTERS:

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
WOLF
GRANDMA

Setting: A path through a forest, and a cabin. Flowers are down center. A cot or chairs pulled together to make a bed are at right. Grandma is on the cot with a blanket pulled up and eyes closed.

At Rise: Little Red enters from left, carrying a basket with a few cookies.

LITTLE RED: (enters from right) What did Mom tell me to remember before I left? She told me I had to say it at least three times before I get to Grandma's. Let's see... (speaking very fast and holding up a finger for each one) The cookies are for Grandma. Stay on the path. Don't talk to strangers. The cookies are for Grandma. Stay on the path. Don't talk to strangers. Cookies. Stay. Don't. There, I said it three times. (sees flowers off the path) Oh! Grandma loves flowers. (begins to pick them up).

WOLF: (enters from right) Well, hello, little girl.

LITTLE RED: (without looking up) Hello.

WOLF: What are you doing?

LITTLE RED: (without looking up) Picking flowers for my grandmother. She loves flowers and she's sick so these should make her feel better.

WOLF: What's in the basket?

LITTLE RED: Cookies my mom made for Grandma. I don't think cookies are healthy for someone who's sick though, do you? (she stands and sees the wolf; frightened) Oh! You're a...a...

WOLF: A stranger? Then let me introduce myself and I won't be a stranger. I'm William Wolf the Third. (shakes hands with Little Red) But you can call me Will.

LITTLE RED: They call me Little Red Riding Hood but you can call me Red.

WOLF: It's very nice to meet someone so polite in the forest.

LITTLE RED: My grandmother lives in the forest and she's polite.

WOLF: Where in the forest does she live?

LITTLE RED: Just on the other side.

WOLF: (nodding his head slowly) Oh. Well, I suppose you must be getting those cookies and flowers to your grandmother. And you might want to stay on the path.

LITTLE RED: That's what my mother said!

WOLF: Then you should probably do what your mother says. (Wolf leads Little Red back to the center of the stage, then gently pushes her off left; Wolf laughs wickedly) Now I'll beat Red to Grandma's house and make a nice meal of both of them. (Wolf runs in place facing right. He stops several steps away from the cot and pretends to knock) Knock, knock, knock.

GRANDMA: Who is it?

WOLF: (disguising voice to sound like Red's) It's me. Little Red Riding Hood.

GRANDMA: It doesn't sound like Little Red.

WOLF: (still disguising voice) I have a bit of a cold (coughs) so I may sound a little funny.

GRANDMA: Even if you had a cold you still don't sound like Little Red. (Grandma is suspicious and gets out of bed. She quietly backs away towards off right).

WOLF: Grandma, please let me in. I started getting a strange cold that hurts my throat. Mother made some cookies for you. I picked some of your favorite flowers.

GRANDMA: (almost off the stage) What kind of flowers?

WOLF: The white ones.

GRANDMA: Daisies?

WOLF: Yes. Please open the door.

GRANDMA: (talking to herself) I don't like daisies! (runs off right)

WOLF: (in regular voice) That's it, Grandma. I'm not waiting any longer. Either open this door or I'll...(wolf opens door and walks in) Oh, it's open. (looks around) Where'd Grandma go? I'll have to find her later because Red will be here at any time. (wolf lays down and pulls covers up to nose)

(Little Red enters from left, confused)

LITTLE RED: Why did that wolf send me the wrong way on the path? That was just silly. Will just doesn't know his own forest, I guess. I see Grandma's house! (a few steps away from cot, pretends to knock on door) Knock, knock, knock.

WOLF: (disguising voice to sound like Grandma's) Who is it?

LITTLE RED: It's me, Grandma.

WOLF: Who?

LITTLE RED: Little Red. Who else comes to see you?

WOLF: You'd be surprised. Come on in. The door is open.

LITTLE RED: (holding flowers up) Mother sent you some cookies and I brought—(looks at wolf) Why, Grandma, what big eyes you have.

WOLF: (pulling the covers up higher) The better to see you with, my dear.

LITTLE RED: Why, Grandma, what big ears you have.

WOLF: The better to hear you with, my dear.

LITTLE RED: Why, Grandma, what big (yanks covers away from Wolf's mouth) teeth you have.

WOLF: (standing up) The better to eat you with, my dear!

(Little Red starts screaming and hitting the wolf with the flowers and the basket; Wolf cringes)

WOLF: Ouch!

LITTLE RED: You're not Grandma. You're William Wolf the Third! Where's Grandma?

WOLF: Ouch! Stop hitting me.

GRANDMA: (enters from right with a rolled up newspaper) I'm right here, Little Red. (she hits wolf a couple of times—Wolf reacts—then she pushes Wolf out the door) Now stay out.

WOLF: (runs off left, howling) A-whooo.

LITTLE RED: Wow! You scared off that wolf, Grandma!

GRANDMA: You have to know a thing or two when you live in a forest. Now let me rest a bit.
(she lays down) I am sick.

LITTLE RED: Mother sent some cookies (looks in basket) but they got crumbled when I hit the wolf. But I brought you some flowers (holds out mangled flowers) but I guess they got ruined, too.

GRANDMA: Don't you worry, Little Red. I have some cookies on the shelf in the kitchen and you can pick me some flowers from my garden.

LITTLE RED: The marigolds?

GRANDMA: (smiling) That's my favorite.

LITTLE RED: (covers Grandma) I'll get them for you! (exits right)

END

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