

Cast In Order Of Appearance:

Narrator
Mother
Red-Cap
Wolf
Grandmother
Hunter

NARRATOR : Once upon a time there was a little girl who wore a little red velvet cap that her grandmother had given her. She wore it all the time so everyone called her Little Red-Cap.

One morning her mother called to her.

MOTHER : Here, Little Red-Cap, your grandmother is weak and ill. Take this piece of cake and this bottle of wine. Carry them in your apron. On your way, do not go off the path or you might fall and break the bottle.

RED-CAP : Yes, Mother.

NARRATOR : Her grandmother lived out in the forest, a half a league from the village.

German leagues contain about four geographical miles which have 6,082 feet per mile, or about 4.6 English statute miles which have 5,280 feet per mile, the same as an American mile.

So Little Red-Cap was about to walk a little over four and a half miles to get to her grandmother. Now if you consider her height and stride as a small girl, this journey would have taken at least an hour and forty minutes.

As Little Red-Cap entered the forest, a wolf appeared. Little Red-Cap was unfamiliar with wolves in general, so she was not afraid of him.

WOLF : Good day, Little Red-Cap. Where are you going?

RED-CAP : To my grandmother's.

WOLF : What have you got in your apron?

RED-CAP : Cake and wine.

WOLF : Where does your grandmother live?

- RED-CAP : A good quarter of a league farther on in the wood. Three large oak trees along with some nut trees surround her house. Don't you know it?
- NARRATOR : The wolf thought to himself -
- WOLF : She's nice and young. She'll taste better than her grandmother, but I want to catch and eat them both.
- NARRATOR : The wolf walked with her for a bit and then said -
- WOLF : Listen to how sweet the birds sing and see how pretty the flowers are. You walk as if you were going to school instead of through a merry wood.
- NARRATOR : Little Red-Cap looked around and thought -
- RED-CAP : I should pick some flowers for my grandmother. That would make her happy.
- NARRATOR : She then ran from the path to get some, but every time she picked one flower, another one farther away seemed even prettier. Soon, she was deep into the woods.
- Meanwhile, the wolf went straight to the grandmother's house and knocked on her door.
- GRANDMOTHER : Who is there?
- WOLF : Little Red-Cap. She has cake and wine. Open the door.
- GRANDMOTHER : Lift the latch. I am too weak to get out of bed.
- NARRATOR : The wolf opened the door, went inside, and devoured the grandmother. He then dressed in her clothes and cap, drew the curtains, and climbed into her bed.
- Meanwhile, Little Red-Cap finally finished picking her flowers and soon after arrived at her grandmother's door. The door was open and she was suspicious. She went inside and called-
- RED-CAP : Good Morning!
- NARRATOR : She went to the window in the bedroom and opened the curtains. The wolf was under the covers and had the grandmother's cap pulled far down over his face.

RED-CAP : Oh grandmother, what big ears you have!

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

RED-CAP : But grandmother, what big eyes you have!

WOLF : The better to see you with, my child.

RED-CAP : But, oh my, grandmother, what big hands you have!

WOLF : The better to hug you with, my child.

RED-CAP : Oh, but grandmother, what a terrible huge mouth you have!

WOLF : The better to eat you with!

NARRATOR : The wolf jumped out of the bed and swallowed Little Red-Cap in one bite!
Then he laid back down on the bed, fell asleep, and began snoring loudly.

A hunter was passing by and thought -

HUNTER : Wow! She's really snoring today. I should see if she wants anything.

NARRATOR : So he went into the house and found the wolf asleep in the grandmother's bed.

HUNTER : Ha! At last I have found you, you wicked wolf.

NARRATOR : But before he fired his rifle, it occurred to him that the wolf might have eaten the grandmother. So, instead, he picked up some scissors and began to cut open the wolf's stomach.

First, Little Red-Cap popped out.

RED-CAP : Oh thank you. It's very dark inside that wolf.

NARRATOR : Then the grandmother came out, but she was very weak and could hardly breathe. Little Red-Cap ran and gathered some stones. With them they filled the wolf's belly and then sewed him back up.

When he awoke and tried to run away, he collapsed and fell dead.

The hunter skinned the wolf and went home.

The grandmother ate the cake and drank the wine and felt better.

But Little Red-Cap was angry with herself.

RED-CAP : I shall never leave the path when my mother has forbidden it.

NARRATOR : Years later, another wolf tried to get Little Red-Cap to leave the path. But she went straight to her grandmother and told her about it.

GRANDMOTHER : Well, we shall shut the door so he can't get in.

NARRATOR : When this wolf arrived they did not answer his calls. So he circled the house a few times and jumped up on the roof, hoping to catch Little Red-Cap on her way home.

But the grandmother was wise to his game and called out -

GRANDMOTHER : Little Red-Cap! I boiled some sausages yesterday. Please take all this water that I used out to the stone trough in front of the house!

NARRATOR : The sausage smell from this water reached the wolf on the roof. He stretched his head out to sniff and take a look, and he lost his footing. He fell into the trough full of water and drowned.

Little Red-Cap went home and no one ever tried to harm her again.