



1882

Rothkäppchen: Schauspiel in zwei Akten

Wilhelm Grimm

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Illustrated Children's and Puppet Theater

Second Group.

1.

Little Red Riding Hood

A Play in Two Acts.

Freely adapted for Children's Theater
after
W. Grimm

Published by Otto Spamer in Leipzig.

Characters

Little Red Riding Hood. *Mother.*
Grandmother. *The Hunter.*
The Wolf.

Setting

In the first act: The Room of Red Ridinghood's mother, then the forest area; in the second Act: Grandmother's room

Hints and Suggestions for the Performance

Directions for Production

Little Red Riding Hood appears in the dress of a little farm girl and wears a red cap. Her mother and grandmother are dressed as farm women. The wolf has to crawl around on his hands and knees; a fur or fur blanket is covering him. On his head he is wearing a mask with a pointy nose, big eyes and big ears. In the last scene between the wolf and Red Riding Hood, the nose of the mask will be opened so that we can see in the mouth.

The *first* act has two different sets: for the first two scenes a cozily furnished farm parlor in which a table is sitting in the middle; afterwards, a forest that has potted plants or green branches; on the floor is a green carpet, which has some colored flowers mounted on it that can be easily picked. In the forest scene once in awhile you hear a noise like wood being hit.

The set of the *second* act is grandmother's bedroom. Next to the room is a chamber out of which the grandmother and later the wolf will come out of. In front of the chamber is a small table. On the table are several medicine bottles. The entrance to the chamber has to be positioned so that the actors will be seen right away.

Props

A plate with a piece of cake on it. A bottle. A basket.
A shotgun. A knife.

Act One.

Red Riding Hood's mother's bedroom.

Mother and Little Red Riding Hood; *then the mother alone*

(The mother gets a plate and some cake out of a cabinet along with a bottle of wine, puts both on the table and brings the basket to the table. Red Riding Hood sits at the window.)

Mother.

Come here to me, my child!

Little Red Riding Hood *(jumping there).*

Mother dear, I am already here.

Mother *(placing the things in the basket).*

See, I just laid the cake and the wine in the basket.

Grandmother is weak and sick, she stays in bed all day long---

Little Red Riding Hood.

And the cake and the wine are for grandmother?

Mother.

Yes, my child. Take it to her and tell her hello for me. Go carefully, do not fall down, or the bottle will break and the wine will pour out of it--

Little Red Riding Hood.

Oh, that would be horrible! That is why I will be very careful.

Mother *(giving her the basket).*

Alright child, goodbye. First give me your hand as a promise that you will not stand still and go straight on your way! Please tell your grandmother to get well soon.

Little Red Riding Hood *(giving her mother her hand).*

Everything will be done right and most punctually and afterwards I will return home happily!

Mother *(goes to the window and looks out).*

Look, how the little one goes with the happiness of a child. Indeed she is a wild child and learns from the wind. And everyone loves her. Grandma will be well soon again *(exits)*

(Set change.)

Forest

Little Red Riding Hood, *soon comes the Wolf*

(Little Red Riding Hood comes hurriedly, the basket crooked, behind the Wolf comes in a hurry)

Wolf.

Good day, my dear child!

Little Red Riding Hood (*looking behind her*).

Thank you very much, wolf!

Wolf.

You are going so quickly! Do not hurry so much. Where are you traveling?

Little Red Riding Hood.

I'm going to see Grandma

Wolf.

What do you have in your little basket?

Little Red Riding Hood (*worried*).

Oh, I was just thinking of that and why I should hurry, and keep the basket at a slant. Cake is in it-- and wine, and they shouldn't be shaken. Grandma is so sick, she'll be stronger from this food and drink.

(During this speech, she sat the basket on the floor; now she kneels by the basket, opens it and looks inside)

Wolf.

Little Red Riding Hood, just tell me, does your grandmother live far from here?

Little Red Riding Hood (*looking up*).

Deep in the woods is her house, it looks so pretty in green. Oaks stand nearby, hazelnuts too.

Wolf (*to himself, while Little Red Riding Hood organizes the things in her basket*).

Little girl with the red hood, would make a very tasty supper. She is so young and fine, she must be a tasty morsel! I'd love to gobble her up right now. If only it was safe here, but one is chopping wood in the forest. The axe strikes echo all around— I'm certain to get chopped to death if I break this kid in red— Wait, maybe a bit of cunning will help...

(Loudly, so that Red Riding Hood wants to get up and go further.)

See, my child, how dumb you are. You don't look around yourself. Do you think the little birdies are silent because of you?

Red Riding Hood.

I should not stay long, instead I should keep going straight ahead!

Wolf.

Blossoms for you, child? Come, you have become so nervous, don't bother going to school. Forget about all that "serious" stuff, you're in a wild woodland realm—

Red Riding Hood (*sees all the trees and flowers, while the wolf is hurrying away*).

Oh, it's so beautiful here! I'll search for fresh flowers to make a colorful bouquet for Grandmother. I know that will bring her joy. Wow, I wish I'd thought of this earlier!

(She puts the basket down.)

It's really not all that late; I'll be able to reach her house before the sun goes down.

(She picks the flowers.)

Oh, how merry that looks! These flowers, blue and white. Eyebrights and Veronicas, dark brown Thyme... Grandmama loves that smell! Blue bells are also there, and here

pretty Ericas, and now green—then my bouquet looks totally cute!
(*Red Riding Hood sits and begins to arrange the flowers. Curtain falls.*)

Act Two.

Grandmother's Room

Grandmother, and also the **Wolf**, then **Red Riding Hood**, and finally the **Hunter**.

(*Grandmother lies in the open room in bed, so that she can see all around; there's a knock at the door.*)

Grandmother.

Who is it?

Wolf (*from offstage, with disguised voice*).

Little Red Riding Hood, bringing food and wine— open up!

Grandmother.

I can't. My strength is gone, I can't stand, I'm so weak— Turn the handle, and come on in—

(*seeing the wolf.*)

AAAHHH! How afraid I am, what a horror! This animal—in my house!

Wolf (*to himself*).

Hah, you are correct! You won't make a bad dinner. I'll scarf you down quick and lay down in your bed...

(*The Wolf plunges into the room and throws himself, howling, over Grandmother; he then lays down on the bed, wearing her bonnet and a jacket.*)

Red Riding Hood. (*Steps slowly into the room, looking around*)

That's odd—the door's wide open! And it's so strange here— I need courage to fight off this fear. I'm sure Grandmama is just fine. I've always enjoyed visiting her, although now I feel nervous here— She hasn't said a word to me; I'll go in because I have to see her.

(*She arranges the basket on the table and lays the bouquet next to it; then she stands in the doorway to Grandmother's room.*)

Grandmother, how are you?

(*Steps back.*)

My, what big ears you have!

Wolf.

All the better to hear you with.

Red Riding Hood (*nervously stepping closer*).

Your eyes—so full of embers—

Wolf.

The better to see you with.

Red Riding Hood.

And your hands are so big!

Wolf (*taking hold of Red Riding Hood's clothes*).

To sturdily seize your garments.

Red Riding Hood (*almost screaming*).
And your mouth, it's so fearsome!

Wolf.

The better I can eat you with!

(He pulls her into the chamber.)

Hunter (*enters, carrying a shotgun*).

Whoa, what happened here? There's not a person to be seen—

(A loud snarl is heard.)

(He goes to the door of grandmother's room and sees the Wolf.)

That's the wolf's face! Wait, you won't escape me!- Yeah, you're right to come to me, I want to reward you (and not badly). You've already given me much trouble, so I'll shoot you dead!

(He aims his shotgun at the Wolf, then stops himself.)

Wait a second—I feel I should be a bit more cautious. You may have gobbled up the nice old lady swallowed her whole - head and hair. But she's still alive, and she'll die, if I shoot you. So, the best thing to do... I'll come into the little room, sit on the edge of the bed, and cut your belly open!

(He takes his knife out, goes into the room and does so, so that the audience can see.)

What could this red clothe be?— Ah, you, my little child? Come on, my child, I'll help you out!

Red Riding Hood (*comes with the Hunter out of the chamber*).

Oh, how can I thank you! I was in dire peril, the Wolf ate me for dinner— And my Grandmother also, good man—

(Dashes back into the room.)

Hunter.

Her inside too? Ah, let's take a look. Just you wait, horrible animal! Wait, now it goes badly for you!

(To Red Riding Hood)

Look here! She's right here, your gracious grandmother!

(Goes into the Room, comes back out with the Grandma, and fetches a chair for her. Little Red Riding Hood gives her medicine, Grandma gradually recovers. During this scene the Hunter takes the Wolf out of the room and carries him elsewhere)

Grandma.

I could hardly breathe- it was so cramped. I couldn't move a muscle. It was so dark in the wolf. I'm so happy to be out of there!

Red Riding Hood.

I'm happy to be with you! The vicious beast is finally gone.

(hands over the basket)

Grandma dearest, listen to my words. Everything in my basket, is for you! Everything that you see here, my mother gave me to give to you. She said: Grandma is sick, she lies in bed all day long. That's why, my child, you must go to her, give her my greetings, go with caution, do not fall, or else this bottle will break.- When I went into the forest, the

wolf suddenly appeared, he grilled me with questions, and also asked about grandma's house. While I was making a little bouquet, the wolf ran here.

(noise at the front door)

Someone's coming- who is it?

Hunter *(while stepping in).*

Of that was great fun! Imagine this, I took the wolf with me down to the river and he kept snoring. Then I, not being lazy, took a bunch of stones from this place and filled his stomach with them. Then I quickly sewed it up again. In an instant, I stepped over to the river- Splash! – I threw him in the river! He won't ever come back here, the stones were very heavy! Now he lies on the bottom of the river where everything looks so colorful.

Little Red Riding Hood.

Because I got away from this beast, I thank you, you good man, for extinguishing the life of a villain.

Grandma.

Come, let us be merry have some cake and wine-

(turning to the hunter)

Courageous hunter, have thanks and strengthen yourself with food and drink. You killed the wolf for us, three cheers for you!

(she hands him a glass of wine)

Hunter *(after he had drunk).*

Having killed the beast and knowing he'll never come back again is sufficient for my happiness! I'm glad you're alright, now forget your sorrows!

Little Red Riding Hood *(stepping a little forward toward the audience).*

But I won't forget what my mother said to me: "Never stand still, continue steadfastly on the path!" That's what my mother said to me, and now I regret that I was so disobedient. Now, I'll be obedient, for sure! Yes, the words and teachings of my mother will be my guide from here on out. What my mommy told me will never be forgotten and I'll always have peace from the big bad wolf!

(Curtain falls.)