

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD COWGIRL ASTRONAUT



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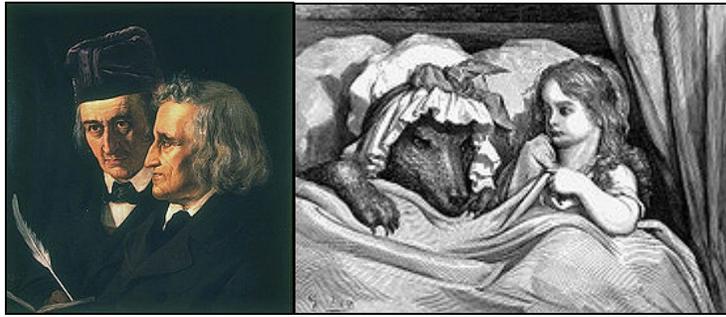
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*To Karin Crighton*

## LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD COWGIRL ASTRONAUT

**FARCE.** In this school production of “Little Red Riding Hood” the costume designer has taken some creative liberties with the costumes. Little Red Riding Hood has been transformed into a cowgirl astronaut, the Big Bad Wolf looks like a Wall Street trader, Granny is a superhero, Little Red’s mother is a witch, and the huntsman is now the “huntsfairy,” complete with a tiara, tutu, and fairy wings. No matter how hard they try, the cast and director just can’t bring themselves to tell the overly enthusiastic costume designer that her costumes are horrible. With the performance quickly approaching, they have to come up with a solution or resign themselves to performing the wackiest play in the school’s history, “Little Red Riding Hood Cowgirl Astronaut”! Easy to stage.

**Performance Time:** Approximately 20-30 minutes.



Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm in an 1855 portrait. Little Red Riding Hood in bed with the wolf in a Gustave Doré engraving.

## ABOUT THE STORY

“Little Red Riding Hood” is a European fairytale that was first published by Charles Perrault in 1697 and was later included in the Brothers Grimm 1812 collection of folklore, *Children’s and Household Tales*. Earliest known versions of the tale were told by French peasants in the 10th century, and in Italy the tale dates to the 14th century. In the Perrault version of the story, a village girl on her way to deliver food to her sickly grandmother is deceived by a wolf into giving him the location of the grandmother’s house. The wolf arrives ahead of Little Red Riding Hood and eats her grandmother. When Little Red Riding Hood arrives, the wolf tricks her into thinking he is her grandmother and asks the girl to climb into bed with him, where the wolf eats her. In the Grimm Brothers’ version, Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother are saved from the wolf by a huntsman.

## CHARACTERS

(2 M, 5 F, 3 flexible)

**DYLAN/LANA:** Student director of the Eureka Academy production of “Little Red Riding Hood”; flexible.

**TAYLOR:** Overly enthusiastic, peppy costume designer; Dylan’s best friend; flexible.

**TRACY/TRACE:** Slightly OCD stage manager; flexible.

**GWEN:** Student who plays Little Red Riding Hood’s mother; wears a witch costume; female.

**ALEXIS:** Student who plays Little Red Riding Hood; wears a cowgirl costume; female.

**JORDAN:** Student who plays the Big Bad Wolf; wears a Wall Street business suit; male.

**DOMINQUE:** Student who plays the Huntsfairy; wears a fairy godmother costume with wings, a tutu, beads, a tiara, and boas; female.

**ZOE:** Student who plays Little Red Riding Hood’s granny; wears a Super Granny superhero costume with cape and mask, etc.; female.

**IVY:** Student newspaper reporter for the Eureka Academy Gazette; female.

**NEVILLE:** Photographer for the Eureka Academy Gazette; male.

**EXTRAS (opt.):** As Students.

## COSTUMES

Taylor isn’t a gifted costume designer so go for fun, wacky, over-the-top costumes. If desired, a hat or a single piece may be used to signify a costume. Dylan, Tracy, and Taylor wear regular clothes.

## SETTING

Eureka Academy.

## SETS

The sets may be as simple or elaborate as your budget allows. This play also can be played on a bare stage, if desired.

**Eureka Academy stage.** Set for a production of "Little Red Riding Hood." There is a set piece large enough to conceal Ivy and Neville.

**School hallway.** Bare stage.

**School costume shop.** A backdrop may be used or a bare stage is sufficient.

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

**Scene 1:** Eureka Academy stage.

**Scene 2:** School hallway.

**Scene 3:** School costume room.

**Scene 4:** School hallway.

**Scene 5:** Eureka Academy stage.

## PROPS

A wicker picnic basket with a cloth over it  
Small flip notebook or tape recorder, for Ivy  
Camera, for Neville  
Sketch book drawing of a cowgirl astronaut  
Pencil  
Wacky, colorful magic wand  
Silly prop (aka rubber chicken, etc.)  
Boa, for Dominique  
Clip board, for stage manager  
Costume jewelry, for Dominique

"I THOUGHT A FAIRY GODMOTHER  
RESCUING GRANNY AND LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD  
INSTEAD OF A HUNTSMAN  
WOULD PROMOTE NONVIOLENCE  
AND SPICE THINGS UP!"

-TAYLOR

## SCENE I

(AT RISE: Eureka Academy, stage. Dylan and Tracy are overseeing a production of "Little Red Riding Hood." Dressed as a witch, Gwen enters. She is playing Little Red Riding Hood's mother but is dressed as a witch.)

GWEN: (As Mother, calls.) "Little Red Riding Hood! Little Red Riding Hood! Where are you, darling daughter?"

(Alexis enters. She is playing Little Red Riding Hood but is dressed as a cowgirl.)

ALEXIS: (As Little Red Riding Hood.) "Here I am, Mother."

GWEN: (As Mother.) "Take this basket of cookies to your poor, sick granny."

(Gwen hands Alexis a basket with a cloth over it. Alexis skips away.)

ALEXIS: (As Little Red Riding Hood, skipping.) "Here I go to Granny's house! Tra-la-la-la-la! Tra-la-la-la-la!"

(Jordan enters. He is playing the Big Bad Wolf but is wearing a Wall Street-type business suit.)

JORDAN: (As Big Bad Wolf.) "Hello, little girl. What is a tasty morsel— (Realizes.) I mean, little girl, like you doing deep in the forest?"

ALEXIS: (As Little Red Riding Hood.) "I am taking these goodies to my poor, sick granny's house!"

DYLAN: (To Actors, shouts.) Cut! Stop! Gwen, you are a loving mom, not a wicked witch!

GWEN: This was the costume that had my name on it.

DYLAN: And, Alexis, where is your red cape? Why is the lead of Little Red Riding Hood not in a red riding hood?

ALEXIS: Taylor insisted on the cowgirl hat. She thought it was a modern interpretation.

DYLAN: And Jordan! You are a wolf, not a Wall Street executive!

JORDAN: I think Taylor was trying to be symbolic.

DYLAN: *(Shouts.)* Taylor! Taylor, get out here!

TRACY: I'll get her.

*(Tracy exits. Ivy enters, followed by a timid Neville, who is carrying a camera.)*

IVY: Well, well, well, what do we have here? A witch, a cowgirl, and a corporate canine. I thought this was a production of "Little Red Riding Hood."

**[END OF FREEVIEW]**