



Little Red Riding Hood

The classic folk tale, *Little Red Riding Hood*, provides many opportunities for fun learning activities across the curriculum.

Social Studies

Picture “Maps”

Work with children to draw a picture “map” on the board of how Little Red Riding Hood got to her grandmother’s house. Include Little Red Riding Hood’s house, her grandmother’s cottage, and the forest. Then have children draw simple pictures of their route from home to school, including landmarks—parks, stores, fire station, and so on—that they pass.

Language Arts

Special Visits

Have each child identify a family member (grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, or cousin) or special friend they like to visit. Encourage children to draw a picture of this person and then dictate a sentence about why they like to visit him/her or what they do with this person during their visits.

Goodie Baskets

Seat children in a circle and place a large basket in the center as a prop. Tell children that they are going to pretend to visit someone special. Have each child take a turn identifying someone they’re going to visit, saying what they’d bring them, and pantomiming placing the item in the basket. For example, a child might say, “I’m going to visit my Aunt Pat, and I’m going to bring her ice cream.” Then he would pretend to lick an ice cream cone and place it inside the basket.

Many Different Stories

In addition to using the finger puppets, children will enjoy hearing *Little Red Riding Hood* read aloud. There are many versions, including ones from other cultures, such as *Lon Po Po* by Ed Young and *The Gunniwolf* by Wilhelmina Harper.

Art

Basket Weaving

Provide plastic berry baskets and thick, colorful yarn in lengths long enough to be woven around the basket. Tie a knot in one end (or tie the yarn to the basket) and wrap masking tape around the other or use blunt plastic needles. Encourage children to weave the yarn in and out of the holes in the basket. When they are done, they can add pipe cleaner handles.

Science

Wolves: Fact and Fiction

Many negative ideas about the wolf exist because of the way the animal has been portrayed in folk and fairy tales such as *Little Red Riding Hood* and the *Three Little Pigs*. Introduce children to the facts about wolves with simple nonfiction books about this fascinating creature. Then discuss how real wolves differ from “storybook wolves.”

Active Play

Pathway Play

Draw a curved, winding, or zigzag path with chalk on your playground. Mark the beginning of the path with a small cottage to represent Little Red Riding Hood’s house. Mark the end of the path with a house to represent where Grandma lived. Encourage children to pretend to travel the path to Grandma’s house according to your directions. Children can run, walk, skip, hop, jump, gallop, and so on.

Using the Make-Your-Own Puppets Reproducible

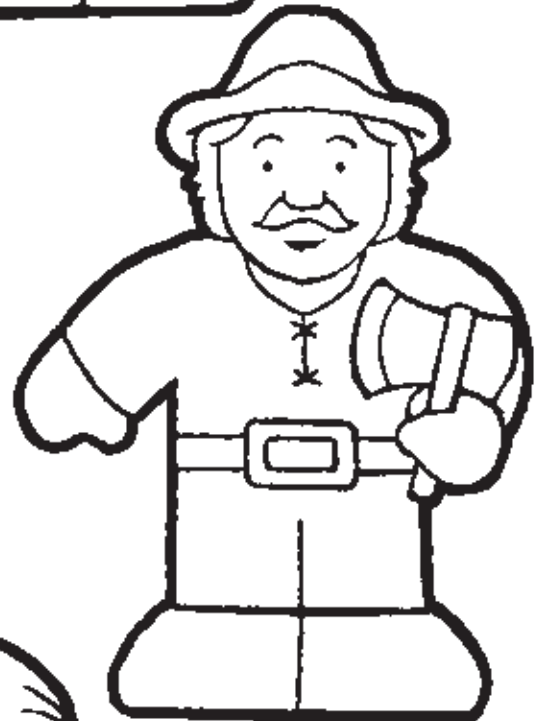
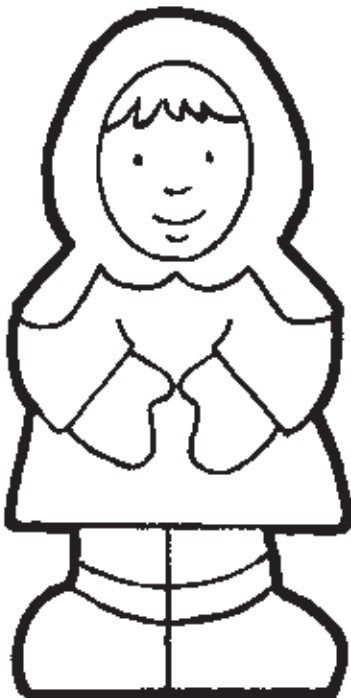
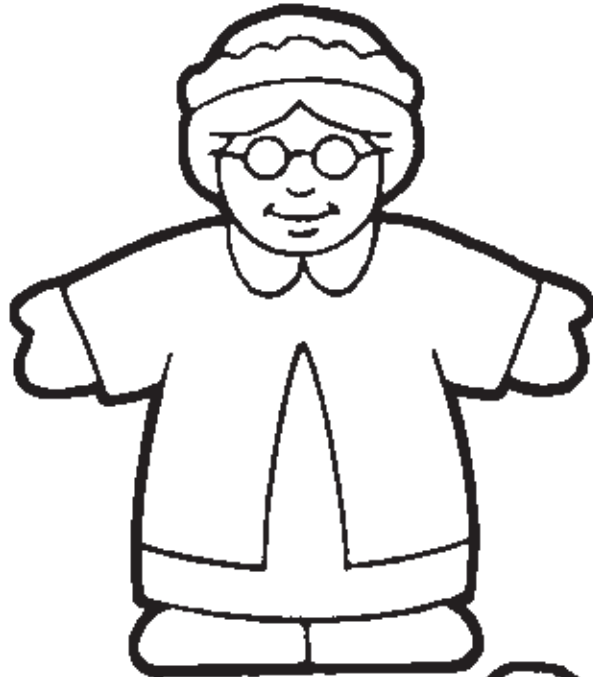
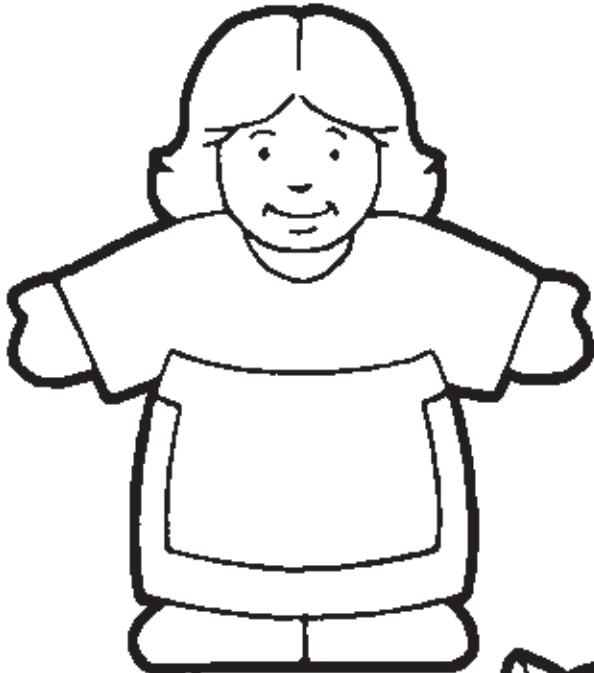
Send the FingerTale puppet fun home with your students! Just reproduce the included story and puppets for each child. It’s a great way for children to continue building language arts skills, from vocabulary development to listening

MAKE-YOUR-OWN FINGERTALE PUPPETS

Little Red Riding Hood

You and your child can make your own puppets and then use them to retell the familiar story your child enjoyed at school. Here's how:

1. Provide crayons or markers for your child to color the puppets.
2. Help your child cut the puppets out along the outside edge, or cut them out yourself.
3. **To make "stick puppets":**
Glue or tape the puppets to craft sticks or drinking straws.
4. **To make "finger puppets":**
Trace the outline of each of the puppets onto a second piece of paper. Cut the outline out and staple it to the back of the puppet along the edges, leaving the bottom open to allow room for your finger.





Little Red Riding Hood

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who lived with her mother at the edge of a village near the woods. Her mother made her a bright red cloak with a hood, and soon everyone called the girl "Little Red Riding Hood."

One day her mother said, "Little Red Riding Hood your grandmother is quite sick. I have made some cakes for you to bring to her. Your visit will cheer her up."

Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother lived in a cottage deep in the middle of the woods, almost a half day's journey away. But Little Red Riding Hood loved her grandmother very much and looked forward to the visit. She wrapped her bright red cloak around her. "I will bring Grandma the basket and tell her some stories to make her laugh."

Then her mother gave her the basket of cakes and treats that she had made. She hugged Little Red Riding Hood and said, "Now remember, child, don't dawdle or stop to talk to strangers you meet on your way."

Off went Little Red Riding Hood, cheerfully skipping through the woods, eager to see her grandmother. The woods were filled with birds, and she had a pleasant time listening to their songs and admiring the pretty wildflowers that grew everywhere. But soon, out of the shadows stepped a wicked wolf. "Where are you going, my dear?" he said with a toothy grin.

"I am going to visit my grandmother. She is ill and I am taking her this basket of cakes," the girl admitted, forgetting her mother's warning.

"Hmm, they sound delicious," the wolf purred. To himself he said, "They will make a sweet dessert after I gobble you up!" He was about to pounce when he heard the ringing ax of a woodcutter working nearby. "So pleased to have met you," he bowed. Then he hurried off to reach her grandmother's house before Little Red Riding Hood did, planning to eat both of them and the delicious cakes, too!

When the wolf got there, he knocked on the door and called out in a high voice, pretending to be Little Red Riding Hood, "It's me, Grandmother. I've come to visit you with a basket of cakes." The delighted grandmother opened the door, and the wily wolf chased her upstairs and locked her in a cupboard. The wolf put on the grandmother's glasses and bed cap and jumped into bed, waiting for Little Red Riding Hood to arrive.

Meanwhile, Little Red Riding Hood continued on her way, stopping to pick some wildflowers and to play with the woodland creatures she met. Finally, she arrived at the cottage and went inside. Her grandmother was in bed, surrounded by fluffy blankets, and resting against some pillows. Little Red Riding Hood thought she looked strangely ill indeed. "Grandma, what big eyes you have," she said.

"The better to see you with, my child," said the wolf.

"Grandma, what big ears you have," said the girl.

"The better to hear you with," replied the wolf.

"Grandma, what big teeth you have," she said.

"The better to eat you with," growled the wicked wolf. He leaped up and chased her down the stairs.

But the woodcutter, who had been working nearby, heard the commotion. "It sounds like someone needs help," he said. He ran toward the house and chased the wolf down the path and away into the woods. Little Red Riding Hood sprung the latch on the cupboard, freeing her frightened grandmother. Then all three of them shared the tasty food Little Red Riding Hood had brought.

