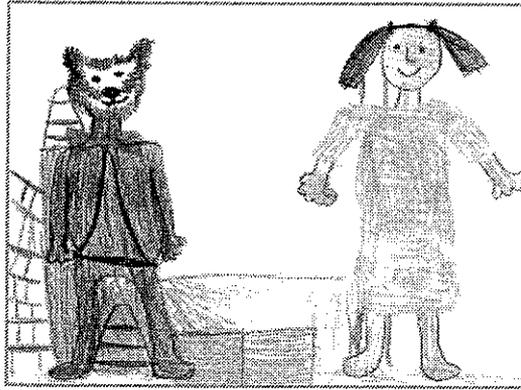


GRANNY WOLF

A Story from China



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Age 7
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Background

Granny Wolf is a *Little Red Riding Hood* story from China. In it three clever girls outwit a wicked wolf. Sources for this story are *Lon Po Po*, adapted by Ed Young (New York, Philomel Books, 1989); "The Chinese Red Riding Hoods" in *Women and Fairy Tales*, edited by Rosemary Minard (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975) and *Chinese Fairy Tales*, by Isabelle C. Chang (Barre Publishers, 1965).

Characters

Mother
Chang, the eldest
Tao, the middle daughter
Paoze, the youngest
The Wolf

Props

Clothesline with robe for wolf
Large rope
Laundry basket
Carry bag
Doll
Comb
Slingshot

Setting

The hut

[Optional introduction if linking performances:

Cat: *(Refers to The Bright Red Boots)* Oh, I love a happy ending, don't you? Say, hands up if you know a story about a little girl in a red cape, a grandma and a very wicked wolf. *(Wait for audience response)* Hands up if you think this story is called *Little Red Riding Hood*. *(Wait for audience response)* Hands down. Well, this next story is a little like *Little Red Riding Hood* and a little bit different. It takes place in China a long time ago. In it there is a mother *(Mother enters with clothes basket and begins to puts things out to dry)*; there she is — working so hard — and her three daughters. The eldest is Chang. Come out here Chang and say "hello."

Chang: *(Enters down aisle)* Ni-ho, everybody!

Cat: The second daughter is called Tao. Where are you, Tao?

Tao: *(Enters after Chang waving)* Here I am!

Cat: And the third daughter, the naughty little girl, is called Paotze.

Paotze: *(Enters after Tao, waving)* Sisters, wait for me! *(They exit)*

Cat: In it is also a wicked wolf who pretends to be their grandma — their Po Po as they say in Chinese. This is the story of Granny Wolf and I'm leaving before he gets here. *(Exits)*

Mother: *(Enters hut with laundry basket)* Girls! Little girls!

Girls: Yes, Mother.

Mother: Your Po Po is not well. Today I'm going to visit her.

Paotze: Mother, may we go with you, please?

Mother: No, Paotze, it's too far.

Paotze: But, Mother...

Mother: Stay here with your sisters. Chang, as eldest you are in charge. Keep the door locked while I'm away.

Chang: Yes, Mother.

Mother: Tao, be a good girl today. See that Chang keeps the door locked.

Tao: Yes, Mother.

Mother: Now, Paotze, mind your sisters.

Paotze: *(To Mother)* I will.

Mother: Good.

Paotze: *(To audience as Mother exits)* I will, I will, I will, I will, I will!

Mother: *(Calls as exits)* Joy-gin.

Girls: *(Wave)* Joy-gin. *(Chang locks door)*

Paotze: Now what do we do? *(Chang and Tao shrug)* I know. Let's play!

(As girls play, Wolf peers over clothes line, takes a robe putting it on, then sneaks over to the door and knocks taking girls by surprise)

Girls: *(Sing song chant)*
ONE LITTLE BOWL AND ONE BAG OF RICE,
HOW MANY GRAINS TO MAKE IT NICE?
ONE AND ONE ARE TWO
TWO AND TWO ARE FOUR
ADD SOME GRAINS
MAKE IT MORE.
THREE AND THREE ARE SIX
FOUR AND FOUR ARE EIGHT
ADD SOME MORE
WE CAN'T WAIT.
FIVE AND FIVE ARE TEN
DO IT AGAIN!
DO IT AGAIN!
(Repeat verse until wolf knocks)

Chang: Who is it? *(Silence)*

Tao: Who is it? *(Silence)*

Paotze: *(Crossly)* All right, who's out there?

Wolf: *(To audience)* Just as I hoped. All alone. *(To girls)* Oh, little girls, it's your Poo-Poo *(Pause)* I mean, Po Po. I've come to visit. Won't you let me in?

Paotze: Po Po? Mother went to visit YOU.

Chang/Tao: Shhhhhh....

Wolf: Do as I say, dearies. Open the door.

Chang: *(Shakes head NO)*

Tao: *(Shakes head NO)*

Wolf: Please!

Paotze: *(Through door)* All right, I will. *(To audience)* I will, I will, I will, I will, I will. *(Opens door)*