

## AP Short Form: *Little Red Riding Hood*

### Main Characters:

-**Red Riding Hood** - She is the one that the story is named after and focuses around. She is a young girl, dressed in a red hood and carrying a basket, who is on her way to visit her grandmother. She is young and may be overpowered by another who is bigger or wiser. Because of her youth, she is almost fooled by the wolf at first.

- **Big Bad Wolf** - He is the antagonist in the story. He is a mean wolf who is clever and who disguises himself as a grandmother to get Little Red Riding Hood. He is stronger and smarter than Little Red Riding Hood and uses that to his advantage. He also must be smarter and or stronger than Grandma.

### Minor Characters:

-**Grandma** - She is the grandmother of Little Red Riding Hood. She is old and stays in her bed. She is weak as she is overpowered by the Big Bad Wolf.

- **Mother** - She is the one who send Little Red Riding Hood on her errand through the forest to her Granny's house. She provides the food and the wisdom to keep to the path as Little Red Riding Hood sets out on her journey.

### Main Setting:

- The story takes place a long time ago in a land far, far away, in a forest, on the road in the forest and in Grandmother's home.
- The story takes one day, possibly an afternoon.

### Plot Summary:

Little Red Riding Hood's mother tells her to take some food to her Granny who is sick. Little Red Riding Hood meets the wolf and she tells him where she is going. The wolf goes ahead of her and eats her Granny and then waits for Little Red Riding Hood to come. He disguises himself as Granny by putting on her clothes to trick Little Red Riding Hood when she arrives. "Granny's" features are rather big and Little Red Riding Hood asks her why when suddenly the wolf pounces on her. She screams and is eaten. The Wolf falls asleep and snores loudly. A woodcutter comes by and cuts Granny and Little Red Riding Hood from the sleeping wolf and rescues poor Granny and Little Red Riding Hood. They then fill his stomach with stones and the Wolf wakes up and tries to move. He falls resulting in his death.

### Symbols:

**Red Hood** - This symbolizes the "growing up" of Little Red Riding Hood. She is entering adulthood. Red is often used to symbolize love, maturity, source of life, and passion. Because she is cloaked in it from her head, she is covered in the color of maturity. She is ready to enter womanhood.

**The Forest** - This symbolizes the "unknown." It can also stand for the world, or society in which Little Red Riding Hood must go to begin her new life as a woman. She must face the unknown and face its perils to get to her mentor (Granny) who will give her advice on how to go about setting on the road of life.

### Theme:

The theme of Little Red Riding Hood is to be careful of those who are predators who want to take the most valuable things in life away from others, to "feed" their own selfish reasons. One must be wary of those in disguise, even when they appear to be someone we love. Ask questions and be careful who you trust.

### Memorable Quotes:

*"So she ran from the path into the wood to look for flowers. And whenever she had picked one, she fancied that she saw a still prettier one farther on, and ran after it, and so got deeper and deeper into the wood."* - Narrator.

Little Red Riding Hood was instructed by her mother to not go off the path into the forest, because it holds great dangers and can delay an important journey. Little Red Riding Hood did not listen to her mother, which caused her to be late to Granny's house, allowing the Big Bad Wolf to eat Granny before she got there. This shows the enticement that the "forest" or "world" can have on those who do not stick to their goals and get sidetracked.

*"As long as I live, I will never leave the path by myself to run into the wood, when my mother has forbidden me to do so."* - Little Red Riding Hood.

Little Red Riding Hood has learned her lesson to be cautious of what lies to entice her to stray from her path of life.