
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD – AI STYLE

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The publishing company WEDEA from Amsterdam issued various magic lantern sets in the 1930s under the name 'City Series'. The drawings were by the hand of Kate Philipsen and the illustrations were used in a series of books called *Kinderleven* or *The Life of Children* by H.J. Jacobs who started publishing from November 1930 onwards.

Here are the slides from one of the stories published – *Little Red Riding Hood*. They are black and white and come from the collection of Annet Duller. The texts that go along with the stories were very old fashioned and lengthy ... so we put them into the AI program *ChatGPT!* We asked for a more humorous and modern version, and in rhyme.

While the finished result needs a little amending, it's a good starting point. We performed this at the special MLS meeting in The Hague last year (see *TML* 40) with Philippe at the microphone and Dominique at the lantern.

The next story we tried was *Tyl Uylenspieghel* (using the title *The Jester of Flanders*), with partially coloured slides from the collection of Monique Wezenberg (we ourselves only have a black and white version of the series). If you enjoy this story, we will present this next example in a future edition of *TML*. See what you think. It certainly has potential and MLS members might like to try this for themselves.



1. Once upon a time, in a house by the wood,
Lived a sweet little girl, as good as good.
With parents kind and a life so grand,
Near a forest vast, so wild and unplanned.
Her grandma lived in a clearing fair,
Old and wise with silver hair.
One day she made a cap so red,
From that day forth, it crowned 'Red's' head.



2. "Red Riding Hood!" the villagers cry,
As she strolled along with head held high.
One sunny morn, her mother said,
"Take this basket, dear, to Grandma's bed.
There are waffles, apples, and wine
so sweet,
But stay on the path, don't miss a beat."
Red promised that and off she went,
On a journey through the forest, bent.

3. But oh, the flowers!
So bright and fair,
She picked a bouquet
without a care.
Off the path, she wandered wide,
As a cunning wolf watched
from the side.



4. With a sneaky grin, the wolf drew near,
"Where are you going, my dear, my dear?"
"To Grandma's house, with treats galore,
But why do you ask, wolf? What's in store?"
The wolf just grinned, sly as a fox,
"Just curious, Red, no tricks or locks."
"Take care, Red, and stay on track,
Or forest beasts might want a snack!"



5. Red Riding Hood, with flowers bright,
Skipped along, a comical sight.
The wolf took off with speed and stealth,
To Grandma's house, with devious health.



6. He knocked on the door
with a cheeky grin,
"Come in, dear Red!"
croaked a voice so thin.
In he burst, and in a whirl,
Tied Grandma up, hair in a twirl!



7. and 8. He donned her cap and nightgown fine,
"Now I'm Grandma! This plan's divine!"
Red arrived with a hop and skip,
With a basket full, she bit her lip.



9. "Grandma, oh my, what big eyes you've got!"
"The better to see you, you silly tot."
"And Grandma, what big ears you wear!"
"The better to hear your voice so rare."
"And what big teeth you've got, oh gee!"
"The better to eat you!" said he, with glee.
With one big gulp, he swallowed her whole,
Poor Red was trapped in the wolf's dark hole.

10. Content and full, the wolf took a nap,
Dreaming of schemes in his nightcap.
The woodsman heard the noise and din,
Burst through the door with a heroic grin.
He saw the wolf, so fat and wide,
Grabbed his sword, and cut the side.
Out popped Red and Grandma too,
Gasping for air, but safe and true.



11. They filled the wolf's tummy
With stones so round,
And stitched him up
Without a sound.
Next day, the wolf,
Now weighty and sore,
Went to the well,
His thirst not ignore.

12. With stones so heavy, he took a sip,
Lost his balance and started to slip.
Into the well, he fell with a splash,
No more wolf, just a watery crash!
Red and Grandma danced with glee,
A happy ending for all to see.

So heed this tale, with humour bright,
Stay on the path, avoid a fright.
For wolves may scheme with sneaky flair,
But with a quick wit, you're in the clear!

