

30. PALLA RUBRA

Little Red Riding Hood

By Gloria Endres

Cast: Narrator, Little Red Riding Hood (Palla Rubra), the Hunter, (Venator), a wasp, (Vespa), a rabbit, (Cuniculus) [other characters can be added for a larger cast], the Very Big Wolf, (Lupus Maximus), Grandmother, (Avia)

Little Red Riding Hood sets out through the forest with a basket of goodies for her sick grandmother. She meets a wasp.

VESPA: quo vadis, Palla Rubra?

PR: vado ad casam aviae

VESPA: cave lupum maximum!

PR: ita, cavebo, vespa

She goes a little further and meets a rabbit.

CUNICULUS: quo vadis, Palla Rubra?

PR: vado ad casam aviae

CUNICULUS: cave lupum maximum!

PR: ita, cavebo, cunicule.

She walks further and meets a hunter.

VENATOR: quo vadis, Palla Rubra?

PR: vado ad casam aviae

VENATOR: cave lupum maximum!

PR: ita, cavebo, venator

She arrives at her grandmother's house, unaware that the wolf has arrived ahead of her and chased the poor woman away. She enters and finds the wolf in her grandmother's bed dressed in her grandmother's nightgown and cap.

PR: o, avia, sic oculos maximos habes!

LUPUS: te spectare optime, puella cara

PR: o avia, sic aures maximas habes!

LUPUS: te audire optime, puella cara

PR: o avia, sic dentes maximos habes

LUPUS: te consumere optime, puella cara

The wolf leaps out of bed to grab Little Red Riding Hood, but just then the hunter and her grandmother burst into the house.

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AVIA: siste!
VENATOR: puellam noli tangere!
LUPUS: me piget
AVIA: lupus improbus es!
VENATOR: veni mecum
A & PR: gratias tibi ago, venator
LUPUS: valete, omnes
A & PR: vale, lupe

The wolf leaves with the hunter who runs him out of the forest never to return.

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Translation

Wasp: Where are you going, Red Riding Hood?
Red: I am going to my grandmother's house.
Wasp: Beware of the very big wolf!
Red: Yes, I will beware, wasp.
Rabbit: Where are you going, Red Riding Hood?
Red: I am going to my grandmother's house.
Rabbit: Beware of the very big wolf!
Red: Yes, I will beware, rabbit.
Hunter: Where are you going, Red Riding Hood?
Red: I am going to my grandmother's house.
Hunter: Beware of the very big wolf!
Red: Yes, I will beware, hunter.
Red: O, grandmother, such big eyes you have!
Wolf: Best to see you, dear girl!
Red: O, grandmother, such big ears you have!
Wolf: Best to hear you, dear girl!
Red: O, grandmother, such big teeth you have!
Wolf: Best to eat you, dear girl!
Grandmother: Stop!
Hunter: Don't touch the girl!
Wolf: I'm sorry!
Grandmother: You are a wicked wolf!
Hunter: Come with me!
G & R: Thank you, hunter!
Wolf: Goodbye, all!
G & R: Goodbye, wolf!