



Short Stories for Children

Cuentos para la clase de Inglés

Ilustraciones de
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Dirección General de Cultura y Educación

Short Stories for Children / adaptado por Yamila Loscar; Florencia Morales; Patricia Guzmán; editado por Virginia Piñón; ilustrado por Virginia Piñón. - 1a ed adaptada. - La Plata: Dirección General de Cultura y Educación de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, 2022.
32 p.: il.; 21 x 15 cm.

ISBN 978-987-676-115-4

1. Cuentos Clásicos Infantiles. I. Loscar, Yamila, adapt. II. Morales, Florencia, adapt. III. Guzmán, Patricia, adapt. IV. Piñón, Virginia, ed. V. Título.
CDD 808.899282

Este material ha sido elaborado por la Dirección General de Cultura y Educación de la Provincia de Buenos Aires.

Adaptación: Equipo curricular de inglés, Dirección Provincial de Educación Primaria.

Ilustración y edición: Virginia Piñón

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CONTENTS

Little Red Riding Hood	4
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs	12
What's a Folktale? About the Stories in this Book	24
Into the Forest	26
The Characters in the Stories	28

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

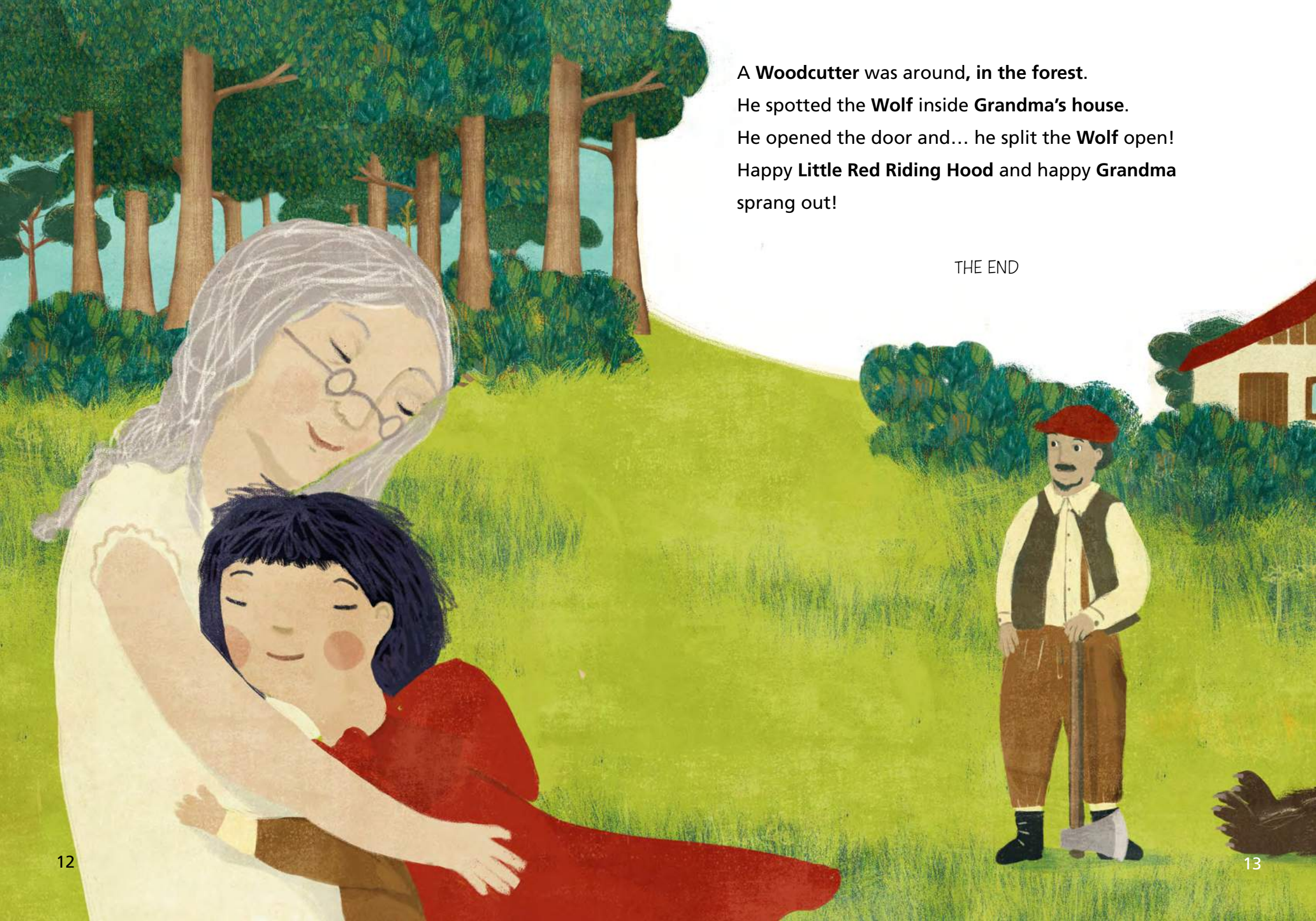
This is one of the traditional endings of the story.

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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