



# LITTLE RED & THE GINGERBREAD MAN

*Footnotes Learning Guide*

## ABOUT THE SHOW

Two tales rolled into one! Barefoot Puppet Theatre's **LITTLE RED & THE GINGERBREAD MAN** combines two well-loved, classic tales to create an original, fun-filled romp through fairy tales. Join Little Red and she pursues a mischievous Gingerbread cookie through the woods to Grandma's house.

The show is 45-minutes in length and features whimsical puppets, original music, snowy scenery, and everyone's favorite Big Bad Wolf.



Photo Credit: Warren Johnson

## Dear Educator,

We are thrilled to be sharing our work with you and your learners. This guide is just for you and your students, so you will know what to expect during our performance. Inside you will find FUN FACTS about the show, ART VOCABULARY about puppetry **in boldface**, notes on THEATRE ETIQUETTE, and a MEET THE ARTISTS section, too. The excitement of a live performance can spark curiosity and ignite the imagination. We know you are busy, so none of these are necessary to do in advance, but some might be helpful to young learners.

Your feedback is always welcome and deeply appreciated. If you or your class have questions, please visit [www.barefootpuppets.com](http://www.barefootpuppets.com) and click CONTACT US. Those emails reach us quickly! We love to "talk shop" and share!

See you soon!  
Heidi Rugg & Co.



## SHOW CREDITS

Heidi Rugg: Script, Puppet Design/Construction, Scenic Elements, and Set Design

Sam Rugg: Set Construction, Troubleshooting, and Tech

Eric Weinberg: Music Composition and Recording

Warren Johnson: Photography



### TYPES OF PUPPETS

There are two types of puppets in this show: hand puppets and rod puppets. Watch carefully and maybe you can figure out what kind of puppet you are seeing on stage!

**Hand Puppets** work by putting your hand inside the puppet. When you move your hand, you move the puppet, too. There are different kinds of hand puppets that require the puppeteer to hold their hand in different ways.

**Rod Puppets** have a rod or a stick attached to the puppet. The rod can be attached to the top of the puppet, below the puppet, or behind the puppet. When you move the rod, you move the puppet. Sometimes a puppet can have more than one rod.

### MEET THE ARTIST: HEIDI RUGG



### THEATRE ETIQUETTE

A live **performance** is different from watching a movie or TV. The **performers** will be in the same room as you. They can see and hear you! As a member of the **audience**, you are an important part of the show. Below are FOUR ways to be a great audience member:

1. Stay quiet and seated during the performance so everyone around you may also see and hear.
2. Eyes and ears open wide! Watch & listen to the performers (and puppets). Remember what you see and talk to your friends and family about it AFTER the show.
3. If the performer (or a puppet) asks a question, you can answer it if you are called on. If something funny happens, it is OKAY to LAUGH!
4. At the end of the show, **applaud** to show your appreciation.

#### *Questions to Explore:*

*Have you seen a live show before?*

*Can you think of any other ways to be a great member?*

Heidi began building puppets at the age of ten. Her fifth grade teacher assigned book reports that were required to have visual aids. After a trip to the library, she built her very first puppet: a marionette of Anne Frank. For the rest of that year, she made puppets for all of her book reports.

Years later, she attended *Virginia Commonwealth University* (VCU) and studied both Art and Art History. Feeling the pull of “something more,” she took off “a semester” to follow her curiosity about puppetry. The semester turned into a two year apprenticeship with Master Puppet Builder, Barry Gordemer.

In 1997, she founded her own company, *Barefoot Puppet Theatre*, with a mission to create shows that spark curiosity and ignite imaginations. She has now been touring for 25-years. Heidi loves working with her hands, experimenting with new materials, designing puppet mechanisms, and doing the deep research needed to develop new works.

In 2020, she returned to VCU to finish up her degree during lockdown. She graduated *magna cum laude* in 2021 with a Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Studies in Arts Integration and a minor in Art History. She is thrilled to be back on stage with YOU!



## RECOMMENDED READING

*50 Hand Puppet Techniques: Hidden Secrets and Tricks Revealed* by Chad Williams, April 2022: Teachers, parents, actors and students can now learn 50 professional puppetry techniques from a hand puppet master. Learn ancient puppet secrets and skills while playing and having fun!

*Worlds of Shadow* by David and Donna Wisniewski. Englewood: Teacher Ideas Press, 1997. This is THE BEST BOOK on shadow puppetry in the classroom with information for all grade levels.

## WRITER'S BLOCK

**Option 1:** Writing letters is timeless. Ask your students to write a letter to their favorite character from the puppet show. Was it Little Red, the Gingerbread Man, or the Big Bad Wolf? We love to hear about the parts of the show that really stand out to young people.

**Option 2:** Fairy tales provide a great framework for building stories. Maybe the class could work together and pick two different fairy tales to combine into a new story? Or bring a character from one story into another story? Or change the way a story ends?

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

*Celebrating 25 years of touring excellence!*

Barefoot Puppet Theatre is on a mission to spark curiosity and ignite imaginations. The company has toured award-winning programs to theatres, schools, libraries, children's museums and more since 1997. Children, families, educators, librarians, and theatre directors give enthusiastic reviews of our programs and invite us back again and again. Audiences appreciate their imaginative storytelling, the hand-crafted puppets, and beautifully built staging and scenery.

The company has performed throughout the country (and a bit beyond!). Notable venues include *The Smithsonian Discovery Theater*, *The Puppet Showplace Theatre* in Boston, *The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts*, and *The Center for Puppetry Arts* in Atlanta. We have also performed at numerous puppetry festivals throughout the country.

## CONTACT US!

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E-mail us from [www.barefootpuppets.com](http://www.barefootpuppets.com) if you or your students have questions. Just click CONTACT US on the menu. Thanks!

