



Short Stories for Children

Cuentos para la clase de Inglés

Ilustraciones de
VIRGINIA PIÑÓN

Dirección General de Cultura y Educación

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Short Stories for Children

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Little Red Riding Hood

Long long ago, in a small **house** near **the forest**, there lived a **little girl** with her **mother**. Her name was **Little Red Riding Hood**.

One day, her **mother** said:

“Grandma is sick. She’s in bed. Go to her house. In the basket, there’s a bottle of fresh milk, some bread and some butter for her.”



Little Red Riding Hood immediately set out for **grandmother’s house**. **But in the forest**, she met a hungry **Wolf**.

“Where are you going?” said the **Wolf**.

“To see my grandmother,” said innocent **Little Red Riding Hood**; **“she’s sick. I have some milk, bread and butter for her.”**

“Pick some flowers,” said the **Wolf**. And he ran to **grandmother’s house**.

The **Wolf** got to **grandmother's house**. He went *tap-tap-tap* on the door.

"Who is this?" asked **Grandma**.

"It's me, **Little Red Riding Hood**," said the **Wolf**; "I have some **milk, bread and butter** for you."

"**Open the door and come in, my dear**," said **Grandma**.

The **Wolf** opened the door and, in an instant, he ate her up! Then, he got into **grandma's bed** to wait for **Little Red Riding Hood**.

Little Red Riding Hood got to **grandmother's house**. She went *tap-tap-tap* on the door.

"Who is this?" asked the **Wolf**.

"It's me, **Little Red Riding Hood**. I have some **milk, bread and butter** for you. And some **flowers!**"

"**Open the door and come in, my dear**," said the **Wolf**.



Little Red Riding Hood was surprised. **Grandma** looked so **different!**

"Granny, what **big ears** you have!" she said.

"All the better to **hear** you with!" said the **Wolf**.

"Granny, what **big eyes** you have!" she said.

"All the better to **see** you with!" said the **Wolf**.

"Granny, what a **big nose** you have!" she said.

"All the better to **smell** you with!" said the **Wolf**.

"Granny, what a **big mouth** you have!" she said.

"All the better to **eat** you with!" said the **Wolf**.

And in an instant... he ate her up!

THE END

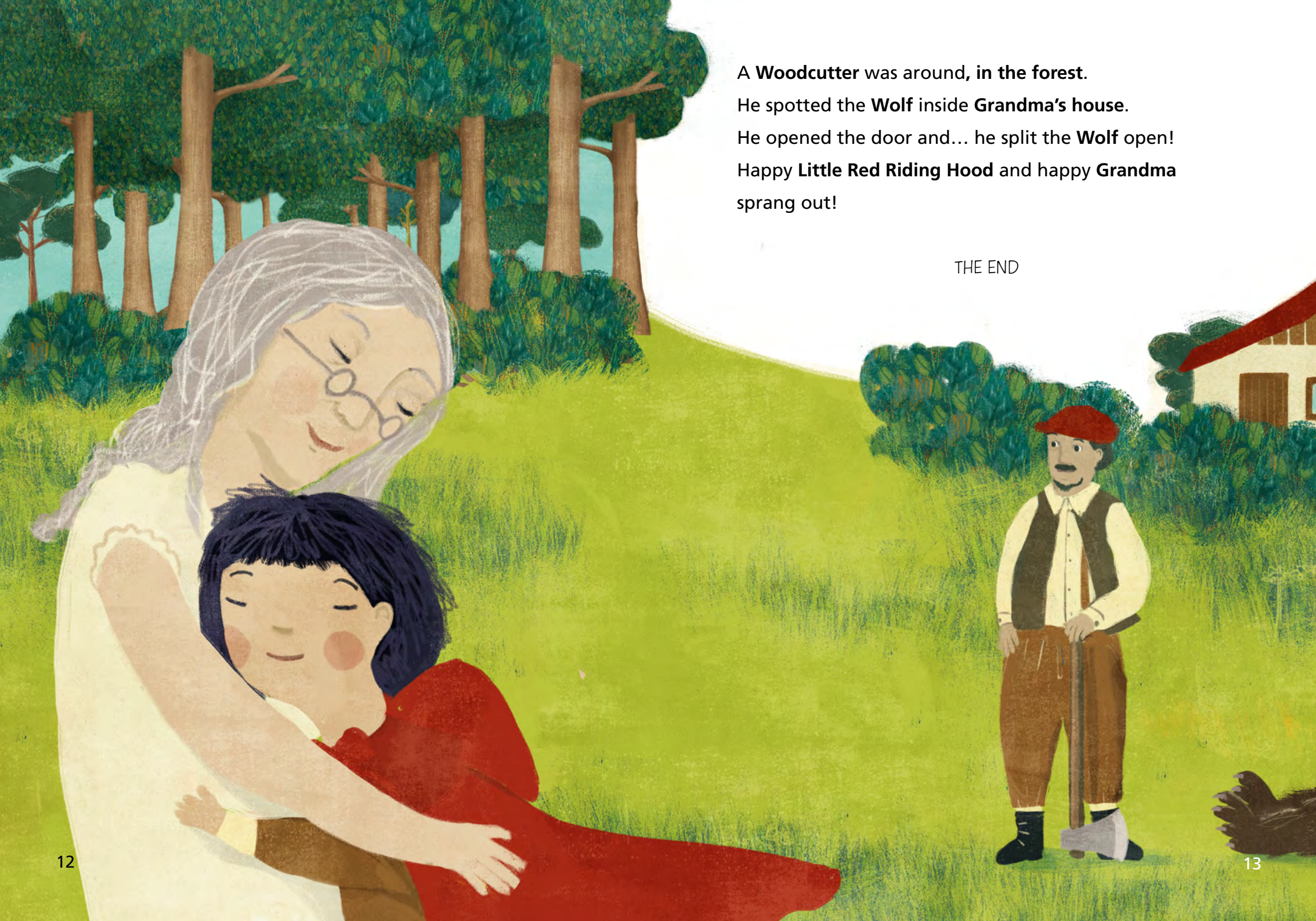
This is one of the traditional endings of the story.

Keep reading for an alternative happy ending.



A **Woodcutter** was around, in the forest.
He spotted the **Wolf** inside **Grandma's** house.
He opened the door and... he split the **Wolf** open!
Happy **Little Red Riding Hood** and happy **Grandma**
sprang out!

THE END





Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Part One

Once upon a time there was a little princess...
She was called **Snow White** because she was **white** as **snow**. Her **lips** were **red** as **blood**. And her **hair** was **black** as **night**. She was a **beautiful girl**, **sweet** and **gentle**.
She lived in a **palace** with her **father** and her **stepmother**:
the **King** and the **Queen**.
The **Queen** was a **beautiful woman**. But she was **wicked** and **vain**.



Every day, the **Queen** looked in her **magic mirror** and asked:

*"Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who's the fairest of all?"*

And every day, the **mirror** answered:

*"You, my Queen! You are!
You are the most beautiful of all."*

Time passed and little **Snow White** became a beautiful **young lady**. Everybody loved her.

One morning, when the **Queen** asked her **magic mirror**:

*"Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who's the fairest of all?"*



The **mirror** answered:

*"My Queen, you are beautiful, it's true!
But Snow White is **more beautiful** than you."*

The **Queen** was **furious**! She planned a horrible crime.

She called a **hunter** and commanded him:

"Take **Snow White** deep into the forest... and kill her!"

"But... Your Majesty! The beloved Princess!" he said.

"Kill **Snow White**! And take out her **heart**," the **Queen** commanded again.

Part Two

The **hunter** took **Snow White** deep into the woods.

"Forgive me, my Princess... I have orders from the Queen to kill you! But I can't do that!" he said.

"Oh, good man!" she cried, "I'll run into the forest and I'll never come back!"

Snow White ran and ran through the dark forest. She was so **scared**! Then, she found a **little house**. The **door** was open. She went in.





A **little table** was set for dinner: seven **little chairs**, seven **little bowls**, seven **little spoons**, seven **little knives**, seven **little forks**, and seven **little mugs**.

Snow White was **hungry** and **thirsty**. She thought:

"I'll have a **little bread** from each **bowl**. And I'll drink a **little wine** from each **mug**."

Then, feeling **so tired**, she lay down on one of the seven **little beds**. And she fell asleep.

In the morning, she **woke up** and **saw** the **seven masters of the house** looking at her. They were **seven dwarfs**.

"**Who are you?**" they asked.

"My name is **Snow White**," she answered. And she told them the **whole story** about the **wicked Queen**.

"Princess Snow White, you can **stay**," the Dwarfs said.

"Can you help us **cook** and **clean**?"

"Yes! I can **cook** and I can **wash**. And I can **make beds**," she said happily.

"Please, remember: **don't open the door to strangers!**" said the Dwarfs. "**The Queen** will find you."

Part Three

At the Palace, the **Queen** asked her **magic mirror**:

*"Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who's the fairest of all?"*

The **mirror** answered:

*"My Queen, you are beautiful, it's true!
But Snow White is **more beautiful** than you.
In the mountains, she dwells
And she is still alive and well."*

The **Queen** was **absolutely furious!** "I will kill **Snow White** myself!" she thought.

She made a **deadly poison**. Then, she put the **poison** in a **beautiful red apple**.



The **Queen**, dressed in **old clothes**, went to **the little house in the mountains**. She knocked on the door, calling:

"APPLES! JUICY APPLES! APPLES FOR SALE!"

Snow White answered: "I'm sorry, madam. I can't open the **door** to strangers."

"Oh, I'm just an **old woman!** Open the **window** and take **one apple**," said the **Queen**.

Snow White opened the **window**, took the **apple** and had **one bite**. She fell **dead to the floor!**

"Now, I'm the **most beautiful** of all. Ha, ha, ha!" the **Queen** said and she ran away.



Back at the Palace, the **Queen** ran to her **magic mirror**:

*"Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who's the fairest of all?"*

The **mirror** answered:

*"You, my Queen! You are!
You are the most beautiful of all."*

The **wicked Queen** was **happy** now because the **magic mirror** never lied.

Part Four

The **Seven Dwarfs** found Snow White **dead on the floor**. In her honor, they made her a **glass coffin** and placed it **on top of a mountain**.

One day, a young **Prince** stopped to see her. And he **fell in love with** Snow White. With a **kiss**, she came back to a **new life** with her Prince.

Snow White and the **Prince** had a **big wedding**. Everyone was **invited** to the **celebration**. Even the **wicked Queen**! And that night, when the Queen **saw** Snow White, she **choked** with envy and hate. And she **fell dead to the floor**. The Prince and the Princess **lived happily ever after...**

THE END



What's a Folktale?

About the Stories in this Book

You have read two popular **folktales** in English: *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. **Folktales** is the name for **very popular stories of oral tradition** around the world. These stories pass down from **one generation** to the **next generation**: from parents to children and from grandparents to grandchildren. And from teachers to students!

Folktales have a long life in popular culture. Their **origins** and authors are now **lost**. It is possible that there was **not one origin** or **one author**. Probably, folktales had **several origins** and **several authors** across time and across cultures. This

means **multiple contributors** in time and space. So, **variations** in the stories are **inevitable**.

Little Red Riding Hood and *Snow White* are two of the **most famous stories in the world**. They have been told and read millions of times in **different languages**: French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and the list goes on and on. We can find **variations** in the stories: the **elements** in the **basket**, the **tricks** of the **wolf**, the **tricks** of the **wicked Queen** and the **endings!**

Folktales are **fun** for children *and* adults. They have been a **common voice** over the centuries: *Aladdin*, *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Stone Soup*, *The Gingerbread Man*... and so many more!

Pick one... and **keep reading!**



Into the Forest

In stories for children, **the forest** is a symbol of danger and adventure. **Little Red Riding Hood** goes into the forest, **Hansel and Gretel** go into the forest, **Snow White** goes into the forest, too. And in the forest, they meet the **Big Bad Wolf**, the cruel **Witch** or the **Seven Dwarfs**. What is so fascinating about them? One possible answer is that **forests** are full of **magic, mystery** and **horror**.

In books, the residents of **the woods** are **monsters, dragons, bears, trolls, giants** and more! Children -and adults- love to read **scary stories**.

In the past, **real forests** were a real danger for children: there were **bandits** and **wild animals**. Adults told stories to children to teach them a lesson: *Don't go into the forest alone! Or the **wolf** will eat you up!* Just like **Little Red Riding Hood** in one of the traditional endings written by Charles Perrault in 1697.

In classic tales, **forests** are a **mystery**. Deep **into the wood**, anything is possible: **talking animals, candy houses, and friendly dwarfs**. There is no limit to **fantasy** and **horror**. And, maybe, this is the reason why we love these classics so much. They are an open door into **the enchanted forest**. We read the classics to **enter the woods** again and again and again.



The Characters in the Stories



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