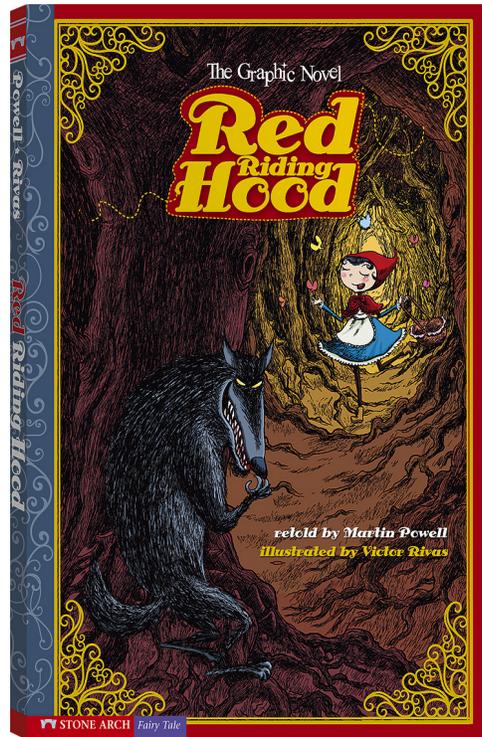




## READER'S THEATER



### **Red Riding Hood retold by Martin Powell**

**Characters:**

- Father** – reads slightly above grade level
- Mother** – reads at grade level
- Ruby** – reads below grade level
- Grandma** – reads below grade level
- The Wolf** – struggling reader
- Narrator** – reads above grade level
- Magda** – reads slightly below grade level

**Genre:** Fairy Tale

**Ages:** 8-13

# Red Riding Hood page 1

**Narrator:** Once upon a time in Transylvania, the Land of Phantoms and the birthplace of almost every scary story ever told, an elderly woman visited a fortune teller's tent.

**Magda:** It's been a while since you visited my tent.

**Grandma:** You're Magda! You read my fortune when I was a little girl!

**Magda:** So, did I tell you the truth?

**Grandma:** Yes! I've had a happy life. I even have a beautiful little granddaughter, just like you said.

**Magda:** Come, dear. My crystal can tell you much more. (Gasps) Mercy on you!

**Grandma:** What's wrong, Magda? What did you see?

**Magda:** Evil creatures prowl the woods. They cannot enter our homes unless they are invited inside. Take this red cloth. Whatever you make with it will protect you, but only during the daylight hours.

**Grandma:** I'm afraid I don't have any money.

**Magda:** It's a gift. It will protect the thing dearest to you — your life.

**Grandma:** The thing dearest to me . . .

**Narrator:** Several weeks later . . .

**Ruby:** Look how pretty! A riding hood and cape! In my favorite color too! Red!

**Father:** It's lovely, Ruby, dear.

**Mother:** Must have taken Grandma a long time to make. She loves you more than anything!

**Ruby:** I'm so sorry she's sick.

## Red Riding Hood page 2

**Mother:** It's just a cold. A visit from you will help her feel a lot better, you'll see. In her letter, Grandma said that this riding hood would protect you. She wants you to wear it every time you go outside.

**Father:** Remember to stay on the road!

**Mother:** And don't talk to any people you don't know!

**Ruby:** This is so much fun! I get to walk to Grandma's house all by myself! This is my best birthday ever!

**Wolf:** GRRRR!

**Ruby:** What was that noise? Maybe it was just the wind. Besides, I'm not scared. My riding hood and cape will keep me safe. Grandma said so. Oh!

**Wolf:** Good afternoon! Are you here all alone?

**Ruby:** You can talk! I never saw a wolf that could speak like a man!

**Wolf:** I dare say there are plenty of things in this world that you still haven't seen, little girl. Where did you get that riding hood?

**Ruby:** It's a birthday present from my grandma. I'm on my way to spend the night at her house.

**Wolf:** How thoughtful of her. And in my favorite color, I see. It's a pleasure to meet you, Red Riding Hood.

**Ruby:** Oh! We haven't been introduced. How do you do Mister Wolf? My name is Ruby.

**Wolf:** Do you mind if I keep you company, Ruby?

**Ruby:** Well, I'm not supposed to talk to strange people. But you're not exactly a person, are you?

**Wolf:** No indeed. You look like a princess to me, Ruby. I bet your grandma owns a grand palace.

## Red Riding Hood page 3

**Ruby:** I'm not a princess, silly! Grandma lives in the little cottage at the end of the road.

**Wolf:** Ah, yes. I know the place you mean.

**Ruby:** Grandma hasn't been feeling well, so I'm bringing her some cake and cookies.

**Wolf:** I wish I could do something nice for your grandma, too. I have the perfect idea!

**Ruby:** You do?

**Wolf:** A four-leaf clover will make her healthy again!

**Ruby:** You're right! Everybody knows that four-leaf clovers are good luck! I bet there's a million of them in here!

**Wolf:** Then you better start looking right away. I'll let your grandma know that you might be a little late. See you soon, Red Riding Hood.

**Narrator:** Moments later, Grandma heard a knocking at her door.

**Grandma:** Come on in, child. Just lift the latch. You're a little late, Ruby, dear. Did you get lost?

**Wolf:** GRRRR! Roooarr!!!

**Grandma:** Ruby!? Agh!!!

**Narrator:** Meanwhile, back at the clover field Ruby was just finding her four-leaf clover.

**Ruby:** Finally! I found one! I didn't think it would take so long. It'll be dark soon. I better hurry so Grandma doesn't worry! Whew! I barely made it! Another moment and I might have been lost in the dark. Grandma? It's me, Ruby. Are you asleep? Grandma?

What happened to Grandma? Will Ruby's red cape keep her safe from the wolf? To find out, read *Red Riding Hood: The Graphic Novel* from Stone Arch Books.