

Professor Ula

English 101

Fall 2021

“Little Red Riding Hood” Setting, Character, Plot, Themes, & Metaphors

1. Setting:

a. Woods, Grandmother’s house

- i. **Woods:** dark, scary, cold (presence of wolf, goes deeper into woods – can assume it's dark, big trees), “sunbeams,” “pretty flowers”
- ii. **Grandmother’s house:** deep in the woods, nut trees, oak trees (dark, secluded/isolated)

2. Character:

- **Dynamic** - A dynamic character is a person who changes over time, usually as a result of resolving a central conflict or facing a major crisis. Most dynamic characters tend to be central rather than peripheral characters, because resolving the conflict is the major role of central characters.
- **Static** - A static character is someone who does not change over time; his or her personality does not transform or evolve.
- **Round** - A rounded character is anyone who has a complex personality; he or she is often portrayed as a conflicted and contradictory person.
- **Flat** - A flat character is the opposite of a round character. This literary personality is notable for one kind of personality trait or characteristic.

a. Little Red Riding Hood: Dynamic, Flat

b. 2 Wolves: Static, Flat

c. Grandmother: Stock/Static, Flat

d. Woodsman: Stock, Flat

e. Mother: Stock, Flat

3. Plot:

- a. Exposition:** Little Red Riding Hood given food to deliver to her grandmother.
- b. Rising Action:** Greeted by a Wolf, strays off path, picks flowers, goes deeper into forest.
- c. Climax:** Wolf eats Grandmother & Little Red Riding Hood
- d. Falling Action:** Woodsman shows up to save the day
- e. Resolution:** Little Red Riding Hood, Grandmother, Woodsman kill Wolf/ 2nd Wolf as well.

4. Themes:

- a. Don’t be gullible / Don’t have blind trust when it comes to strangers
 - i. Don’t Talk to Strangers
- b. Follow instructions when told to do something / LISTEN TO YOUR MOM
 - i. Obey Authority
- c. Don’t be oblivious to your surroundings

i. Be Cautious

5. **Metaphors/Symbols: Comparison of two unlike things/Objects or ideas that represent something else.**

- a. **Flowers** = peace, purity, innocence, life
- b. **Little Red Riding Hood** = innocence, ignorance/naivete
- c. **Wolf** = danger, stranger, deception, predatory, rape
- d. **Path** = safety, guidance, authority, obedience, Rules
- e. **Woodsman** = savior, power, strength, security,

Analysis:

Denise: “Little Red Riding Hood is given specific instructions which she immediately doesn’t follow as she wanders off.”

By not following her mother’s instructions, LRRH is being disobedient and directly challenging her mom’s authority when she wanders off the path. The path is a symbolic representation of power and authority, so by challenging this authority, LRRH is punished / meets with harsh consequences.

The Wolf in the story represents danger, specifically sexual predators.

The Woodsman is a symbol of the male savior who comes by to save the innocent/helpless/stupid/feeble female victim.