## **Goldilocks and Little Red**

Once upon a time in a place very far from here, there lived two best friends. One had long blonde hair, almost down to her knees, sparkling blue eyes, and a bright, cheerful smile. The other had short black hair, dark cunning eyes, and she constantly wore a hooded cloak of red silk. Their names were Goldilocks and Little Red.

One day, the two girls set out in the woods to visit Little Red's grandmother. Along the way, they met a wolf. He greeted the girls cheerfully and questioned them about their journey that day. The girls replied politely but were a little shocked by the wolf's response. He told the girls that it really wasn't very polite to visit someone's home empty-handed. Of course, he was right. Feeling a little embarrassed and disappointed, they turned and set off for home again.

Not long after this, as they trudged along the dirt path, Goldilocks and Little Red passed three bears out for a walk. The two girls knew these bears well and also knew that their home was not too far away. It was much closer, in fact, than their own homes. Goldilocks thought that perhaps a detour would be a good idea. Little Red was not so sure but followed along anyway until they had reached the home of the three bears.

Now, these bears were known far and wide to be terrific bakers. Goldilocks, in particular, was very familiar with their baking (she frequently snuck into their home to taste delicious treats while they were out walking). Today would be no different. The friends climbed in through the window to find an assortment of cakes, pies, and biscuits cooling on the kitchen bench. The perfect gift to bring when visiting someone's home. Quickly, Goldilocks scooped up as many of the delicacies as she could and placed them into the hood of Little Red's cloak. Then they set out once again, back on their way to visit grandma.





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As the girls walked, Goldilocks stopped every now and then to pick pretty flowers along the path. Some she put into her own hair, among her golden braids, and some in Little Red's hair. Each time she stopped to pick the blooms, however, Little Red would sneak a treat from the hood at her back and gobble it down before Goldilocks might notice. Little Red was sure that it wouldn't matter, there were so many baked goods stuffed into her hood that there would still be plenty left for Grandma and Goldilocks too.

When finally the girls arrived at the door of grandma's home, they were surprised to find that there were no longer any treats left in Little Red's hood. Little Red smiled sheepishly and admitted that she may have snuck a treat or two along the way, but was sure she hadn't eaten them all. Goldilocks, also looking guilty, admitted that she had snuck a treat each time she added a flower to Little Red's hair. Between them, it seemed, the girls had eaten all of their stolen treats.

Feeling embarrassed, they pulled the flowers from their hair to make a bouquet, hoping that would be a nice enough offering, then knocked on the door. Grandma greeted them both with big sloppy kisses and then told them that they were just in time for supper. She told the girls that she had been cooking up a huge pot of stew. Wolf stew.

Apparently, a wolf had come by earlier that day. Grandma was much smarter than the wolf though, she had tricked him into peering a little too closely into her large stew pot, then quickly she had shoved him in, put on the lid, and turned up the heat. So, in the end, it didn't matter so much that they had no food to offer grandma, for she certainly had plenty to offer to them!



