

# Little Red Riding Hooks...

From Dena Harrison, NNWP Consultant and Middle School Teacher

## Great alternatives to introductions, hooks, and leads

“Once upon a time, there lived a little girl with a red riding hood...” ← KIND OF A BORING, CLICHÉ INTRO!

**There are more interesting ways to start off this famous story. Below are eight techniques to consider:**

**Technique one:** Start with a short (four- or five-word maximum), effective sentence:

**Her hair shone gold.**

**Technique two:** Start with an interesting metaphor or simile:

**The wolf was a tornado, changing the lives of all who crossed his path.**

**Technique three:** Start with an interesting question for the reader to ponder:

**Who could have thought that a simple trip to Grandma’s house could end in tragedy?**

**Technique four:** Start with a subordinate clause or other complex sentence form:

**Though the road to Grandma’s house was spooky, Red skipped along with an air of confidence.**

**Technique five:** Start with a riddle:

**Who has big eyes, big teeth and is dressed in Grandma’s clothes? Yes, you guessed it, the Big Bad Wolf.**

**Technique six:** Fill in these blanks: “\_\_\_ was the kind of \_\_\_ who/that \_\_\_”

**Little Red was the kind of girl who thought wolves would never bother her.**

**Technique seven:** Capture a feeling or emotion:

**You might be surprised to learn that a little girl couldn’t recognize her own grandmother.**

**Technique eight:** Use a string of adjectives:

**Tall, dark, and with an air of confidence, the woodsman entered the house.**

**What fairy tales, fables, or stories are your students familiar enough with to write eight new, possible introductions for?**

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