Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Red Riding Hood (1863)



- ✦ The Poem
- ✦ Try It
- ✦ Missing Words
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Meet the Poet
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
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- ✦ Answer Key
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Rhyme Hunt & Syllables
- ✦ Learn It by Heart
- ✦ Standards

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of “Little Red Riding Hood” by Lydia L. A. Very. Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE POEM

Little Red Riding Hood lives in a cabin in the woods and is kind to everyone. Her mother sends her to carry butter to her poor, sick grandmother and tells her not to stop and talk to anyone on the way. But Red Riding Hood forgets, and tells a cunning Wolf where she is going. The Wolf races ahead and dresses in Grandma’s cap and nightgown. A hunter saves Red Riding Hood just in time, and she learns to mind her mother. Grown-ups may want to read the ending ahead of time; the Wolf is shot by the hunter.

SKILL FOCUS

Rhyme and dialogue: how the speaking parts tell the story

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together (scan the QR code on the poem page), then read the poem aloud.
2. **Day 2.** Read it again. Meet the poet, then use Let’s Talk and Try It.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort, word search and missing words.
4. **Day 4.** Listen for rhymes and syllables, put the poem in order, and perform it with voices.

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Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren’t writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

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THE POEM

Little Red Riding Hood



There was a lonely cabin
Within a dark, old wood,
And in it, with her mother
There dwelt Red Riding Hood.

The tall old trees above them
Their winter fire supplied
When Autumn's flaming sunsets
From their red leaves had died.

The rippling brook, their water
From far off mountains brought;
And prattled of their summits
In icy statues wrought.

For them, the squirrels hoarded
Their nuts in hollow trees;
And pounds of sweetest honey
Were made them by the bees;

To gather these together
Was work enough to do;
Little Red Riding Hood thought so,
And so, no doubt, would you.

Blushing beneath her fingers
Looked up the berries red;
The flowers seemed to know her
And listened for her tread.

For she was good and loving
And beautiful as good,
With daily acts of kindness,
Little Red Riding Hood.

Afar off, in the forest,
There lived her grandam old;
And she was poor and needy,
And often sick and cold.

And once a week, her grandchild
Would walk the lonely wood,
And carry little bundles
Of faggots and of food.

One morn the mother started
The maid upon her way,
And said, "now you must carry
To grandmamma to day."

"This little pot of butter
I've churned so nice and sweet;
And mind not stop and prattle
With any one you meet!"

Then through the shady forest
The little maiden went;
And though her steps were fleetest,
The day was well nigh spent,

When nearby through her journey,
An old, gaunt Wolf she spied,
Who wagged his tail, and humbly
Came walking by her side;

And said, "my little maiden,
How very fair you are!
You really look quite handsome!
Where do you walk so far?"

THE POEM, CONTINUED

Forgetful of her mother,
She stopped and told him where;
Then said the Wolf, so cunning,
“What is it that you bear?”

Forgetful of her mother,
She stood and told him what;
“’Tis butter, for my grandma,
Packed nicely in this pot.”

Then said the Wolf, “good by dear;
Perhaps we’ll meet again!”
Then swiftly on he hastened,
Swiftly through dale and glen,

And running reached before her
The cabin grey and old;
Her grandmamma was absent—
He quickly did infold

Himself in cap and night gown
Then quickly on the bed,
Closely upon the pillow
He laid his grizzly head.

Red Riding Hood soon entered;
“O, grandmamma, see here!
A little pot of butter!”
Where is my grandma dear?

“Here,” said the Wolf, well feigning,
Her grandma’s voice, so weak;
“I’m here, so sick my darling,
That I can scarcely speak!”

“Take off your clothes my darling,
Upon the bed come lie;
When you are here beside me
I’ll be better by and by!”

Red Riding Hood obeyed her
And got upon the bed;
“O grandmamma how altered
You are!” she quickly said

“O what GREAT EYES my grandma!
They never looked so before—”
“That’s to see you the better my darling,
The larger, to see you more!”

“What a GREAT NOSE my grandma
It never looked so before!”
“That’s to smell you better, my darling;
The larger to smell you more!”

“And what GREAT HANDS my grandma
They never looked so before!”
“That’s to hold you tight my darling
And to hug you more and more!”

“What a GREAT MOUTH my grandma!
As large as your tin cup!”
“That’s to open wide my beauty
And then to eat you up!”

Then he opened his great mouth wider
To eat her like a bird
But at that dreadful moment
A hunter’s gun was heard

The Wolf fell dead and bleeding—
Then grandma hastened in—
For she had seen the peril
The danger that had been!

Red Riding Hood wept sadly
And sorrowed more and more,
That she’d disobeyed her mother—
Which she never did before.

And she thought with fear & trembling
Of the death that came so near!
And she said the fright had taught her
To mind her mother dear.

Then listen, all ye children,
And mind your mother’s word!
For the great WOLF, men call EVIL
Is prowling round unheard!

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch “Little Red Riding Hood” read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/riding-hood-guide.

Lydia L. A. Very, Red Riding Hood (1863). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

Lydia L. A. Very

1823–1901 ✦ Teacher, poet and artist

Lydia Very was born in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1823. Her father was a sea captain, and her brother Jones Very became a well-known poet. She worked as a schoolteacher for most of her life, and she also wrote poems, painted and made sculptures. In 1863 she wrote and designed *Red Riding Hood*, a rhyming version of the old tale. It was printed cut out in the shape of the little girl, with the wolf at her feet. It is believed to be America's first book shaped like a person!

Questions About the Poet

1. In what town did Lydia Very live and teach?

2. What was special about the shape of her Red Riding Hood book?

3. Lydia Very was a teacher. What do you think she wanted children to learn from this poem?

Who Is Talking?

This poem has a storyteller and characters who speak. Read it again, then answer.

"This little pot of butter I've churned so nice and sweet." ☐

"Where do you walk so far?" ☐

"O what GREAT EYES my grandma!" ☐

"That's to see you the better my darling." ☐

"Here," said the Wolf, well feigning, her grandma's voice. ☐

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Little Red Riding Hood

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. What did Red Riding Hood carry to her grandma?

2. What did her mother tell her not to do?

3. Who saved Red Riding Hood?

THINK

4. Why did the Wolf ask so many questions?

5. What did Red Riding Hood learn at the end?

CONNECT

6. Why is it important to listen to the grown-ups who take care of you?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What happened when Red Riding Hood forgot her mother's words?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Little Red Riding Hood

SKILL FOCUS

Rhyme and dialogue: how the speaking parts tell the story

Write two safety rules Red Riding Hood could follow next time she walks to Grandma's house.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

cabin	stirred cream to make butter
grandam	pretending
faggots	a small wooden house
churned	sly and tricky
prattle	bundles of sticks for a fire
cunning	danger
feigning	an old word for grandmother
peril	to chatter and talk a lot

Word Sort: Kind or Tricky?

Write each word in the right box.

Red Riding Hood · the Wolf · Mother · pretending · the hunter · fibbing · Grandma · sneaking

Kind	Tricky

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Little Red Riding Hood

Find the words from the poem. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

C	S	G	Y	B	C	A	B	I	N
F	R	J	I	U	N	S	V	B	K
T	W	U	M	T	H	S	S	S	N
F	O	H	I	T	O	T	G	S	R
A	L	U	B	E	O	I	R	U	W
R	F	N	E	R	D	D	A	N	F
H	U	T	D	E	W	S	N	D	V
T	V	E	Y	M	O	J	D	H	S
C	R	R	B	L	O	U	M	D	I
W	K	P	E	O	D	J	A	N	U

WORD BANK

- ☐ WOLF
- ☐ HOOD
- ☐ BUTTER
- ☐ WOOD
- ☐ GRANDMA
- ☐ CABIN
- ☐ HUNTER
- ☐ BED

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Little Red Riding Hood

Read each line from the poem. Choose the missing word from the word bank and write it on the line. Then read the whole line aloud.

cold · day · head · Hood · meet · tread

1. There dwelt Red Riding _____ .
2. And listened for her _____ .
3. And often sick and _____ .
4. To grandmamma to _____ .”
5. With any one you _____ !”
6. He laid his grizzly _____ .

Make New Rhymes

Write a new word that rhymes with each word from the poem. Silly words count too!

hood _____ _____ tread _____ _____

cold _____ _____ day _____ _____

DID YOU NOTICE?

Every missing word comes at the end of a line, and each one rhymes with another line in the poem. Find its rhyming partner!

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Name _____ Date _____

CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the poem. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. Red Riding Hood lived in a cabin in the woods. Yes No
2. Her mother told her to talk to everyone she met. Yes No
3. She carried a pot of butter. Yes No
4. The Wolf got to Grandma's cabin first. Yes No
5. Red Riding Hood knew right away it was the Wolf. Yes No
6. A hunter saved Red Riding Hood. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the poem in ABC order. Look at the first letter of each word.

wolf · hood · butter · grandma · cabin

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

SOUNDS OF THE POEM

Rhyme Hunt

Find each word's rhyming partner in the word bank and write it on the line.

Hood | cold | day | head | meet | tread

wood _____ red _____

old _____ way _____

sweet _____ bed _____

LISTEN

In each verse, the second and fourth lines rhyme: wood and Hood, red and tread. Read a verse aloud and clap on the rhyming words.

Clap the Syllables

Say each word and clap for every part. Write the number of claps.

butter claps: ___	grandmamma claps: ___	wolf claps: ___
forest claps: ___	mother claps: ___	hunter claps: ___

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The Wolf dresses in Grandma's cap and nightgown.
- ◯ Mother sends Red Riding Hood to Grandma's house.
- ◯ A hunter saves Red Riding Hood.
- ◯ Red Riding Hood tells the Wolf where she is going.
- ◯ Red Riding Hood says, "What GREAT EYES!"
- ◯ The Wolf races ahead to the cabin.

Retell the Poem

Use the order words to tell the poem in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Storyteller | Red Riding Hood | The Wolf | Mother

One reader is the **storyteller**. Others are **Red Riding Hood**, the **Wolf** and **Mother**. Everyone joins in on "GREAT EYES," "GREAT NOSE," "GREAT HANDS" and "GREAT MOUTH"!

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Make Red Riding Hood's voice sweet and surprised, and the Wolf's voice sly and growly when he pretends to be Grandma.

Read It Three Times

Read the poem aloud three times. Color a star each time. Your reading gets smoother every time!



My Favorite Part

Write about your favorite part of the poem.

My favorite part is _____

_____

_____

because _____

_____

_____

_____

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LEARN IT BY HEART

Say It From Memory

Learn this verse by heart. Check off each step as you go.

There was a lonely cabin
Within a dark, old wood,
And in it, with her mother
There dwelt Red Riding Hood.

- [ ] Listen to the verse on the read-aloud video.
- [ ] Read it aloud three times with the book.
- [ ] Say it with a grown-up, one line at a time.
- [ ] Say it with the book closed. Peek if you need to!
- [ ] Say it to someone at home or in class.

✦ CERTIFICATE ✦

I can say “Little Red Riding Hood” by heart!

by Lydia L. A. Very

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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CCSS RF.1.4b · SL.K.6 · SL.1.6

Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Little Red Riding Hood

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

Little Red Riding Hood

Little Red

Riding Hood

And mind your mother's word!

And mind your

mother's word!

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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CCSS L.K.1a · L.1.1a · L.K.2a

FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Who Is Talking?

Mother (M) · the Wolf (W) · Red Riding Hood (R) · the Wolf (W) · the storyteller (S). Write M, W, R or S in each box.

Let's Talk

1. A little pot of butter. 2. Stop and talk with anyone she met. 3. A hunter. 4–6. Answers will vary (he wanted to find out where she was going; she learned to mind her mother).

Word Sort

Kind: Red Riding Hood, Mother, the hunter, Grandma. Tricky: the Wolf, pretending, fibbing, sneaking.

Word Search

C	S	G	Y	**B**	**C**	**A**	**B**	**I**	**N**
F	R	J	I	**U**	N	S	V	B	K
T	**W**	U	M	**T**	**H**	S	S	S	N
F	**O**	**H**	I	**T**	**O**	T	**G**	S	R
A	**L**	**U**	**B**	**E**	**O**	I	**R**	U	W
R	**F**	**N**	**E**	**R**	**D**	D	**A**	N	F
H	U	**T**	**D**	E	**W**	S	**N**	D	V
T	V	**E**	Y	M	**O**	J	**D**	H	S
C	R	**R**	B	L	**O**	U	**M**	D	I
W	K	P	E	O	**D**	J	**A**	N	U

Word Match

cabin: a small wooden house · grandam: an old word for grandmother · faggots: bundles of sticks for a fire · churned: stirred cream to make butter · prattle: to chatter and talk a lot · cunning: sly and tricky · feigning: pretending · peril: danger

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: butter, cabin, grandma, hood, wolf.

Missing Words

Hood, tread, cold, day, meet, head

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

wood: Hood · red: tread · old: cold · way: day · sweet: meet · bed: head. Claps: butter 2, grandmamma 3, wolf 1, forest 2, mother 2, hunter 2.

Put It in Order

Mother sends her to Grandma's → she tells the Wolf where she is going → the Wolf races ahead → he dresses in Grandma's cap and nightgown → "What GREAT EYES!" → a hunter saves her.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Look at Lydia Very's 1863 shape book online and talk about why it is shaped like Red Riding Hood.
- Act out the GREAT EYES, GREAT NOSE, GREAT HANDS verses with a partner.
- Make a safety rules poster: what should you do if a stranger talks to you?

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Lydia L. A. Very poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

Little Red Riding Hood ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell
RL.K.3 RL.1.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Let's Talk and Put It in Order
RL.K.4 RL.2.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match; Rhyme Hunt (rhyme and repeated lines)
RL.2.5	Recognize types of texts and describe the overall structure (beginning, middle and end).	Put It in Order: beginning, middle and end
RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Who Is Talking?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	The Poem and Missing Words; The Poem (reading together)
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order (letters of the alphabet)
RF.K.2a RF.K.2b	Hear and work with spoken words, rhymes and syllables.	Rhyme Hunt and Make New Rhymes; Clap the Syllables
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search and Missing Words; Word Search
RF.1.4a RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Missing Words (read with purpose); Read It With Voices and Read It Three Times
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk and Meet the Poet (discussion); Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.6 SL.1.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices and Learn It by Heart; Learn It by Heart (recite)
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order (alphabetize words)
L.K.2a L.1.2b	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.