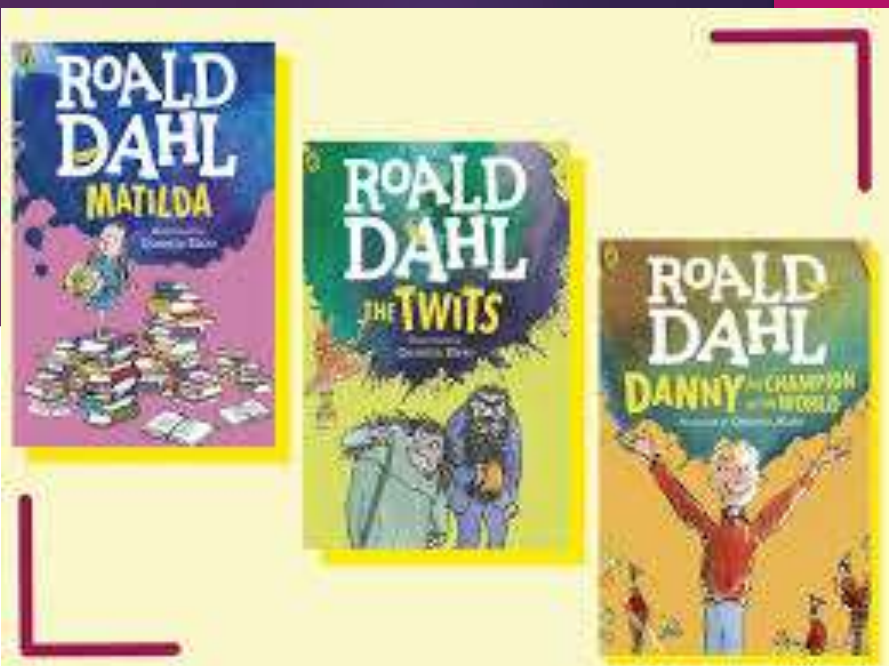
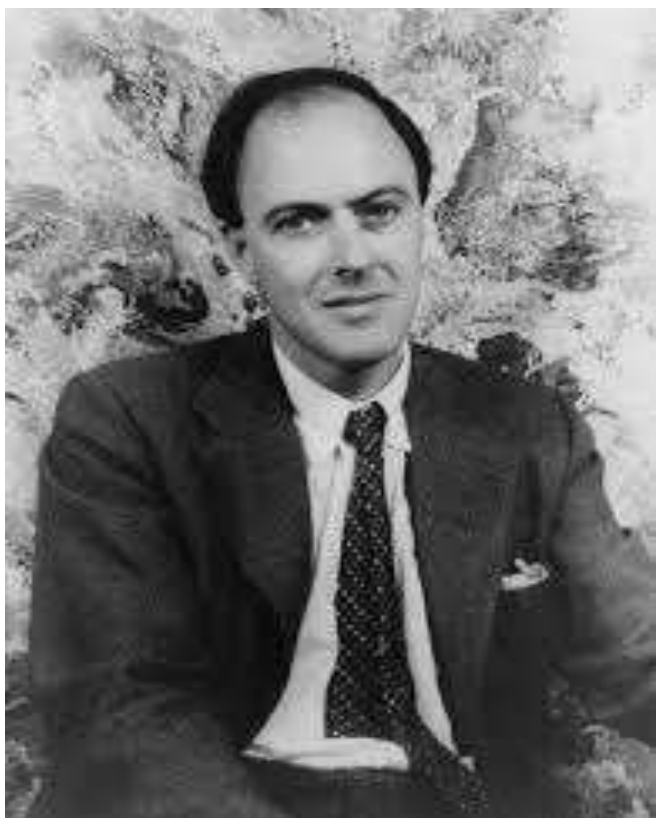



# LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD AND THE WOLF

ROALD DAHL

# ROALD DAHL (1916- 1990)

- ▶ Roald Dahl was a British novelist, short story writer, poet, screenwriter, and fighter pilot.
- ▶ considered one of the greatest storytellers for children of the 20th century
- ▶ was named after the Norwegian polar explorer Roald Amundsen.
- ▶ Dahl was born in Llandaff, Wales to Norwegian immigrant parents, on 13th of September 1916.
- ▶ His books have sold more than 250 million copies worldwide.
- ▶ He wrote many children's books that later were made into movies.
- ▶ He fought in World War 2 in the royal air force. He wrote screenplays for movies.
- ▶ He took inspiration from his life incidence and people he met.
- ▶ He wrote 21 books for children- including picture books, novels and poetry collections.
- ▶ He wrote over 50 stories for adults.
- ▶ Dahl has been accused of racism and anti- Semitism, although he always denied the charges. Dahl always seemed to stir up some kind of controversy.
- ▶ Quentin Blake illustrated many of Roald Dahl's books.




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- “Revolting Rhymes” is a collection of Roald Dahl’s poems published in 1982.
  - A parody of traditional folk tales in verse, Dahl gives a re-interpretation of six well-known fairy tales , featuring surprise endings in place of the traditional happily-ever-after finishes.
  - The poems are illustrated by Quentin Blake. It is the shortest children’s book he has written.
  - **Important works:**
    - Books and Novels: “James and the Giant Peach”, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”, “Fantastic Mr. Fox”, “Danny, the Champion of the World”, “George's Marvellous Medicine”, “The BFG”, “The Witches”, “Matilda”
    - Short Stories: “A Piece of Cake”, “A Connoisseur's Revenge”, “Lamb to the Slaughter”, ”The Landlady”
  - **Awards:** 1954, Wins Edgar Allen Poe award and Mystery Writers of America award.  
1982, Wins Federation of Children’s Book Groups Award (for The BFG) and Massachusetts Children’s Award (for James and the Giant Peach).  
2000 Wins Millennium Children’s Book Award and Blue Peter Book Award (for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory).

## LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD AND THE WOLF

As soon as Wolf began to feel  
That he would like a decent meal,  
He went and knocked on Grandma's door.  
When Grandma opened it, she saw  
The sharp white teeth, the horrid grin,  
And Wolfie said, 'May I come in?'  
Poor Grandmamma was terrified,  
'He's going to eat me up!' she cried.  
And she was absolutely right.  
He ate her up in one big bite.  
But Grandmamma was small and tough,  
And Wolfie wailed, 'That's not enough!  
I haven't yet begun to feel  
That I have had a decent meal!  
He ran around the kitchen yelping,  
'I've got to have a second helping!'

Then added with a frightful leer,  
'I'm therefore going to wait right here  
Till Little Miss Red Riding Hood  
Comes home from walking in the wood.'



He quickly put on Grandma's clothes,  
(Of course he hadn't eaten those).  
He dressed himself in coat and hat.  
He put on shoes, and after that,  
He even brushed and curled his hair,  
Then sat himself in Grandma's chair.

In came the little girl in red.  
She stopped. She stared. And then she said,  
'What great big ears you have, Grandma.'  
'All the better to hear you with,'  
the Wolf replied.  
'What great big eyes you have, Grandma.'  
said Little Red Riding Hood.  
'All the better to see you with,'  
the Wolf replied.  
He sat there watching her and smiled.  
He thought, I'm going to eat this child.  
Compared with her old Grandmamma,  
She's going to taste like caviar.

Then Little Red Riding Hood said, '  
But Grandma, what a lovely great big  
furry coat you have on.'

'That's wrong!' cried Wolf.  
'Have you forgot  
To tell me what BIG TEETH I've got?  
Ah well, no matter what you say,  
I'm going to eat you anyway.'

The small girl smiles. One eyelid flickers.  
She whips a pistol from her knickers.  
She aims it at the creature's head,  
And bang bang bang, she shoots him dead.

A few weeks later, in the wood,  
I came across Miss Riding Hood.  
But what a change! No cloak of red,  
No silly hood upon her head.  
She said, 'Hello, and do please note  
My lovely furry wolfskin coat.'

# SUMMARY

- ▶ The Wolf gets hungry and goes to Grandma's house. He eats her up in one bite but isn't satisfied yet. So he decides to put on Grandma's clothes and wait for Little Red Riding Hood to arrive. When she gets there, they go through the familiar dialogue of her asking him about his big eyes and ears. Then she asks him about his furry coat. "That's wrong!" he says, pointing out that she was supposed to ask about his teeth. Regardless, he says, he's going to eat her up. Before he has a chance, the small girl pulls a pistol from her knickers and shoots him in the head. The narrator explains that he met Miss Riding Hood a few weeks later in the wood and was impressed by her new "lovely furry wolfskin coat."

Compare and Contrast : In the poem she says, "But Grandma, what a lovely great big furry coat you have on".

In the fairytale, she says, "Grandma what great big teeth you have".

In the poem, when Little Red Riding Hood pulls out a gun and shoots the wolf.


In the fairytale, Little Red Riding Hood gets eaten by the Big Bad Wolf.


In the poem, the girl is wearing wolfskin fur, instead of a red cloak.

In the original fairytale, the woodcutter kills the wolf, and rescues the grandma and the girl.



- Roald Dahl's version of 'LRRH' forms part of a storybook called Revolting Rhymes is something that should not be taken lightly.
- The ambiguous title plays with the double meaning of the word 'revolting', thus suggesting: one, that the tales may produce disgust in the reader, and two, that the tales are rebellious because they go against an established order.
- Dahl starts the retelling off by skipping the introduction to the characters and the major details.
- He did this because majority of his audience has most likely heard this story and understands how it begins.
- Dahl also uses a different style of writing to implement an additional impact to the story, a poem. This creates flow and a different feel to the reading, which is very effective.
- The wolf enters the house to see an old, rugged women, however, he does not think twice and eats her up. This was not enough for the wolf though so he dresses himself up to look like grandma, "he even brushed and curled his hair".
- When Little Red Riding Hood entered grandma's house the wolf thought that this would be the perfect meal, nothing like grandma.
- She commented on the wolf's ears and eyes as the original story would, but at that very moment Red realizes that it is not grandma.
- Red changes the plot and comments on what a big furry coat the grandma (the wolf) had. This is a major turning point in how Dahl creates his own retelling.
- The wolf instantly turns and disagrees with what Red said because that is not the norm. Red looks at the wolf and "smiles. One eyelid flickers. She whips a pistol from her knickers. She aims it at the creature's head and bang bang bang, she shoots him dead".

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- As a reader this is very sudden and unexpected. Dahl changes the view of Red as a character from an oblivious, innocent, and unexperienced, young woman to a smart and powerful hero.
  - At the death of the wolf, Dahl continues on to change his writing to first person and as if he saw Red personally a few weeks later.
  - However, this time she wasn't dressed in red but a furry wolfskin coat.
  - His ability to abruptly alter Red as a character and change the point of the story creates a different feeling to how each character is typically viewed.
  - Little Red Riding Hood is the one who deals the final blow of the tale, the one who turns the screw on the plot and manages to surprise us all. This surprise can be explained by our expectations about her character.
  - Dahl created Little Red Riding Hood as a smart, tough woman to show the progression of the original story to modern day and how with the growth of a human comes new intelligence and an understanding for the world around us.
  
  - Dahl's portrayal of a brave, active, modern girl who, as if acquainted with the potential evils of today's society, takes safety measures by carrying a gun with her. What Dahl has done here is to manipulate the functions, so that in his version, LRRH's role is of an active, seeker heroine. Thus, if in Grimm's tale she was the hunted, in Dahl's version she is the hunter; an unexpected reversal of roles.
  - In the original fairy tale, LRRH had to wait for the huntsman to come and rescue her, but in *Revolting Rhymes* the little girl stands on her own two feet showing she needs no brave young man or a prince to save her from her foe.

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- She becomes the heroine of the piece.
  - This will come to the reader as a surprise since our expectations of fairy tale women are usually associated to the image of defenseless, weak creatures who cannot do a thing for themselves except waiting for the hero to help them escape (Sleeping Beauty, Snow-White)
  - Dahl's tough and strong protagonist is a break with the traditional rules of the fairy tale in what concerns heroines.
  - In this sense, what we find in Revolting Rhymes is a rebellious, modern child who, tired of playing the victim role decides to change the script of the story all by herself, perhaps as an attempt to catch up with modern times.
  - Women's rights and feminist movements have such a strong presence in today's society, that the portrayal of these weak victims the fairy tales insist on picturing over and over tends to look backward and completely outdated.
  - Thus, we could regard Dahl's 'little Red Riding Hood' as an attempt to make the tale politically correct according to the sensibilities of today.
  - It is a treat, to see LRRH, a girl belonging to a timeless, a historical past, a character who has become a classic in our folklore, suddenly throwing away her unmovable role of goody innocent girl to jump into the twentieth century and adopt the manners of a tough gunwoman.