



CHARACTER BUILDING LESSONS

SOMMER-TIME STORIES

THE LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD



Story Description

Little Red Riding Hood is a kind-hearted girl on her way to help her sick grandmother. Her mother warns her not to speak to strangers and to stay on the path as she travels through the forest, but a smooth-talking wolf makes Little Red Riding Hood forget her promise. While Little Red Riding Hood gathers flowers for her grandmother, the wolf uses her delay to devour the grandmother and set a trap for Little Red Riding Hood.

A passing hunter notices something amiss at grandmother’s house, and his quick action saves both Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother. In this retelling of the Brothers Grimm classic fable, children gain a new understanding of why it’s important to listen to parents and to be wary of friendly strangers.

Main Character Traits

Caring/Obedience to Parents/Safety

Other Character Traits

Appreciation, Kindness, Listening, Respect for Parents, Responsibility, Self-Discipline, and Trust

Contents

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Responsibility

It was a fine spring day when her mother said, “Honey, Grandma is very sick. Take her this basket filled with homemade bread and cookies. I know that will make her very happy.”

Little Red Riding Hood’s mother must have felt that she was responsible enough to take the food to Grandmother. Mama was entrusting Little Red Riding Hood with an important job. Whenever someone trusts you to do a job, you must be responsible enough to complete it.

Obedience to Parents and Listening

“And don’t forget what Papa and I have always told you, ‘When you walk in the forest, do not get off the path. Go straight to Grandma’s house, and do not talk to strangers!’”

“Okay,” Little Red Riding Hood said with a smile.

...The wolf tipped his hat and said in his sweetest voice, “Good day, young lady. I see you love the beautiful flowers.”

Little Red Riding Hood jumped from fright, but she was happy that for the first time someone had tipped his hat to her and called her a young lady.

Little Red Riding Hood meant to obey her mother, but she was so flattered by the wolf, and he made her feel so grown up that she let her guard down and forgot her parents’ words. Although she listened to her mother, it was only half-hearted listening. She didn’t really think much about it or she would have remembered her mother’s words as soon as the wolf spoke.

Safety and Trust

“Don’t be scared,” the wolf said sweetly. “I’m your friend. Come with me, and I’ll take you to a place filled with the most beautiful flowers you have ever seen. You may pick as many pretty flowers as you wish for your sick grandma. It’s just a little ways into the forest.”

Although the wolf talks sweetly, he is a stranger and Little Red Riding is not supposed to talk to strangers. You don’t know if a stranger can be trusted or not, so don’t talk to them unless it is someone whom your parents have approved.

Caring and Kindness

“Thank you for being so kind,” said Little Red Riding Hood as she went with the wolf away from the path. “My grandma just loves flowers. They will make her very happy.”

Little Red Riding Hood had a good motive—she wanted to make her grandmother happy by taking her flowers. This showed that she was caring and kind. However, she should not have left the path for ANY reason. Always remember to obey your parents because they have good reasons for their rules. When you don’t obey, you open yourself up to all kinds of problems and dangers.

Self-Discipline

After picking as many flowers as she could carry, Little Red Riding Hood skipped slowly along to Grandma's house. She looked at the trees and listened to the birds singing.

Little Red Riding Hood did not show self-discipline when she took her time picking flowers and listening to the birds. She should have gone straight to Grandma's house as her mother had told her to do. Self-discipline means doing the right thing even when it is hard to do and even when we don't want to do it.

Appreciation

To the hunter's surprise, out jumped Little Red Riding Hood and Grandma.

"Thank you! Thank you!" exclaimed Grandma and Little Red Riding Hood as they hugged him. "Thank you for saving our lives."

Both Grandma and Little Red Riding Hood thanked the hunter for saving their lives. You must always remember to thank anyone who does something for you.

Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, what instructions and warning did Mama give Little Red Riding Hood?
She was to take the basket of food to Grandma and go straight to her house; she was not to get off the path and not to talk to strangers.
2. Why did the wolf scatter flowers on the path?
He wanted to lure someone to the meadow where he could eat him or her.
3. Why did Little Red Riding Hood disobey her mother and go off the path with the wolf who was a stranger?
The wolf talked so sweetly to her and made her feel so grown up when he tipped his hat to her and called her a young lady that she wasn't afraid to go with him to get more flowers for her grandma.
4. Did Little Red Riding Hood intend to disobey her mother? What leads you to believe that?
She probably meant to obey because she said okay when her mother gave her instructions and the warning, but she became distracted by the flowers and the sweet voice of the wolf. (inference)
5. When the wolf said that he also wanted to take her grandma something special, what was the next mistake that Little Red Riding Hood made?
She told him exactly where Grandma lived.

6. Why did the wolf want to slow down Little Red Riding Hood?
He wanted to get to Grandma's house and eat her before Little Red Riding Hood got there.
7. To slow her down, what advice did the wolf give Little Red Riding Hood?
He said, "You were walking much too fast. Walk slower and enjoy the beautiful trees and listen to the birds singing."
8. Why did Grandma tell the wolf where the house key was?
She was very sick and could not go to the door, and since he had disguised his voice, she thought he was Little Red Riding Hood.
9. After gulping down Grandma, what did the wolf do next and why?
He put on Grandma's nightgown and cap, so Little Red Riding Hood would think he was her grandma.
10. When Little Red Riding Hood arrived at Grandma's house, what surprised her?
She was surprised to see the door open.
11. How did the wolf make himself seem sick?
He said he was very, very sick and whispered.
12. What was the first different thing that Little Red Riding Hood noticed about the wolf?
She noticed his big ears.
13. What else was different from her grandma that Little Red Riding Hood noticed about the wolf?
She noticed his big eyes, hands, and teeth.
14. After the wolf gobbled Little Red Riding Hood up, what did he do next?
He rested on the bed.
15. What made the passing hunter think that something might be wrong with Grandma?
He saw the open door and heard the loud snoring.
16. After the hunter shot the wolf, what made him think that Grandma might be inside the wolf?
He heard a slight noise and saw the belly of the wolf move.

17. What did Grandma and Little Red Riding Hood first say when the hunter freed them from the wolf?

They thanked him over and over again.

18. What else did Little Red Riding Hood say?

She said, "I was so foolish for listening to a stranger and not listening to Papa and Mama."

19. From that day on what did Little Red Riding Hood do?

She always listened to her papa and mama.

20. What will Little Red Riding Hood do the next time she goes to Grandma's?

She will probably go straight there, stay on the path, and not talk to any strangers.