

Little Red Riding Hood



Task 1: Pre-Reading

What things from the fairy tale *Little Red Riding Hood* are old-fashioned or offensive?

Task 2: While-Reading

Read the following paragraphs and put them in the appropriate order.

A

Her screams were heard by a passing woodchopper-person (or log-fuel technician, as he preferred to be called). When he burst into the cottage, he saw the fight and tried to intervene. But as he raised his ax, Red Riding Hood and the wolf both stopped.

"And just what do you think you're doing?" asked Red Riding Hood.

The woodchopper-person blinked and tried to answer, but no words came to him.

"Bursting in here like a Neanderthal, trusting your weapon to do your thinking for you!" she exclaimed. *"Sexist! Speciesist! How dare you assume that women and wolves can't solve their own problems without a man's help!"*

B

There once was a young person named Red Riding Hood who lived with her mother on the edge of a large wood. One day her mother asked her to take a basket of fresh fruit and mineral water to her grandmother's house. On the way to Grandma's house, (who was perfectly healthy and fully capable to take care for herself) Red Riding Hood met a wolf, who asked her what was in her basket. She replied, *"Some healthful snacks for my grandmother."*

C

Red Riding Hood walked on along the main path. But, because of his status outside society the wolf knew a quicker route to Grandma's house. He burst into the house and ate Grandma, an entirely valid course of action for a carnivore such as himself. Then he dressed in Grandma's clothes and waited for Red Riding Hood to arrive.

When she got there, the wolf jumped out of bed to eat Red Riding Hood. Red Riding Hood screamed, not out of alarm at the wolf's intention to eat her, but because of his invasion of her personal space.

D

When she heard Red Riding Hood's impassioned speech, Grandma jumped out of the wolf's mouth, took the woodchopper-person's ax, and cut his head off. After this, Red Riding Hood, Grandma, and the wolf decided to establish an alternative household based on mutual respect and cooperation, and they lived together in the woods happily ever after.

E

The wolf said, *"You know, my dear, it isn't safe for a little girl to walk through these woods alone."*

Red Riding Hood said, *"I find your sexist remark offensive in the extreme, but I will ignore it because of your traditional status as an outcast from society which has caused you to develop your own, entirely valid, worldview. Now, if you'll excuse me, I must be on my way."*

1 ____

2 ____

3 ____

4 ____

5 ____

Task 3: Post-Reading

What differences are there with respect to the original story?