

Read the following newspaper report carefully.

## FAIRYTALE NEWS

### Vicious Woodcutter Faces His Own Axe! *Wolf-Murderer Caught At Last*

REPORTER: MR WOLF

“**It was a misunderstanding!** A simple case of mistaken identity,” Mrs Wolf told the Fairytale News last night. On hearing the news that the local Woodcutter faces having his head chopped off for the murder of her innocent young cub, Wolfie, Mrs Wolf collapsed in tears.

“At last, this inhuman murderer is safely behind bars where he belongs,” she said.

There are mixed accounts about exactly what happened at Rose Cottage, a run-down hovel located on the far side of the local woods. A perfect, sunny day ended in disaster for young Wolfie, when he was viciously attacked while playing a game of dressing up. The only witness was an unintelligent young girl called Red Riding Hood, who is at best unreliable and at worst, a rotten little liar!

Having spoken to the hysterical family, we have managed to garner a few details about the incident. According to her disagreeable mother (the Woodcutter’s wife) Red Riding Hood

was taking some very unhealthy cakes she had baked to her ailing grandmother.

This eight-year-old girl undertook the *entire* perilous two-mile journey *alone*. Most parents would think such a task was an unfair request of such an immature child. However, when we challenged the Woodcutter’s Wife about this, she shook her head and burst into tears. Even though her mother warned Red not to stray from the path, the daydreamer sauntered off to (illegally) pick wild flowers from the meadow. When she had quite finished destroying the countryside, Red Riding Hood discovered she was lost.



The next part of her story was unclear. She said she met a young wolf, a kind young gentle cub who enquired as to where she was going. Red explained that the wolf was most helpful, pointing her in the right direction. When you take this kind nature into account, it only adds a deeper sense of outrage to the shocking way poor Wolfie was mistreated by the insensitive Woodcutter.

Having arrived at the house, Red told us, she entered and did not realise that Wolfie and granny were playing dress-up.



*Wolfie, singing in choir, aged 2.*

Wolfie must have taken a shortcut. He had donned granny's garments, while doddering grandma had somehow fallen into the bottom of the wardrobe and ended up entangled in some old tights.

We can only speculate about what happened next. Red Riding Hood described it all as a blur. But we all know the unpleasant outcome: poor Wolfie is no more! It seems likely that

Wolfie revealed himself to Red Riding Hood by pulling off Granny's rather unfashionable clothes, hoping Red would understand this was a joke. Granny was probably still struggling at the bottom of the wardrobe. Red no doubt cried out in shock at Wolfie suddenly appearing from under Granny's garb. But at this exact moment, the aggressive Woodcutter must have burst in on the scene.

This lumbering knuckle-head seems to have completely misinterpreted the situation and attacked the cub, who was simply having a joke with an old, lonely, unwell lady, whose family did not care for her properly.

We at the Fairytale News leave it to you, the readership, to decide whose side you wish to take. The case for and against goes to court at the end of the week with Judge Cindy(rella) deciding the outcome.

Name: ..... Date: .....

Now undertake the following activities.

1. Re-read the text and underline words you are unfamiliar with. Choose one of the words to write below and guess its meaning from the sentence it is in. Check if you are right using a dictionary, and then write the dictionary's definition.

My chosen word: .....

What I think it means: .....

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Dictionary definition: .....

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2. Highlight parts of the text which show that the author has **taken sides**. This is called **being biased** – where someone chooses one side of an argument over another. Choose one of these arguments to write below and explain why you think the author is biased.

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3. Put a star next to any part of the text which puts the blame on Red Riding Hood. Copy it below and try to explain why the author is against her (biased).

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4. Why do you think Mr Wolf, the reporter, chose that picture of Wolfie for his article?

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5. Imagine you are a detective trying to solve this case. Your job is to find out: *Why did each character behave as they did? What was their **motive**? Where is your **evidence**?* Fill in the empty parts of the table:

Character	Thoughts or feelings	Actions & Motive	Text Evidence
Woodcutter's Wife <i>(example)</i>	<i>was worried about granny's health</i>	<i>made cakes for granny to cheer her up and sent her daughter to deliver them</i>	<i>'Red Riding Hood was taking some very unhealthy cakes she had baked...'</i>
Woodcutter	thought Wolfie was attacking Red Riding Hood ..... ..... .....	..... ..... ..... .....	..... ..... ..... .....
Wolfie	was worried for Red when she was lost ..... ..... .....	..... ..... ..... .....	..... ..... ..... .....
Red Riding Hood	wanted some flowers for granny ..... ..... .....	..... ..... ..... .....	..... ..... ..... .....
Author, Mr Wolf	blames the Woodcutter and his family for his son's death ..... ..... .....	..... ..... ..... .....	..... ..... ..... .....