

Little Red Riding Hoods

Format: Word document (and *potentially* audio file or video)

Read this assignment in its entirety before beginning work on it, as with all assignments.

For this assignment, you are a folklorist. You are gathering a version of the story type known world-wide as "Little Red Riding Hood" from someone living today. As a group we will, when this assignment is done, have in our archives *one hundred and fifty Little Red Riding Hoods*. This assignment will give us a glimpse into what the collective memory of this iconic fairy tale looks like *today*. This is a long assignment sheet, but it is designed to help you succeed at contributing to this important archive.

IN A NUTSHELL

You will invite and transcribe someone's recollected version of "Little Red Riding Hood." You will also write an introduction to their retelling including a description of the person (who they are and where and when they heard or read the version they tell you). You will note on what day and where/how your interview with them took place. In a conclusion, you will also reflect on what it was like for you to be a field worker in fairy tales, a/k/a a folklorist.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The learning objectives for this assignment include, but are not limited to, the following italicized words: you will be *applying* techniques of folklore; *classifying* a tale; *role-playing* (as audience to teller); *producing* an artifact (the story); *identifying* and then *interviewing* and *recording* your subject; *listening*, *reporting*, and *reflecting*.

Your submitted assignment will probably be around 1-3 pages long. (See last page for formatting guidelines.)

INTERVIEW PROCESS

1. Find someone you know who knows and is willing to retell to you the story they know as "Little Red Riding Hood." The character they heard a story about may have no name or a different name; it may have a wolf, a dog, a bear. You are simply prompting them by asking if they know a story that's a "Little Red Riding Hood" story and if they are willing to retell it to you and be recorded or transcribed doing so.
2. Set up a time to do take a record of their version, either in person or by telephone or Facetime/etc.
3. Have a recording device with you when you meet to do this, or set up a way to record the call or conversation and/or transcribe the entire conversation on a laptop (or desktop or tablet, etc) as you have it.
- 5) First, ask the person to tell you where they heard or read this story (book or story, title, location, context, age, etc). This information will go in your short introduction. We want as much information as possible as to location and format and context (age/year/setting/etc) whereby they learned this story. Maybe they heard or saw it multiple times.
- 6) Ask the person to tell you the story as they remember it with a beginning, middle, and end. Tell them there are no wrong ways to tell the story. Encourage them to take their time. Let them know they can think aloud while they retell it when they get stuck. Write down every word that they say.
- 7) While the person tells you their recalled "Little Red Riding Hood" story, you may prompt them neutrally if they get stuck or if you'd like more information. "Did anything happen after that?"
- 8) When you type this up (this is called a "transcription") you will include every single comment the teller made, even if the teller makes an aside or a correction or a speculation. If the person interrupts herself ("*maybe the story didn't say, but I guess the grandmother was in bed*") then you include all of that. Do not edit the stories you're told as you type them up.

ASSIGNMENT Components

*Again, See Last Page for Formatting Instructions

Introduction. The introduction should be 5-8 sentences long, or more if you need more space for this. It will include information about whom you asked to tell you the story, and how you know them. You will describe the setting where or the format by which the storytelling took place. You will provide the information the teller gave you about where the teller heard or read this version of the story, by what name they know this story, and how old they were when they heard or read

this story. If there are any other contextual details ("My mother told me this every night at bedtime in Mexico City and I could overheard the neighbors laughing") include it.

The Retelling Itself. This might end up being anywhere from 15 to 50+ sentences long. (Some are quite long if the person is inspired.) You can't predict that. You may transcribe the oral story as you heard it word by word, or record it and then transcribe it (type it up) after. In some cases, you may have chosen to record the person telling it to you on a video, with their permission (such as an ASL version). Your goal is to gather the subject's recollected retelling with a beginning, middle, and end, even if the person can't remember lots of details. (Some people will remember lots and lots, some will not.) When you type up the retelling, make no changes to the story you heard! None whatsoever! Remember you can prompt the person, and be sure to write down their responses to your prompts too word for word, even if they make exclamations like, "Oh yeah, I forgot that she died." Include the "Oh yeah, I forgot ..." **IMPORTANT:** If you are doing a video, or by audio, do not have the person rehearse! This is intended to be recalled and retold to you on the spot.

Conclusion

After finishing the above, but *before* submitting the final version, take ten minutes to write a brief (5-7 sentences long) narrative of your experience of gathering the story. Part of your reflection should touch on whether the version you gathered resembles one that we read, and if so, how; if it diverges notably, you will want to reflect on that here. Include at least *one challenge, one success, and one insight* you gained from the assignment.

FAQs

Does this have to be in English? **No!**

Can it be bilingual, some English, some not? **Yes!**

Do I have to translate it if it isn't in English? **No! But know that someone might.**

What if the person I interview only remembers things that are wrong? **Their version isn't wrong. It is the version they remember, so it is "right."**

What if their version has huge gaps in it? **No problem.**

I don't like their version. **Good for reflection.**

Their version is basically identical to the most common one, so is that plagiarism? **No. They are telling you their memory of a story. Their memories, narrated to you, are not someone else's intellectual property.**

Can I record a video of someone telling me the story in ASL? **Yes, people have done this, and it is wonderful.**

Can I record a video of someone telling the story in ballet? **Dream come true!**

Who can I ask for a story from? **Anyone who is not in the class -- a relative, friend, teacher, coach, teammate, coworker, neighbor, guardian, stranger, etc.**

I asked ten people and I couldn't find anyone who knows a story called "Little Red Riding Hood." **Wow. That's amazing! Please hand in a paper where you describe everyone you asked, because you've randomly discovered a potential demographic we definitely want to know more about. Seriously, please!**

NEXT PAGE: Format. Your submitted document will look like the next page (though it will likely be on multiple pages). Ideal font, Tahoma; ideal font size 13. Justified margins. Single spaced. Just like the next page.

ENGL 248B, Introduction to Fairy Tales

Assignment One: Little Red Riding Hoods

Your Name

Date Submitted

"Here Please Give This Assignment A Title of Your Own, Something Like *My Grandmother Tells Me A Story* or *My Father Was Terrified* or *In Which My Preschool Student Confuses Little Red Riding Hood with Cinderella.*"

Introduction

This is the space where you include 5-7 sentences about the retelling you gathered. You may write this in first person. Tell us who you interviewed, and something about them (where they grew up, where they live, what sort of work they might do, a special hobby -- some detail). Let us know how you know the person. Describe where and when you heard their version, such as, "Grandmother told me her version of "Little Red Riding Hood" in her kitchen in the Tucson Mountains on Saturday afternoon, September 1, 2019. I had apple pie and cherry juice while I listened." Include data on where and when the person who told you the story heard the story, such as, "Grandmother saw this story as a play when she was in Kindergarten at Roskruge Elementary School in Tucson, Arizona in 1970. She was "Little Red Riding Hood" for every Halloween after."

Little Red Riding Hood

Here, you will type the transcription of the story you were told. You will type it as you heard it or record it and type it up after. Most of you will be typing this into a Word document. This space may be as short as 15 sentences or as long as 100. It will vary depending on the story the person tells you. Please include every comment the person makes, even if these are asides ("I can't remember what happened next! Oh yeah, she knocked on the door . . ."). You will not edit what you heard at all.

If you recorded the retelling and the oral version is superb, please also, after the typed up version in this space, write "Audio Attached" and include the audio file in a suitable format for sharing. If you made a video of the retelling, include after you've typed it up, a sentence such as, "Please also visit the interview, posted with permission of Grandmother on YouTube" [include link].

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Conclusion

This is where you will include your short reflection on the experience of your field work in fairy tales. It will be around 4-6 sentences long. Include at least one challenge, one success, and one insight you gained from the assignment.

THE END.