



## Section 2: The Impact of Images and Messages

### Activity 6

## The Whole Story?

**Aim:**

To understand that every story can be seen and told from more than one perspective

**Age:**

10+

**Time:** 30-40 mins**Materials:**

Two versions of the story of Little Red Riding Hood. Make copies - three smaller groups will need the original story, and one group will need the Wolf's story.

**What to do:**

**Step 1:** Ask the large group if they are familiar with the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. Ask for volunteers to tell the story to the group.

**Step 2:** Split the large group into 4 smaller groups. Distribute the original Little Red Riding Hood story to 3 groups, and give the 4th group the Wolf's story. Ask them to read the story in their group.

**Step 3:** Give each group the identity of one of the characters from the Little Red Riding Hood Story (the Lumberjack, the Grandmother, Little Red Riding Hood to the groups with the 'original' story and the character of the Wolf to the group with the Wolf's version of the story). Tell them that you want to get the story straight, and that they have ten minutes to come up with 3 reasons why their version of the story is the right one, and why their character acted fairly and didn't do anything wrong. Each group then nominates one person to tell their side of the story. The other participants sit in a large circle around the four 'story-tellers'.

Explain that each of the four story-tellers have 1-2 minutes each to tell the story from their point of view. Then they must argue with the other people in the centre to convince them that their story is the right one and the only way to look at it. From now on, other team members can 'tag' their representative and take their place. The larger group can also ask questions of any of the other characters. Allow the discussion to continue for a few minutes.

An alternative is to have each team do a role-play and act out what they think happened, showing their side of the story.

At the end, ask for a show of hands – whose story was most convincing?

**Debrief:**

Read the Wolf's story aloud to the whole group. Who has ever thought of the Wolf's side of the story before? Can you think of any other stories that are told from only one perspective? What is the effect of hearing one-sided stories? Why do people only tell one side of the story? (e.g. power, politics, influence, financial gain). Ask the group if they know of any stories in real life that were only shown from one perspective or side?

## Little Red Riding Hood

### Adapted from the Grimm's fairytales

Once upon a time there was a little girl who wore a red cloak, and she was called 'Little Red Riding Hood.' One day her mother asked her to visit her sick grandmother. Her grandmother lived outside the village in a forest. On the way Little Red Riding Hood met a wolf.

'Hello, Little Red Riding Hood,' said the wolf. 'Where are you going?

'To my grandmother's.', she replied

'Where does your grandmother live?'

'Deep in the forest,' she said and kept walking.

So the wolf ran straight to the grandmother's house. He put on the grandmother's clothes and hat, and got into bed. When Little Red Riding Hood arrived, her grandmother lay in bed with her hat pulled over her face, and she looked strange.

'Oh grandmother,' said Little Red Riding Hood, 'what big ears you have!'

'All the better to hear you with, my child,' was the reply.

'But, grandmother, what big eyes you have!' she said.

'All the better to see you with, my dear.'

'Oh, but grandmother, what a terrible big mouth you have!'

'All the better to eat you with!'

Next, the wolf jumped out of bed towards Little Red Riding Hood and she ran to escape. A lumberjack was passing and heard screams. He entered the house, and ran to attack the wolf with his axe. The grandmother appeared and shouted to the lumberjack, 'Kill the wolf! Kill the wolf! Save Little Red Riding Hood!'

## Little Red Riding Hood Told By The Accused Wolf

### Adapted from A Curriculum on Conflict Management, 1975 by Uvaldo Palomares et al., Human Development Training Institute, San Diego, CA 92101.

The forest was my home, I took care of it. One day, I saw a little girl coming down the trail. I was suspicious of her because she was dressed strangely - all in red. Naturally, I asked who she was and where she was going. She told me she was going to her grandmother's house and walked off. As she went she threw a sweet wrapper on the ground. Imagine that! First she was rude to me, and now throwing rubbish! I decided to teach her a lesson.

I ran to her grandmother's house. When I saw the grandmother, I explained what had happened, and she agreed to help me. The grandmother hid under the bed and I got into the bed, dressed in her clothes.

The girl arrived and immediately started to insult me, making nasty comments about my big ears, and my big eyes. I tried to stay calm, but she wouldn't stop and insulted my big teeth next. By then, I couldn't control my anger any longer. I jumped up from the bed and growled at her, 'All the better to eat you with!'

No wolf would ever eat a little girl, that red cloak would taste bad anyway. I just wanted to scare her. But she started running around screaming. I jumped after her, to calm her down. But a big lumberjack barged in with an axe. That meant trouble, so I jumped out the window to escape. But that's not the end of it. The grandmother never told my side of the story. Word got around that I was mean and nasty. Now everyone avoids me. Maybe Little Red Riding Hood lived happily ever after, but I didn't.