

2023

## Review of *Little Red Riding Hood and the Dragon* by Ying Chang Compestine

Rachel Crane

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/intern\\_book\\_reviews](https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/intern_book_reviews)



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#), and the [Modern Literature Commons](#)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Intern Book Reviews by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@cedarville.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@cedarville.edu).

*Little Red Riding Hood and the Dragon*

Compestine, Ying Chang

Illustrated by Joy Ang

New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2022

9781491737282

The wolf, traditionally the villain in Little Red Riding Hood's story, narrates an alternate version. Set in China, this version places Little Red Riding Hood in a village near the Great Wall. Her grandmother, Nainai, sews a red silk hood for her. When Nainai gets sick, Little Red's mother sends her to Nainai's house with soup and a rice cake. Her mother warns her to stay on the path and avoid strangers, and Little Red replies that she is a kung fu fighter and can protect herself. On the way, Little Red encounters a dragon, who tells her about a nearby ginseng root. Little Red strays off the path, and the dragon rushes to Nainai's house. He gobbles her up and takes her place in the bed. When Little Red arrives, the dragon swallows her as well. Using a yo-yo, ribbon, suona, and kung fu moves, Little Red frees herself and her grandmother from the dragon's belly. The dragon runs away, and distances himself from girls in red capes. The wolf, who appears as a witness to the story, closes by wondering how he became the villain. Compestine writes a creative twist on a familiar story and explains the symbolism in her author note. The illustrations are colorful and expressive. Librarians may find this book appropriate for an age 5-9 audience.

**Highly Recommended** *Rachel Crane, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University*