

The authentic, original, politically correct linguistic pantomime version of *Little Red Riding Hood*

By John Gledhill

Narrator 1: Once upon a time, there lived an innocent victim of the most malicious metonymy in the form of a young species of *femina sapiens* who was reduced by these frightful figures of speech to the diminutive noun phrase: ‘Little Red Riding Hood’.

Narrator 2: This diminutive was further semantically abused by a wicked English translator by changing her little red bonnet into a riding hood. This was rather irksome as this particular diminutive female had a strong allergy to the aforesaid unpredictable quadrupeds.

Narrator 1: Her mother jumped into a vocative case before descending into a very despotic imperative mood.

Mother: Now, Little Red Riding Hood, go and visit your grandmother and take her a small set of substantives in a restricted semantic field.

Narrator 1: Little Red Riding Hood also responded in a vocative voice, but threw in a quick interrogative.

LRR: O mother, which field?

Narrator 1: Mother decided to come clean and offer some coarse instantiation.

Mother: O just the usual victuals – gin and tonic, curaçao, Jamaican rum, bread, bacon and a pot of runny honey.

Narrator 1: The bad rhyme was not a deliberate crime, like this one, but it was purely fortuitous and, therefore, the protagonist is at the moment innocent. Then, mother went into an authoritarian didactic mode, working within the narrow confines of local Graeco-Judaic moral systems.

Mother: Now, go straight to grandmother’s cottage and do not stray from the straight and narrow path for any reason whatsoever.

Narrator 1: LRR accepted the western-based hierarchical structure with a brief affirmative and unstressed vocative.

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