

Story Summary

Most children know the tale of *Little Red Riding Hood*. In this clever family comedy, they'll get the untold story *behind* that story. A savvy frog detective interrogates four key figures in a domestic disturbance at Granny's place: the sweet old lady herself, a wolf in disguise, a young girl with a goody basket, and an axe-wielding woodsman. Flashbacks show the day's events from each character's point of view. Things are rarely what they seem, and tensions run high as the police look for answers. It seems a goody bandit is on the loose, stealing recipes and forcing the forest's snack-makers into retirement. Could the chaos at the cottage be connected? And who *is* the Goody Bandit?

"Kids are now quite used to non-linear stories, or what we call 3D storytelling," writer/director Cory Edwards explained. "So we thought we'd have a lot of fun going back in time to learn how these four classic characters they thought they knew so well ... all ended up in the cottage on that fateful night."

Hoodwinked is fun, sophisticated and fast-paced. And unlike *Shrek's* tweaking of fairy tales in general, this witty whodunit deconstructs a single fable, and does it without resorting to crude language, double entendres or bathroom humor. Children will identify with Red, a hooded adolescent torn between family duties and a desire to see the world. They'll also appreciate Granny's youthful passion for living on the edge.

Thanks to its complex construction, snappy dialogue, sly jokes, playful songs and superb voice work, *Hoodwinked* even holds up well to repeated viewing—good news for parents with children who like to wear out their favorite DVDs.



Rated: PG
Running Time: 81 minutes

benefits of asking questions and keeping an open mind

Themes: Trustworthiness, teamwork, dangers of family secrets and unchecked ambition, the pursuit of truth, the risk of jumping to conclusions,

Cautions: There's some deception, action violence and peril. A goat mentions that a witch cast a spell on him, a woodsman exclaims "oh, schnitzel," and a band of animals sings the lyric "my mother is nature."

Family Activity

Before watching, read *Little Red Riding Hood*. Then, after your Movie Night, encourage children with active imaginations to choose another popular fairy tale and create a wild backstory for it. You can even work on this together. Map out previous encounters for key players. Invent hidden agendas. Make the villain more sympathetic, or cast the hero as more flawed. Did the three little pigs

have a previous history with the big bad wolf? Were Hansel and Gretel as innocent as they seemed? Children feel empowered when they get to impact a story.

Talking Points

1. Chief Grizzly jumped to conclusions based on limited evidence ("This looks pretty open-and-shut"). Nicky Flippers asked questions and looked at the facts from various points of view. Who showed more wisdom (Deut. 19:15)? Have you ever made a snap judgment that turned out to be wrong? What happened? If you feel your child is mature enough, examine Genesis 39:1-20 and ask, "Was Potiphar more like Chief Grizzly or Nicky Flippers? Why?"

2. It hurts Red to learn that Granny has been keeping secrets from her. Ask, "Why is it important for everyone in a family to be open and honest about what's going on in their lives?" Reassure your children that you're always on their side, and that you need *all* the facts to support them effectively.

3. The man in the black-and-white-striped animal costume looked suspicious. The bunny looked innocent. Read John 7:24 and discuss the temptation to judge others based on "mere appearance." How can that create problems? Why is it important to know someone's history?

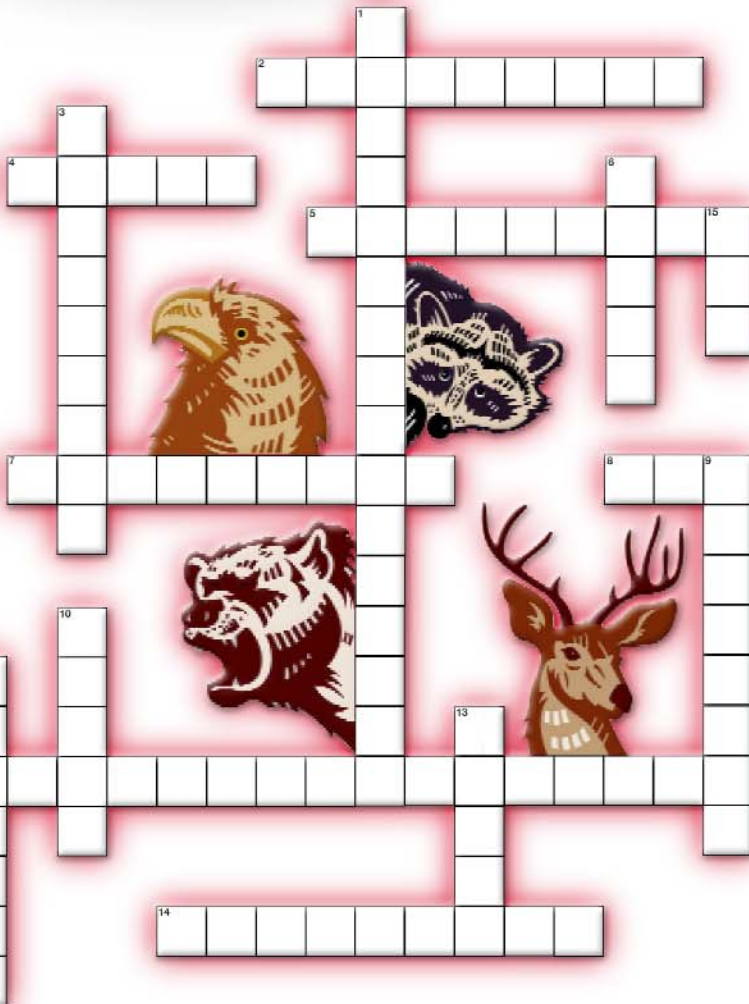
4. Granny tells Red about the Puckett family's reputation for keeping the world sweet. Does your family have any special traditions, or a proud reputation to uphold? Talk about them. Remind your child that, like Red, he or she is an important part of that generations-old tradition. —by Bob Smithouser



I love a good mystery! When did **you** figure out who the Goody Bandit was? Now see if you can read your way through this maze to reveal what Jesus said about judging others in Luke 6:37.



START DONOTJUDGEAEDFORG
 TONLLIWUOYDNANGKOOYI
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 M G O B A C K N O W D F E B E B L L I W
 E F O R T H I S D E A O R G I V E N END



CRITTER CROSSWORD

ACROSS

2. Children flock to get this snack on a stick
4. "Never trust a _____"
5. Boingo writes directions to Granny's house on one (2 words)
7. Wolf voice actor Patrick
8. First to share version of day's events
12. Critter rock band at Xtreme Dream (3 words)
14. Sheepish informant; five-and-dime chain

DOWN

1. Kirk's favorite singing troupe (3 words)
3. Granny uses it to slide down the cable car line (2 words)
6. Bandit henchman whose name isn't scary enough
9. "Italian candles" Twitchy finds in the mine car
10. "You can't judge a book by its _____"
11. Red and Granny's family name
13. "Happily ever _____"
15. The goody lady's tattoo