

An interpretation of the story of Little Red Riding Hood

An allegory for the Creative Process

Through the story of Little Red Riding Hood, the author gives us an insight into his creative process. At first sight, it may seem like nothing more than just a childish fairy tale, a simple parable told to children to ensure that they remain wary of strangers, however, beneath this facade lies a complex allegory of the creative process. Little red riding hood herself represents the author's train of thought. The forest is a depiction of the raw and primal subconscious. When we seek to achieve a truly valuable creative product, we have to venture through the darkest recesses of our mind. This is by no means an easy process. The idea of writing a story, for instance appears fairly straightforward, much like the premise of this fairy tale. All Little Red Riding Hood has to do, is to follow a known path, to go from her house to her grandmother's house, however what we do not see is the complexities the aforementioned path entails. The process of tapping into one's subconscious however, brings out the unfiltered emotion in a person, which can bubble up in hurtful ways. The wolf serves as a metaphor for these emotions brought forth in the process. More often than not, the creative greats, be they artists, poets, musicians have their fair share of eccentricities. Be it Van Gogh, cutting his ear off, Sylvia Plath's suicidal depression, Edgar Allan Poe's infatuation with his thirteen year old cousin or Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's love of fart jokes, these geniuses have never been "Normal" in any conventional sense of the word. These eccentricities are a by-product of their profession, they are part of what make these people great and let them reach the heights they have climbed to. Being constantly in touch with your subconscious can drive a person crazy, and the wolf eating the grandmother is an exact representation of that tendency to get derailed, to get thrown off, and to get consumed by those very emotions you hoped to tap into. The last part of the story, i.e. the woodcutter who rescues Little red riding hood represents the last and smallest bit of rationality that keeps you from going insane. It may be in the form of a muse, or a reason to complete the process. One of the most important parts of creating a great work lies in remaining just a little bit anchored. The key is in tapping into your emotions just right, so that you are overcome by them, but not entirely consumed by them. It is important that one remains just a little bit rational throughout the process, to stay in the right frame of mind to complete the work. The process of the woodcutter cutting open the wolf, is a representation of the return to the normal state of mind from this inspired state, so that one may finally achieve success in their creative endeavours.