

Little Red Riding Hood

Brothers Grimm



Grimm Heimat NordHessen



Dear reader,

The Grimm Brothers published their first book of fairy tales two hundred years ago. They proved so popular they were soon being avidly read not only all over Germany but also well beyond. More recently, the outstanding importance of the tales was highlighted by the inscription in 2005 on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register of one of the star exhibits of the Brothers Grimm Museum in Kassel, an early edition of the "Children's and Household Tales" owned and annotated by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. This Register is the collective memory of humankind, so to speak, and holds valuable book collections, manuscripts, musical scores, one-of-a-kind documents, visual images, sound recordings and films from around the world.

And certainly Rapunzel, the Frog King and Little Snow White have become familiar figures to children all over the world, not just in Germany. Grimms' fairy tales is in fact the most widely read, sold and translated book ever written in German. All over the world the tales have fired the imaginations of both adults and children.

And their fascination remains undiminished, for the fantasy world they evoke brings people face to face with challenges and constellations that are not only timeless but part of human experience everywhere. This booklet will, I hope, help make Grimms' fairy tales even better known around the world.

So happy reading and enjoy it!

Prologue by the German foreign minister, Dr. Guido Westerwelle, for the celebration of the 200th birthday of the "Children's and Household Tales", which are part of UNESCO's documentary heritage.



The Home of the Brothers Grimm

In the middle of Germany, in the vicinity of Kassel, lies the home of Grimm, North Hessen. It is here that Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm spent most of their time, worked, and collected their world famous “Children’s and Household Tales”.

During their time in Kassel, the brothers Grimm took much pleasure in traveling in what is known today as North Hessen. Many diary entries and letters show how much they loved their home, loved living there and were connected with it. One can find many aspects of the North Hessen’s country and culture in their fairy tales. The visitors that visit this region today, following the footsteps of the brothers Grimm, are able to experience this first hand: they have the opportunity to experience an intact countryside, romantic castles and fortresses, enchanting parks and gardens, as well as beautiful villages with unique old German architecture. With all this cultural diversity, a myriad of cycle and hiking paths, and an array of different leisure activities, visitors can both relax and be active.

A reading trip is a good way to start exploring the home of the brothers Grimm. You have the opportunity to get to know some of the most beautiful aspects of the region in the following piece of reading.

Welcome in the Home of the Grimms, North Hessen!

www.grimmheimat.de





Little Red Riding Hood

Once upon a time there was a sweet little girl. Everyone who saw her liked her, but most of all her grandmother, who did not know what to give the child next. Once she gave her a little cap made of red velvet. Because it suited her so well, and she wanted to wear it all the time, she came to be known as Little Red Riding Hood. One day her mother said to her, “Come Little Red Riding Hood. Here is a piece of cake and a bottle of wine. Take them to your grandmother. She is sick and weak, and they will do her well. Mind your manners and give her my greetings. Behave yourself on the way, and do not leave the path, or you might fall down and break the glass, and then there will be nothing for your sick grandmother.”

Little Red Riding Hood promised to obey her mother. The grandmother lived out in the woods, a half hour from the village. When Little Red Riding Hood entered the woods a wolf came up to her. She did not know what a wicked animal he was, and was not afraid of him. “Good day to you, Little Red Riding Hood.” - “Thank you, wolf.” - “Where are you going so early, Little Red Riding Hood?” - “To grandmother’s.” - “And what are you carrying under your apron?” - “Grandmother is sick and weak, and I am taking her some cake and wine. We baked yesterday, and they should give her strength.” - “Little Red Riding Hood, just where does your grandmother live?” - “Her house is a good quarter hour from here in the woods, under the three large oak trees. There’s a hedge of hazel bushes there. You must know the place,” said Little Red Riding Hood. The wolf thought to himself, “Now there is a tasty bite for me. Just how are you going to catch her?” Then he said, “Listen, Little Red Riding Hood, haven’t you seen the beautiful flowers that are blossoming in the woods? Why



don't you go and take a look? And I don't believe you can hear how beautifully the birds are singing. You are walking along as though you were on your way to school in the village. It is very beautiful in the woods."

Little Red Riding Hood opened her eyes and saw the sunlight breaking through the trees and how the ground was covered with beautiful flowers. She thought, "If I take a bouquet to grandmother, she will be very pleased. Anyway, it is still early, and I'll be home on time." And she ran off into the woods looking for flowers. Each time she picked one she thought that she could see an even more beautiful one a little way off, and she ran after it, going further and further into the woods. But the wolf ran straight to the grandmother's house and knocked on the door. "Who's there?" - "Little Red Riding Hood. I'm bringing you some cake and wine. Open the door for me." - "Just press the latch," called out the grandmother.

"I'm too weak to get up." The wolf pressed the latch, and the door opened. He stepped inside, went straight to the grandmother's bed, and ate her up. Then he took her clothes, put them on, and put her cap on his head. He got into her bed and pulled the curtains shut.

Little Red Riding Hood had run after flowers, and did not continue on her way to grandmother's until she had gathered all that she could carry. When she arrived, she found, to her surprise, that the door was open. She walked into the parlor, and everything looked so strange that she thought, "Oh, my God, why am I so afraid? I usually like it at grandmother's." Then she went to the bed and pulled back the curtains. Grandmother was lying there with her cap pulled down over her face and looking very strange. "Oh, grandmother, what big ears you have!" - "All the better to hear you with." - "Oh, grandmother, what big eyes you have!" - "All the better to see you with." - "Oh, grandmother, what big hands you have!" - "All the better to grab you with!" - "Oh, grandmother, what a horribly big mouth you have!" - "All the better to eat you with!" And with that he jumped out of bed, jumped on top of poor Little Red Riding Hood, and ate her up.

As soon as the wolf had finished this tasty bite, he climbed back into bed, fell asleep, and began to snore very loudly. A huntsman was just passing by. He thought it strange that the old woman was snoring so loudly, so he decided to take a look. He stepped inside, and in the bed there lay the wolf that he had been hunting for such a long time. "He has eaten the grandmother, but perhaps she still can be saved. I won't shoot him," thought the huntsman. So he took a pair of scissors and cut open his belly. He had cut only a few strokes when he saw the red cap shining through. He cut a little more, and the girl

jumped out and cried, “Oh, I was so frightened! It was so dark inside the wolf’s body!” And then the grandmother came out alive as well. Then Little Red Riding Hood fetched some large heavy stones. They filled the wolf’s body with them, and when he woke up and tried to run away, the stones were so heavy that he fell down dead.

The three of them were happy. The huntsman took the wolf’s pelt. The grandmother ate the cake and drank the wine that Little Red Riding Hood had brought. And Little Red Riding Hood thought to herself, “As long as I live, I will never leave the path and run off into the woods by myself if mother tells me not to.”

They also tell how Little Red Riding Hood was taking some baked things to her grandmother another time, when another wolf spoke to her and wanted her to leave the path. But Little Red Riding Hood took care and went straight to grandmother’s. She told her that she had seen the wolf, and that he had wished her a good day, but had stared at her in a wicked manner. “If we hadn’t been on a public road, he would have eaten me up,” she said. “Come,” said the grandmother. “Let’s lock the door, so he can’t get in.” Soon afterward the wolf knocked on the door and called out, “Open up, grandmother. It’s Little Red Riding Hood, and I’m bringing you some baked things.” They remained silent, and did not open the door. The wicked one walked around the house several times, and finally jumped onto the roof. He wanted to wait until Little Red Riding Hood went home that evening, then follow her and eat her up in the darkness. But the grandmother saw what he was up to. There was a large stone trough in front of the house. “Fetch a bucket, Little Red Riding Hood,” she said. “Yesterday I cooked some sausage. Carry the

water that I boiled them with to the trough.” Little Red Riding Hood carried water until the large, large trough was clear full. The smell of sausage arose into the wolf’s nose. He sniffed and looked down, stretching his neck so long that he could no longer hold himself, and he began to slide. He slid off the roof, fell into the trough, and drowned. And Little Red Riding Hood returned home happily and safely.

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The title page shows a paper cutting by Alfons Holtgreve, who became known to a wide audience with his weekly paper-cut figurative representations for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung.

www.alfons-holtgreve.de

The story is illustrated by Albert Völkl from Trendelburg in the homeland of the brothers Grimm. His works are characterised by unusual, expressive figures. www.figurentheater-albertvoelkl.de

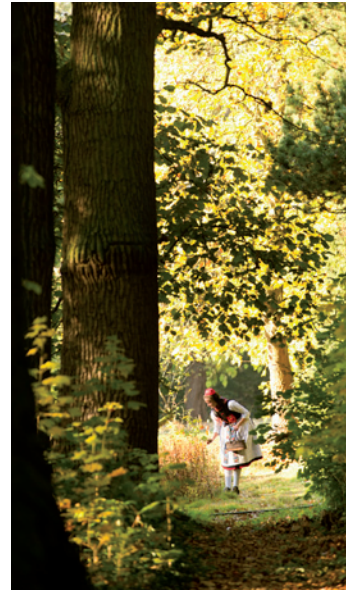


“...red riding hood of red velvet...”

The plot of “Little Red Riding Hood” is one of the cruelest in “Children’s and Household Tales”. First, the wolf devours the grandmother, and then lies in wait to devour the girl as well. The reason why this story is still so popular and relevant to children’s upbringing is easy to see: In the end, the good wins. The grandmother and her granddaughter are rescued by the huntsman and the culprit is punished. Children understand the moral of this story and learn to face the future bravely and optimistically.

Today, Red Riding Hood has found a home in North Hessen. This “Red Riding Hood Region”, with its forests and old German architecture, offers the necessary backdrop. The Schwälmer Tracht, the style of dress that red riding hood wore, which indicates the wearer’s wealth and martial status, also plays an important role. In the old days, young unmarried women wore buckle shoes, knee length skirts, and a red cap, called a “Betzel”. The heroin of this story is given such a head covering by her grandmother. In 1995, a bronze statue by Lutz Lesch was unveiled in Schwalmstadt-Treysa, which gave red riding hood and the wolf a three dimensional form.

It is also possible to meet the wolf in the game park Knüll, where there is a modern wolf and bear exhibit, which boasts high animal welfare standards. It is also worthwhile to take a short detour to the painter colony in Willingshausen, whose co-founder was Ludwig Emil Grimm. Visiting one of the fairytale houses in Neukirchen or Alsfeld is also recommendable.





Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe
applying to be part of
UNESCO world heritage



Children's and Household Tales
UNESCO Memory of the World



National Park Kellerwald-Edersee
UNESCO world heritage

This is where our future heritage is being preserved.

They are part of humanity's heritage: The copies of "Children's and Household Tales" by the brothers Grimm. They have been included in the UNESCO documentary heritage since 2005. In the Grimm home, North Hessen, this heritage is preserved and protected, along with the national park Kellerwald-Edersee. This park, as well as many other European beech forests, became a UNESCO world heritage site in 2011. The park represents a special intact and unique region in the midst of tremendous forests, soft rolling hills, and fruitful valleys.

The Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe, or "mountain park" is also unique in Europe. The Wilhelmshöhe Palace, the Löwenburg or Lion's Fortress, and, the true symbol of Kassel, the Hercules statue are all sights worth seeing in this amazing park, whose waterworks are currently applying to be part of UNESCO world heritage. There is also a connection to the brothers Grimm here: From 1814 to 1822, they lived in the one of the gatehouses at what is today known as the Brüder-Grimm-Square. It is here that the line of view across the Wilhelmshöhe Palace up to Hercules begins, connecting the city with the park. The brothers Grimm often visited the park and showed its beauty to their guests.

Grimm Region Hessen

The “Children’s and Household Tales” have made the brothers Grimm immortal. People across the world and throughout generations are growing up with the characters, ideas, and morales of these fairytales. The many different stories are always stirring up artistic debates and discussions.

One would not be doing the brothers Grimm justice to limit their achievements to their fairytales. Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were not old story telling uncles. They were successful scientists and co-founders of German studies and ethnology. Their pioneering spirit is evident in their German dictionary. They started this project fully aware that they would not live to see it completed. The first edition was published approximately 100 years after their deaths.

The brothers’ passion was not limited to science either. In 1837, while they were professors at the University of Göttingen, they protested against the King of Hannover, who wanted to set back democratic developments and change the constitution. Along with five other professors, they were known as “The Seven Göttingers”.

In 1848, it was Jacob Grimm who stood out as an advocate for democracy. Unity and freedom were the main goals of his efforts, which allowed him to take part in the first national German assembly in Paul’s Church in Frankfurt.



The home of the
Brothers Grimm in Kassel.



Education and science
University of Kassel

Living in the Home of the Brothers Grimm

Just a short way from greenery, forests and water everywhere, next to the city theater, around the corner from the university and the Fraunhofer Institute, modern city villas, lovingly renovated old German houses, self-sufficient residences, shopping centers and schools, festivals and amusement parks, tree climbing parks, sailing, the Skiing Worldcup, activities and relaxing: all these things are part of life in the home of the Grimm brothers, North Hessen.

Living here is like a gift: diversity and a connection to nature with plenty of room to relax and enjoy oneself. True life.



Free-time activities
for all generations

The German Fairytale Road: A Journey Following the Tracks of the Brothers Grimm

One of the most popular holiday routes in Germany winds its way 600 km from Hanua to Bremen and Bremerhaven. It leads through forested hills and lovely river valleys, past picturesque old German houses, as well as romantic castles and palaces.

The German Fairytale Road connects the different residencies of the brothers Grimm with villages and countrysides where legends and the most beautiful Grimm fairytales are at home. The heart of the route lies in North Hessen's Sleeping Beauty Palace, Sababurg, where the decision was made to found the road.



Welcome to the land of Little Red Riding Hood

Today, the home of the brothers Grimm, North Hessen, is the center of the German Fairytale Road, and Kassel is its capital. Travel in the footsteps of the brothers Grimm, visit the places they lived and worked, and take a peek at the villages which are directly connected with fairytales.

www.deutsche-maerchenstrasse.com



