

# roald dahl revolting rhymes little red riding hood

**roald dahl revolting rhymes little red riding hood** is a unique and captivating reinterpretation of the classic fairy tale by the renowned British author Roald Dahl. Known for his dark humor and inventive storytelling, Dahl's version of Little Red Riding Hood appears in his famous collection, "Revolting Rhymes," where traditional nursery rhymes and fairy tales are given unexpected twists. This article explores the distinctive elements of Roald Dahl's take on Little Red Riding Hood, examining its narrative style, themes, and the way it subverts the original story's conventions. Readers will gain insights into how Dahl's adaptation fits within the broader context of "Revolting Rhymes" and why it remains a popular piece for both children and adults. Additionally, this article discusses the impact of Dahl's playful language and how it contributes to the poem's enduring appeal. The following sections provide a detailed overview of Roald Dahl's "Revolting Rhymes Little Red Riding Hood," including its plot, characters, themes, and cultural significance.

- Overview of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes
- Plot Summary of Little Red Riding Hood in Revolting Rhymes
- Key Themes and Literary Devices
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## Overview of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes

Roald Dahl's "Revolting Rhymes" is a collection of six twisted fairy tales written in poetic form, first published in 1982. Each rhyme retells a well-known story with Dahl's signature irreverent humor and unexpected endings. The collection includes reinterpretations of stories such as Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, and of course, Little Red Riding Hood. Dahl's approach breathes new life into these familiar tales, making them more engaging and entertaining for modern audiences. The poems are characterized by their witty rhymes, playful language, and often macabre or surprising conclusions. "Revolting Rhymes" has been praised for its creativity and ability to appeal to both children and adults, blending dark humor with moral lessons.

## Purpose and Style of Revolting Rhymes

The primary purpose of "Revolting Rhymes" is to entertain while challenging traditional narratives. Dahl's style combines clever wordplay with sharp wit, often using irony and satire to subvert expectations. The poems are concise yet vivid, using rhyme and rhythm to enhance memorability and enjoyment. This style makes "Revolting Rhymes" distinct within the genre of children's literature, as it refuses to conform to the often sanitized versions of classic fairy tales.

## Plot Summary of Little Red Riding Hood in Revolting Rhymes

In Roald Dahl's version of Little Red Riding Hood, the story takes a darkly humorous turn. Unlike the traditional tale where the wolf deceives and devours the grandmother and Little Red Riding Hood, Dahl's wolf meets an unexpected fate. The narrative follows the familiar setup: Little Red Riding Hood sets off through the woods to visit her grandmother. However, when the wolf attempts to eat her, he underestimates her cunning and strength. Instead of being a helpless victim, Little Red Riding Hood outsmarts the wolf, turning the tables on the predator. The story culminates in a surprising and satisfying ending where the wolf ends up as the hunted rather than the hunter.

## Key Events in the Plot

1. Little Red Riding Hood sets off through the forest to see her grandmother.
2. The wolf plans to eat both Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother.
3. Little Red Riding Hood confronts the wolf with cleverness and bravery.
4. The wolf is defeated in a manner that is both humorous and unexpected.
5. Order is restored, with Little Red Riding Hood emerging victorious.

## Key Themes and Literary Devices

Roald Dahl's "Revolting Rhymes Little Red Riding Hood" incorporates several key themes and literary devices that distinguish it from traditional versions. Central themes include empowerment, justice, and the subversion of stereotypes associated with fairy tales. Dahl's poem challenges the notion of the helpless female character by portraying Little Red Riding Hood as

resourceful and strong.

## **Use of Humor and Irony**

Humor and irony are integral to Dahl's retelling, providing a fresh perspective on a well-known story. The poem's tone is playful yet sharp, using exaggeration and unexpected twists to engage the reader. Through irony, Dahl critiques the typical victimization found in classic fairy tales, instead celebrating cleverness and courage.

## **Rhyme and Rhythm**

The poem's structure employs a consistent rhyme scheme and rhythmic meter that enhance its accessibility and entertainment value. Dahl's masterful use of rhyme not only makes the story memorable but also adds a musical quality that appeals to readers of all ages.

## **Character Analysis in Dahl's Adaptation**

The characters in Roald Dahl's "Revolting Rhymes Little Red Riding Hood" are reimagined with distinct traits that serve the poem's themes and tone. The characterization is concise yet effective, contributing to the story's impact.

### **Little Red Riding Hood**

In this adaptation, Little Red Riding Hood is portrayed as intelligent, brave, and assertive. She is no longer a naïve girl but a proactive character who takes control of her fate. This shift challenges traditional gender roles and empowers the protagonist.

### **The Wolf**

The wolf is depicted as a cunning but ultimately foolish antagonist. His plans are foiled by Little Red Riding Hood's quick thinking, which undermines the typical portrayal of the wolf as an unstoppable predator. This inversion adds humor and reinforces the theme of justice.

### **Grandmother**

While the grandmother's role is less prominent, she remains an important figure who benefits from Little Red Riding Hood's actions. Her character symbolizes innocence and vulnerability, common in fairy tales, but the focus

remains on Little Red Riding Hood's heroism.

## **Comparison with the Traditional Little Red Riding Hood**

Roald Dahl's "Revolting Rhymes Little Red Riding Hood" significantly diverges from the traditional story in tone, plot, and character dynamics. The classic tale is often a cautionary story about obedience and the dangers of strangers, emphasizing innocence and vulnerability.

## **Differences in Plot and Outcome**

Unlike the original, where Little Red Riding Hood is saved by a woodsman or suffers a grim fate, Dahl's version grants her agency and victory over the wolf. This reversal of roles provides a more empowering message and a humorous conclusion rather than a moralistic warning.

## **Shift in Themes**

While traditional versions focus on the dangers of naivety and the importance of caution, Dahl's adaptation highlights wit, bravery, and self-reliance. The poem's themes promote empowerment and challenge conventional storytelling norms.

## **Stylistic Variations**

Dahl's use of rhymed verse contrasts with the straightforward narrative style of classic versions. His playful language and ironic tone set the poem apart, making it both entertaining and thought-provoking.

## **Impact and Legacy of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes**

Roald Dahl's "Revolting Rhymes," including his version of Little Red Riding Hood, has made a lasting impact on children's literature and popular culture. The collection is celebrated for its originality, humor, and ability to engage readers with fresh perspectives on familiar stories.

## **Influence on Modern Storytelling**

Dahl's approach to retelling fairy tales has inspired other authors and

creators to experiment with classic narratives, encouraging reinterpretation and innovation. His work exemplifies how traditional stories can be adapted to reflect contemporary values and sensibilities.

## **Popularity and Adaptations**

"Revolting Rhymes" has been adapted into various media, including animated films and stage productions. These adaptations often emphasize the humor and subversive elements that define Dahl's style, broadening the reach and appeal of the poems.

## **Educational Value**

The collection, and the Little Red Riding Hood rhyme in particular, are frequently used in educational settings to teach literary devices such as rhyme, meter, and irony. Additionally, the poems encourage critical thinking about narrative structure and character roles.

- Creative reinterpretation of classic tales
- Promotion of empowerment and agency
- Engagement through humor and rhyme
- Encouragement of critical literary analysis
- Inspiration for modern adaptations

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Roald Dahl's 'Revolting Rhymes' version of Little Red Riding Hood about?**

Roald Dahl's 'Revolting Rhymes' retells the classic Little Red Riding Hood story with a darkly humorous twist, where Little Red Riding Hood outsmarts the wolf and ends up eating him instead.

### **How does Roald Dahl's portrayal of Little Red Riding Hood differ from the traditional fairy tale?**

In Roald Dahl's version, Little Red Riding Hood is clever and resourceful, turning the tables on the wolf, unlike the traditional tale where she is

often portrayed as naive and helpless.

## **What is the tone and style of the 'Little Red Riding Hood' rhyme in Revolting Rhymes?**

The tone is witty, irreverent, and humorous, with a playful use of rhymes and unexpected plot twists that challenge the original story's moral.

## **Why did Roald Dahl write alternative versions of classic fairy tales like Little Red Riding Hood?**

Roald Dahl aimed to entertain readers by subverting familiar stories, adding humor, surprise, and a modern sensibility that often empowered the characters instead of portraying them as victims.

## **Is Roald Dahl's 'Little Red Riding Hood' suitable for children?**

While it is written for children and is popular among young readers, the story contains dark humor and a slightly gruesome ending, so parental guidance is recommended for younger kids.

## **Where can I find the 'Little Red Riding Hood' story by Roald Dahl?**

The story is included in Roald Dahl's book 'Revolting Rhymes,' which is widely available in bookstores, libraries, and online platforms in both print and audiobook formats.

## **Additional Resources**

### **1. *Revolting Rhymes* by Roald Dahl**

This book is a collection of six twisted and humorous poems that retell classic fairy tales with a dark and unexpected twist. Roald Dahl's witty and irreverent take on stories like "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Cinderella" make for a delightfully entertaining read. The clever rhymes and surprising endings keep readers engaged and amused.

### **2. *Dirty Beasts* by Roald Dahl**

Similar in style to *Revolting Rhymes*, this book features a series of humorous and slightly grotesque poems about various animals behaving badly. The playful language and imaginative scenarios make it a great companion piece for fans of Dahl's unique storytelling. Each poem offers a twist on traditional animal tales, filled with Dahl's trademark wit.

### **3. *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka**

This book retells the classic tale of the Three Little Pigs from the wolf's

perspective, offering a humorous and alternative viewpoint. It challenges the traditional narrative and encourages readers to think critically about stories and perspectives. The playful illustrations complement the clever text perfectly.

4. *Little Red Riding Hood* by James Marshall

A classic retelling of the well-known fairy tale, this version captures the suspense and charm of the original story. James Marshall's illustrations add a layer of humor and personality to the characters. It's a great introduction to the tale for young readers.

5. *Wicked Girls: The True Story of the Salem Witch Trials* by Stephanie Hemphill

While not a fairy tale, this verse novel explores dark themes and complex characters, much like Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*. It uses poetic storytelling to delve into historical events, providing a gripping and educational read. The lyrical style will appeal to readers who enjoy narrative poetry.

6. *Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm* by Philip Pullman

This collection presents traditional fairy tales with a fresh voice, preserving the original dark and magical elements. Pullman's retellings offer depth and complexity, making these stories resonate with modern readers. It's an excellent companion for those interested in the roots of stories like *Little Red Riding Hood*.

7. *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* by Jon Scieszka

This book parodies well-known fairy tales with humor and absurdity, much like Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*. The stories are told with a playful irreverence that challenges traditional narratives. The creative illustrations add to the fun and chaotic feel of the book.

8. *Anne Fine's Fairy Tales* by Anne Fine

Anne Fine offers a witty and modern take on classic fairy tales, blending humor with contemporary themes. Her stories often feature strong, clever characters and unexpected twists. This collection is perfect for readers who enjoy fairy tales with a fresh perspective.

9. *Tales of Trickery and Cunning* by various authors

This anthology gathers folk tales and fairy tales from around the world that focus on cleverness and subversion, much like the themes in *Revolting Rhymes*. The stories highlight characters who outsmart others, often with humorous or surprising outcomes. It's a great way to explore diverse storytelling traditions related to trickster motifs.

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