



Little Red: A Fizzingly Good Yarn

Lynn Roberts-Malone (Retelling) , David Roberts (illustrator)

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In the spirit of "Cinderella: An Art Deco Love Story," Lynn and David Roberts give the classic tale of Little Red Riding Hood a new, fun historical twist.

Little Red is happily taking a basket of ginger ale to his grandmother when he stops to gather apples in the woods. Who should grab his red cape, but none other than the wily wolf, who runs immediately to the grandmother's house to devour her and wait for Little Red to be next! With a new, happily-ever-after spin on the story, the boy tricks the wolf into gulping down the entire ginger ale at once, which triggers the wolf to hiccup his grandmother out of his belly. Little Red gallantly overcomes the wolf and is the hero of the day! A charming variation of the classic fairytale, "Little Red Riding Hood," Little Red is set in Colonial America and is filled with imaginative illustrations and historical references.

Little Red: A Fizzingly Good Yarn Details

Date : Published October 1st 2005 by Harry N. Abrams (first published January 1st 2005)

ISBN : 9780810957831

Author : Lynn Roberts-Malone (Retelling) , David Roberts (illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Fairy Tales, Storytime

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From Reader Review Little Red: A Fizzingly Good Yarn for online ebook

Cheryl says

Author's note about the authenticity of the illustrations. One would think the book is meant to be Art. But it's not; it's just an ordinarily clever fractured fairy tale. And imo the art is ugly and I did not want to spend as much time looking at it for subtext as I did.

Jocelyn Hee says

I really enjoyed this fairy tale twist on Little Red Riding Hood. The art is gorgeous and the illustrator's note explaining how it was inspired by 18th Century style, drawing the characters with big wigs and hoop ball gown dresses. Such a fun and lovely picture book!

Fiona Hill says

This book is a retelling of Little Red Riding Hood set in post-revolutionary America. Children can point out the differences between this book and the original story. Children can explore the differences in fashion, shops, house decor etc.

Kara says

Roberts did her homework to show colonial American, working in the foods of the time as a part of the plot, and the illustrations will send shivers down your back as the stretched out perspectives and creepy backgrounds make you wonder if Little Red will survive...

Tatiana says

Little Red: A Fizzingly Good Yarn is a post-Revolutionary War variation of the classic *Little Red Riding Hood* fairy tale. Little Red, a boy, strays from the path while on his way to visit his nearsighted Grandma, who was eaten and impersonated by the devious wolf. Little Red avoids being eaten, too, and saves his Grandma by feeding the wolf ginger ale. In the end, Little Red strikes a deal with the wolf: in exchange for never again eating a person, Little Red provides the wolf with a keg of ale every week.

While still set in the past, this version of *Little Red Riding Hood* presents modern twists to the classic proceedings by changing the gender of the main character, adding humor, and resolving the conflict with pacifist tactics. Elements of a fairy tale still abound: an animal that talks, fantasy, a moral, and a hero. However, in the good vs. evil element, the wolf proves to be more of a hedonist than pure evil.

I connected with this variation more than the other versions of the fairy tale on account of the alterations to the resolution and the addition of humor. I liked that Little Red was clever enough to placate the wolf without resorting to violence. The tongue-and-cheek nods to Revolutionary War-era history in the illustrations added to the whimsical nature of the story.

Ch_jank-caporale says

I really enjoyed this twist on Little Red Riding Hood. First of all, Red is male, not female. Set in early America, Red's family owns a tavern which is famous for its fizzy ginger ale. The wolf steals Red's jacket when the wayward boy stops to pick apples in the woods. The wolf then passes himself off as the boy, and swallows poor granny in one tremendous gulp. When Red arrives, finding the wolf in granny's stead, he instantly realizes the peril of his predicament. Being quick and clever, he offers the wolf some refreshment- a gallon of fizzy, sweet ginger ale, which the wolf consumes -again- in one gulp.

Have you ever drunk a gallon of ginger ale in one gulp? Did it come up through your nose? Did you belch out a granny? Well, the wolf does!!! Then Red, a smooth negotiator, strikes a deal with the wolf, making the woods safe for all travellers in the future. Red saves the day and all live happily ever after.

The illustrations have a Coraline quality but also detail post-revolutionary America. The husband/wife team of author/illustrator have concocted a fresh version of the traditional tale with humor and wit. The pictures alone are worth sharing. It might be interesting to imagine how else the tale will change when Red undergoes a gender transformation!

Jen says

I really liked this story. Both the illustrations and textual story were great fun. At first, I was a little taken aback by the fact that in this retelling, Lynn Roberts and David Roberts wrote/drew a male Little Red. But I very quickly adapted to this quirk in a familiar tale and I found that having Little Red be a boy didn't negatively impact the story one little bit. :)

I also really enjoyed the method of saving Grandma from being digested. Rather than having a wood cutter arrive to save them, (view spoiler) This was a fun and completely non-violent resolution. It turned an otherwise scary situation (Grandma was eaten by a wolf!) into a rather comic one. I approve. :)

My only complaint, and the reason I didn't give this book a 4.5 star (great!) rating, was due to something I read in the illustrator's note at the end of the book. He said that if we looked very closely, we would find a couple of links to Cinderella. After searching in vain, I figured that he meant links to the retelling of Cinderella done by his wife and him a few years ago. As I haven't read that book, any links in this story were impossible to find by me. :(

Overall, though, this is a great story with excellent illustrations. I'll reread it once I've read Cinderella: An Art Deco Love Story to see if I can then find the mentioned links. But I think I'll add this book to my to-gift shelf for my nieces even without having read the other book. Despite my disappointment at not being able to find the links to Cinderella, I still feel that this is a great story. :)

Julia says

An interesting spin on the classic a little Red story. I enjoyed the historical time period featured in the illustrations. The story did not hold my first graders attention however, though she did find the twist at the end quite funny.

Liza Gilbert says

This book is always received with riotous exclamations when the kids find out Little Red is a boy! Oh the horror! This is another story where the kids like pointing out the difference between the story they know and the story you're showing them. Also, since this version is set in the past, you can point out the things that have changed over time. And, if you get a chance, just look at it to gawk at the art.

CH13_Kieran says

Little Red: A Fizzingly Good Yarn is a wonderful picture book by Lynn and David Roberts. It is a funny little twist on the traditional story of Little Red Riding Hood. In this case Red is a young boy who has a family that makes very tasty ginger ale.

This story could be used as an example of what can happen if young children do not listen to their parents, teachers, etc. Little Red is tempted and doesn't listen to the rules his parents provided. It results in a tumultuous and dangerous goings on. The illustrations in this particular book are approachable and comfortable, yet evoke a sense of danger and downright spookiness. This tale would be well suited for kindergartners and first graders who don't mind a little excitement (all of them).

I generally like this new take on a classic story. The gender role change was intriguing and done very artistically in a way that makes it feel like it was always supposed to be this way. As it turns out, boys can be foolish too!

Lisa says

Fantastic. I would read anything by this sister/brother duo. Kids will appreciate this new version of Red Riding Hood told complete with David Roberts irresistible (sp?) illustrations!

Courtneie says

This is a keeper for the illustrations alone. How exciting can a re-telling really be? Well, not very. But, this has a wonderful cadence and...pictures!

Elizabeth Smith says

Roberts, Lynn. Little Red: A Fizzingly Good Yarn. Illus: David Roberts. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2005. Print. Fairy tales, fiction, problem solving. A little boy named Thomas, who everybody calls Little Red goes every week to visit his grandmother and bring her some of his family's famous ginger ale. One day a wolf sees him, goes to his grandma's house, eats her, and waits for him to arrive so Little Red can be his dessert. When there though Little Red and the wolf decide to compromise by letting Little Red live in exchange for ginger ale. I really like how the author and illustrator of this book stuck with most of the originality of the text but added in their own unique touch. I love that Little Red is a boy and that the style of the book is gothic. It provides a refreshing outlook from the original cherry old school illustrations. I think this would be a good book to introduce the lesson of creative problem solving for a class. Just like Little Red and the wolf were able to come to a compromise and solve the problem the class will try to solve or compromise on given prompts.

Todd Strader says

Recently I read 20 picture book depictions of Little Red Riding Hood in preparing to write my own version. Of the twenty, several stood out to me as outstanding for one reason or another. This was one of those.

What caught my attention about LITTLE RED: A FIZZINGLY GOOD YARD by Lynn Roberts (Illustrated by David Roberts) was, first of all, the juxtaposition of the traditional little girl for a little boy. The story is told in a light hearted vein with a jug of ginger ale replacing the more traditional wine being taken to grandma. It is Little Red's clever use of said jug that leads first to a rescue of grandmother, effected via a belch, and secondly to an equally clever negotiation where boy and wolf reach a win-win agreement. However, the book struck a dissonant chord with me. Another juxtaposition of sorts was the peaceful resolution of the story (the wolf was bonked on the head rather than shot or sliced open in so many versions I read) with one particular illustration. In the picture Little Red preparing for his journey enters a store room at his parents inn. This is where he retrieves the jug of ginger ale. This illustration shows a macabre assortment of slaughtered animals, geese and pheasant hung from the ceiling, severed pig heads and feet and, most disturbing of all dead rabbits, strung up with full color bullet holes. Um... no. So this one is a stand out as being distinctive not not delightful.

David says

Little Red: A Fizzingly Good Yarn by Lynn Roberts, illustrated by David Roberts is a twist on Little Red Riding Hood, with a boy called Little Red, and is set in post-colonial America.

When Little Red stops to pick apples for his grandma, the wolf steals his jacket and impersonates Little Red. Once inside, the wolf swallows grandma whole, then tries to fool and eat Little Red too. Little Red outsmarts the wolf, saves Grandma, and strikes a cunning bargain with the wolf featuring ginger ale.

This clever, slightly rude version, featuring a massive belch, will please elementary listeners. Children will like comparing this variant to other versions of Little Red Riding Hood.

The imaginative illustrations are clever, and both spooky and silly. The woods are a bit scary and there's a

great scene with massive cloud shaped overhanging leaves. There are some nice historical touches in Grandma's classy home, including pictures of George and Martha Washington. WARNING: there is some cleavage shown, plus bird poop, and a rather grisly scene in the kitchen pantry with dead bunnies, a hogshead, pigs feet and dead birds pictured. These pictures would keep me from using it in a storytime, though I would share it with friends and fellow librarians.

For ages 4 to 8, folktale variants, Little Red Riding Hood variants, humor, satire, and fans of Lynn and David Roberts.
