

## An Updated version of Little Red Riding Hood

### Poppy, Granny, the Silk Scarf and the Big Bad Shop Owner

Once upon a time there was a very good, sweet-natured little girl called Poppy. She lived in a tall block of flats in Melbourne with her family. Their flat was very small so there was no room for her Granny to live with them so Granny lived in her little house in the hills behind Melbourne. Poppy loved her Granny very much and often visited her. She would go out into the hills, carrying supermarket bags full of cakes and biscuits and drinks for her. One day, on her way to Granny's she stopped in a shop that was selling the most beautiful silk scarves she had ever seen. The shop owner saw Poppy looking longingly at the scarves and came out to talk to her. He had a brown, mean-looking face. He was very tall and strong and he had bulbous red eyes, big yellow teeth and very long nails.

He smiled down at her, revealing his nasty yellow teeth. "Hello little girl" he said in a deep growly voice "Where are you going all on your own?"

"I'm going to see my grandmother. She lives all alone in the little house up there" replied Poppy innocently pointing up the hill to the trees where she could just see the roof of her Granny's little house.

"Here, little girl, take a scarf for your Granny" said the shop owner, looking at her strangely.

Poppy was surprised, but she took the scarf and said 'Thankyou. You are very kind" and off she went, climbing up the long path to her Granny's house.

Meanwhile a nasty plan was taking shape in the big, bad shop owner's head. He shut up his shop and took a short cut to Granny's house. Inside Granny was cooking curry and she had an array of hot spices on the kitchen table. He knocked on the door and when Granny opened it he shoved her inside. BUT, little did the big bad shop owner know, the old lady was SUPER Granny. She sprang into action, grabbed a handful of chilli powder and threw it into the big bad shop owner's face. At the same time she threw a lightening fast karate kick. The big bad shop owner staggered backwards and fell down, knocking his big, bad head on the concrete step by the door. SUPER Granny had him tied up in no time. She grabbed her mobile phone, rang the police and made a cup of tea. The police rushed to the scene passing Poppy on the way. When she arrived, Granny was telling the police the whole story. They shared the cakes and biscuits Poppy had brought and the next day there was a photo of her and SUPER Granny in the Melbourne Daily!

Poppy learned her lesson and never spoke to strangers again. She kept the scarf just to remind herself: NEVER SPEAK TO STRANGERS!!



Adapted by Gerry Davies from stories in Kennedy, P and P. Falvey (Eds) (1999). Learning language through literature in Secondary Schools. Hong Kong: HKU Press. Chapter 7: Little Red Riding Hood in Hong Kong