

I'm not robot!

When Trisha Speed Shaskan was a child, Halloween meant bobbing for apples, daring to touch brains (which may have been noodles), and best of all: wearing costumes. She still loves dressing up for Halloween. Trisha is the author of more than 40 childrenâ€™s books, including the upcoming picture book *The Itty-Bitty Witch*. Trisha is also the author of *Punk Skunks* and the *Q & Ray* graphic novel series, both illustrated by her husband, Stephen Shaskan. Trisha lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota with Stephen; their cat, Eartha; and their dog, Beatrix. Learn more at www.trishaspeedshaskan.com. Skip to content

Honestly, Red Riding Hood was Rotten! was something I picked due to my affinity for fairy tales. There isn't anything better in the world, in my opinion, than a particularly good retelling of a fairy tale!My first reaction was completely amusement. The illustrations in this book are absolutely beautiful, and will definitely hold the attention of any young reader! Fast-paced and vivid with color, each page draws your eyes in and holds them there while the story is being told. From the facial expressions of the wolf, to the vain ponderings of Red Riding Hood, this book is laugh out loud adorable!In this particular retelling, the wolf is a vegetarian, he tries oh so hard not to eat meat. However he is out of food and hungry. What does he see, but a lovely apple! Or is it? Cue Red Riding Hood in one of the most giggle worthy illustrations of her character that I have ever seen. I couldn't honestly blame the wolf for mistaking her for something delicious. I'll let you dive into the story to find out exactly what he was thinking about.The only reason I didn't fall as in love with this book as I could have, was because my heart belongs to another retelling of Red Riding Hood. I won't share which one, since I don't like to compare books if I can help it, but it is another retelling from the wolf's point of view. I also felt at times that the jokes were a little forced. Again though, we're talking about a children's book here. I know that my first graders would be giggling at every single one, and that makes me happy.Long story short, this is a lovely retelling of a classic story! If you have a reluctant young reader, this would be a great book to start them out with. I also see if as a great bed time story book. The illustrations alone make it worth sharing with your little ones. Thank you to Trisha Speed Shaskan for such a sweet book!This is an attempt to tell the tale from the POV of the wolf, much as Jon Scieszka did so successfully in *The True Story Of The 3 Little Pigs!* This one is obviously made as a classroom exercise, teaching point of view, and lacks the genius and pizzazz of Scieszka's romp.Mediocre.Big Bad Wolf is a vegetarian whose pantry is bare and garden harvested. He looooooves apples and hasn't eaten for weeks when he spots Little Red who looks like a plump Red Delicious. Of course Little Red is oblivious to the impending danger because she's too busy admiring her beauty. Turns out Granny is just as vain and looks as yummy as a Granny Smith. What was the Wolf supposed to do?The last page of the book asks the reader to seek out a classic version of LRRH then compare and contrast the classic with this new version. This would make for a fun intro to POV as well as fairy-tale retellings / fractured fairy tales for young readers.4 starsOriginally published on my blogOne of my all time favourite kids' books is *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka. I remember reading this as a kid and falling in love. It was also the book that got me into fairy tale retellings, so it has a very special place in my heart. I can praise this book till high noon, because it was funny, it was insightful, and the illustrations were great. But I can't. So why did I bring it up? Well, when I heard about *Honestly, Red Riding Hood Was Rotten!* I was excited. It reminded me of *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* with the Big Bad Wolf telling his side of the story about why he ate poor Granny and Little Red Riding Hood. Also, the artwork is cute and reminded me of Capstone's other novel *Secrets, Monsters, and Magic Mirrors*.The story is a simple one. The Big Bad Wolf is a vegetarian and a big lover of apples, whether it's Golden Delicious, Fuji, Pink Lady, it doesn't matter because he loves them all! But he's run out of apples and he's run out of food, now he's starving and isn't sure what to do.Then one day he smells something wonderful and sees a big apple. The apple in question isn't a Ginger Gold, Cameo, McIntosh, or even a Zuccalmaglio's Reinette. No, this huge incredibly rare apple is Little Red Riding Hood, who has clearly been snacking on a lot (and I mean a lot) of cakes. When the wolf runs off to Granny's House expecting to see old women, he's welcomed by the biggest Granny Smith he's ever seen.Gee, the Big Bad Wolf has it rough.----OverallThe story isn't anything new, but Trisha does help the reader try to see things from a different perspective. And the artwork helps push this point by displaying the wolf's desperation. The story is also cute and I'm sure any kid would love this.But due to my love of *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* and the epicness of that story, I think I felt a tad disappointed in how the story ended up. That isn't to say this is a bad book, it isn't. I was just wanting more. The artwork is great though.3.5 stars! had to read it for school, and it was actually pretty good. But a wolf is vegetarian????? I think you should read it if you like Fairy-Tale twists, you should read this. I rate it a 3 star book.This is a cute take on the story of Little Red Riding Hood as told by the wolf...unfortunately for me, it was a little too reminiscent of *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* (told by A. Wolf) and just wasn't "quite" as good as that one. The vegetarian wolf who loves to eat apples (and drat, don't Red and her Granny remind him an awful lot of apples?) is a different idea, and quite amusing, as is Red's--and later Granny's--obsession with their own cuteness. I love that Granny's walls are covered with pictures of herself! As the wolf says, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Honestly, if I didn't love Scieszka and Lane's story so much, this one would probably have gotten a four-star review. The best part of this book is the "Think About It" section, which encourages readers to compare this story to the original, asks them questions that make them consider how the setting and point of view of the story affect its outcome, and suggests they rewrite another classic fairytale from another character's point of view. As both a teacher and a parent, I love all four of those ideas--great for informal discussion as well as actually sitting down to accomplish through writing. This book would make a nice addition to any picture book library. This post may contain affiliate links. These Little Red Riding Hood stories from around the world are perfect for comparing and contrasting story elements and cultures. Each version of Little Red Riding Hood featured below is different. Many versions come from other cultures -- Cajun, Chinese, the Wild West. Several tell the story from the wolf's point of view. Still others share a funny spin on the classic fairy tale. All are perfect for comparing and contrasting story elements, points of view, and more. Red Riding Hood Stories for Kids Fill your book basket with a great collection of Red Riding Hood stories for kids. Most of these books can be found at your local library or used bookstore. If you have a hard time finding them, you can order them on Amazon by clicking the images below. Red Riding Hood | This version of the story my suit older children best. In the end, the hunter cuts open the wolf to rescue Granny and Red Riding Hood. Honestly, Red Riding Hood Was Rotten | What a funny take on this classic story! It's great for teaching point of view (since it's told from the wolf's point of view). Little Red Riding Sheep | My 14yo claims this is the cutest twist on LRRH, and you must check it out! Ninja Red Riding Hood | A fantastic fractured fairy tale. Wolf just can't catch a break! Ever since the three little pigs started teaching everyone Ninja skills, buffing and puffing just hasn't been enough to scare up a good meal. His craving for meat sends Wolf to classes at the dojo, and soon he's ready to try out his new moves. A little girl and her tiny granny should be easy targets--right? Not if Little Red has anything to say about it! Kya! Little Red Riding Hood | She sets off through the forest to visit her grandmother in this classic edition. Lon Po Po | In this Chinese version of the classic fairy tale, a mother leaves her three children home alone while she goes to visit their grandmother. When the children are visited by a wolf, pretending to be their Po Po, or granny, they let him in the house, but ultimately are not fooled by his deep voice and hairy face. Very Little Red Riding Hood | This is the story of the Very Little Red Riding Hood. Very Little Red Riding Hood is little. Very little. She's off to her Grandmama's for a sleepover, and she won't let anything stand in her way. Not even a Wolf. Super Red Riding Hood | Ruby loves to play superhero, so when her mother gives her a "mission" that takes her into the deep, dark woods, Ruby throws on her red cloak to become ... Super Red Riding Hood! Nothing can scare her -- except maybe coming face-to-face with a big bad wolf. What would a superhero do? A story of guts and girl power, this is a fun update on a familiar tale. Little Red Riding Hood | Readers will squeal with delight all over again during that most memorable scene when Little Red Riding Hood declares, "Oh, Grandmamma, what great teeth you have!" Little Red Riding Hood | When Little Red Riding Hood sets off to deliver muffins to her grandmother, you bet that a big bad wolf isn't far behind! Little Red Riding Hood | Open the flaps to peer into Red Riding Hood's basket, move the blanket on Grandma's bed, and get closer to the Big Bad Wolf in disguise. Throughout, a cute (but cowardly) mouse accompanies Red Riding Hood on her journey, foreseeing her peril--but not able to help her evade the big-eyed, big-toothed creature who wants to eat her. The Wolf's Story | Everyone knows there are at least two sides to every story, and if you believe in the big-eared, sharp-toothed villain of LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD, there's a logical explanation for everything. As our anthhero tells it, it all starts with the helpful wolf doing odd jobs for Grandma (are you sure you don't want to sit a little closer?). How was he to know that he spoiled Little Red would come along and ruin a good working relationship? Petite Rouge: A Cajun Red Riding Hood | When her grand-mere comes down wit' de flu, this Cajun Little Red knows what she has to do. With her witty cat, Tejean, she sets off in a pirogue to bring Grand-mere some gumbo. Who should she meet upon the way, but that big ol' swamp gator, Claude! Mean ol' Claude may want to gobble up Petite Rouge, but she and Tejean have a better idea. Before long, they have Claude running back to the bayou where he belongs! Little Red Hot | Little Red Hot loves red hot chilli peppers. She eats them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. When her grandmother catches a cold, Little Red makes her a hot pepper pie that will "knock those cold germs right out of her". But before Little Red shares her pie with Grandma, she meets Señor Lobo. The pie comes in very handy when the wily wolf tries to trick her into thinking he's her grandmother. Red Riding Hood and the Sweet Little Wolf | Little Wolf doesn't want to be a Big Bad Wolf. But when she is sent to gather ingredients for dinner and she meets Red Riding Hood, she doesn't know what to do. Together the unlikely duo finds a surprising solution to Little Wolf's big problem! Little Red Cowboy Hat | This Southwestern version of Little Red Riding Hood features a tomboyish main character, a wolf as sleazy as any street corner lothario and a distinct self-defense theme. Carmine: A Little More Red | And, as Carmine takes off on her bicycle with Rufus, that is just what she intends to do. But Carmine is a dreamy painter, always in search of capturing just the right hue in her drawings, and this drawing--the one she begins in a lovely forest clearing just off the path to Granny's--must be her best yet. Little Red Writing | This is a hilarious and exuberant retelling of Little Red Riding Hood, in which a brave little red pencil finds her way through the many perils of writing a story. The True Story of Little Red Riding Hood | When Wolf writes to Red Riding Hood, begging her to teach him how to be good, she jumps at the chance to help. Her make over is amazingly successful, but can she deal with no longer being the most popular character in the Forest? Betsy Red Hoodie | Betsy is finally old enough to take cupcakes to Grandma all by herself--with the company of her faithful sheep, of course. And although wolves aren't good for grandmas, Betsy lets her best friend, Zimmo, come along too. But will Zimmo's wolfish instincts make Grandma the tasty treat instead? Pretty Salma | When Granny asks Pretty Salma to go to the market one day, she warns her not to talk to strangers. But cunning Mr. Doj tricks Salma, and before she knows it, he's wearing her stripy namama, her pretty white beads, and her yellow sandals. And he's on his way to Granny's house! African culture and flavor infuse this inventive retelling of a favorite fairy tale, and the vibrant lively illustrations bring it to life. Which version will you read first? I highly recommend Lon Po Po, Petite Rouge, and Pretty Salma. They're favorites around here. TEACHING RESOURCES This is a great companion to a girl or boys paper doll set or can be used on its own. Kids will love being able to play out the complete story of Little Red Riding Hood with this set. Kids love story telling using finger puppets. And what better story to put in a felt play set than the famous Little Red Riding Hood. Your little ones can reenact all the scenes using the finger puppets characters and tell the story in their own unique way. related posts

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