LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD
by
Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Little Red Ridinghood was taking a basket of goodies to her grandmother's house when she met the wolf. He decided to take a shortcut to Granny's house, eat Granny, and then eat Little Red Ridinghood when she arrived. He had many set-backs along the way in the different versions of this fairy tale. But in the end, Red Ridinghood and her grandmother are still alive and kicking.

No matter which version you read, Little Red Ridinghood always wear a red, hooded cape; this is where she got her name. Red is a vibrant color and we can understand why she would like it. In those days, the wool or cotton had to be dyed, then spun into yam, and then finally woven into cloth. Although we cannot easily spin wool or cotton into yarn, we can dye yarn, and we can weave it into cloth.

To transition to these activities (or activity, you may wish to merely dye the yarn, not go on to weaving.), remind them about why Little Red Ridinghood had her name. Talk about colors and favorite colors. Explain about dyeing, and spinning, and weaving. Tell them that they can dye and weave, too.

MATERIALS: Activity #1: Koolaid™ (not pre-sweetened) in a variety of flavors/colors (without the sugar, it's really just like powdered food coloring but the students love the fragrance which covers up the wet wool odor), vinegar to set the color, hot water, large and small bowls, clear plastic cups, crock-pot for large quantities, spoons for stirring, racks to dry yarn and string, white or off-white yarn, white or off-white strong string. Activity #2: leaves from a maple, oak, and ginkgo tree if possible.

ACTIVITY #1: This activity was taken from Super Science Connections, pp. 79 - 81. See teacher notes for sources of raw wool. Usually it comes washed, but the students can clean it and wash it easily. Add a teaspoon of vinegar to a cup of water. The water should be as hot as possible but safe for the children. Add the clean wool to the cup of hot water and sprinkle a small amount of Koolaid™ on the wet wool. Stir for a few minutes and then let the wool stand in the dye. Keep lifting it up to see the color. When the color looks the way the student wants it,

the wool can be taken out, put on paper towels, and allowed to dry. When dry, the wool can be spun. Art teachers can help you with this ancient skill. If you want to dye wool for the whole class using a single color, use a crock-pot. I look for the packages of unsweetened KoolAid™ as summer approaches; sometimes they are 10 for a dollar.

The sweetened variety will leave the wool sticky and susceptible to insects. Each child can pick a packet; sometimes he/she is surprised by the color of the dye that results from that flavor. If you don't have access to wool, string or white or natural yarn can be used.

Raw wool is available from the American Wool Council, American Sheep Industry Association, 6911 South Yosemite Street, Englewood, CO, 80112-1414; (303)-771-3500 < http://www.sheepusa.org/> If you prefer, you might wish to be adventurous and use natural dyes from plants: light brown - onions skins; yellow – snakewood; pink – globemallow; lilac – blue lupine flower; purple - prickly pear cactus fruit.

ACTIVITY #2: Read the children the Chinese version of Little Red Ridinghood, Lon Po Po. Leaves have three types of venation:

Palmate – look at the palm of your hand or a maple leaf; the veins are spreading out from the base

Pinnate – look at a pine tree; there is one main vein with branches coming at a 90° angle from that vein

Parallel – look at the veins in a blade of grass; the veins run parallel to each other.

Parallel venation is the oldest and most primitive type. The Ginkgo tree leaves have a distinctive fan shape and parallel venation. These trees were found in ancient China. They were brought to cities in the United States in the early 1900s because they were successful city shade dwellers. There probably is a ginkgo tree somewhere in your neighborhood. Take a leaf walk with the children and find leaves with both palmate and pinnate. These leaves can be laminated so that they can be used at other times during the year.

SOURCES:

Wool dyeing activity with Kool-Aid™ is adapted from **Super Science Connections**. It is a publication of the Institute for Chemical Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. http://ice.chem.wisc.edu/catalog.htm Super Science Connections (SSC) was written by K-3 teachers, for K-3 teachers. It integrates children's literature, writing, mathematics, art projects, social studies, and health instruction with hands-on science — observing, devising experiments, hypothesizing, and drawing

conclusions. It will model ways in which your classroom can become a place where students learn and enjoy science in context. SSC contains 34 activities centered on a science concept or process skill connected to the AAAS *Benchmarks for Science Literacy*. Order No. 94-009 1-800-991-5534. $38 includes shipping and handling.

Clean wool ready for dyeing and or spinning is available from Educational Innovations, Inc. www.teachersource.com

Hands-on Rocky Mountains< http://www.handson.com/rockymountains.html> has information about weaving a small bag. This could be a good activity to do at Thanksgiving, even though the Indians who celebrated with the Pilgrims were not Navajo, or they could make this bag as a "Tooth Fairy Bag" in conjunction with nothing or with a study of teeth and their care.

STANDARDS:
BSL: 1.1, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 4.6, 8.1, 9.3, 11.1, 11.4, 12.2, 12.5
NCTM: 10a, 10b, 10d, 13a
SCS: A1, B1, B2, E1, E2, E5, H2

Grimm, Jacob, and Wilhelm. Little Red Ridinghood. Illus. by Tana Schart Hyman. NY: Holiday House, c1986. ISBN#0823406539.

Young, Ed. Lon Po Po. NY: Philomel Books, c1989. ISBN#0399216197. A Red Ridinghood story from China.