

**Young Patronesses of the Opera  
In-School Opera  
Presents**

# **LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD**

**a children's opera in one act  
by Seymour Barab**



*YPO*

# Little Red Riding Hood

A children's opera in one act

By Seymour Barab

## CAST

Little Red Riding Hood - Soprano  
Grandmother - Mezzo Soprano  
Wolf/Woodsman - Baritone



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## Biography of the composer: Seymour Barab

Seymour Barab was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1921, and at age thirteen, began his professional career as a church organist. He later became a cellist in the school orchestra and after graduation performed with a number of orchestras across the United States.

After he served in the military in World War II, Barab took advantage of the G.I. Bill to spend a year in Paris, where he discovered his talents for musical composition. He produced over two hundred art songs and other works in just one year. Barab's love for musical theatre has made his operas performed time and time again, especially his amusing children's operas.

Seymour Barab has been bringing delight to audiences throughout his long career. He has composed operas, instrumental works and some of the most beloved and frequently performed operas for children the world over.



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# THE STORY LINE

\* The words that are *italicized* are direct quotes from the opera.

## Scene 1: The Big Bad Wolf is very hungry.

The opera, *Little Red Riding Hood* begins with the Big Bad Wolf who enters the stage singing:

*“I am the Wolf (ha, ha, ha)! I’m the long and lean and gray hungry Wolf (ho, ho, ho)! I’m the villain of this play.”*

We learn many things about the Wolf including that his mother taught him to not overeat, to brush his teeth, not to eat things like fruits or vegetables, and definitely not to eat sweets! It’s people he should eat.

*“I’m so hungry, I could almost eat grass- but alas--  
Anything that grows on the ground, or a bush or a tree is sure to poison me  
And what’s worse is the way I get a tummy-ache at the mere mention  
Of candy (ugh) or ice cream (ech) or even strawberries (ooooh)!  
Mother said ... it’s a matter of fact that a wolf has a delicate digestive tract.  
And you know that in matters concerning the tummy, no one knows better  
than Mummy!”*



## Scene 2: Little Red Riding Hood is going to Grandma’s house.



Little Red Riding Hood is walking through the woods to her Grandmother’s house to bring her food. Grandma is not feeling well. Before Little Red left, her Mother warned her to hurry and not to waste time by admiring the sunset, picking flowers or strawberries, and chasing little animals... *“be careful because there are wild beasts in the woods and it is dangerous to talk to strangers”*, says her mother. Little Red promises to go straight to Grandmother’s and not dawdle, but she quickly ignores every bit of her Mother’s advice.

*“No one should ever break a promise. I haven’t broken one in months.  
That’s why I think it will be all right if I break my promise just this once.”*

As Little Red is walking in the woods, listening to the birds singing, the Wolf suddenly appears. He sings as he enters the stage:

*“When I meet somebody in the woods, I most politely greet him.  
I tip my hat, we have a chat, but after that I eat him!”*



The Wolf approaches her and says, “*Hello little girl!*”. Little Red tells the Wolf she cannot talk to strangers. But he convinces her that he isn’t a stranger, because although she doesn’t recognize him, he knows who *she* is! Little Red tells him about her journey and he gets a great idea! He can delay eating Little Red until he learns how to get to Grandma’s house. (After all, he’s very hungry and could have Grandmother for dinner and Little Red Riding Hood for dessert.)

Little Red not only tells him how to get to her Grandmother’s house, she asks him to go ahead and let Grandmother know she is not far behind. She wants to surprise her Grandmother with fresh strawberries that she plans to pick. Little Red Riding Hood then begins to describe the goodies she is carrying in her basket. With every word he hears (cinnamon bun, cake, soda, a marshmallow puff, Bavarian ice cream, a cherry tart) the Wolf feels sicker and sicker.

*“Curses! You’ve gone and ruined my appetite!  
Now I can’t eat a single bite!”*

He runs off to Grandmother’s house as Little Red stays to pick strawberries in the forest.

### **Scene 3: Grandmother’s House.**

Grandma is not feeling well and should be sick in bed but instead is playing video games, even with an aching head. She cannot do the things she likes to do, like singing, dancing and visiting with company, while she is ill.

*“My head has an ache, my ears have a buzz.  
I guess I’m not as young as I was.  
But at least I’m out of bed, and they’re bringing me my rations.  
I must say at best, being sick has a few compensations.”*

Just then, she hears a knock on the door. It is the Wolf who tells her he is Little Red Riding Hood. She doesn’t recognize the voice, but he tricks her by saying he has a cold. She opens the door and immediately and realizes her mistake. She escapes being eaten by locking herself into a closet.

Little Red Riding Hood finally arrives at Grandmother’s house and she knocks on the door. The Wolf is disguised as Grandmother when Little Red enters the house.



She notices that Grandma looks very different...

*“Grandma, what great big eyes you have too.  
They seem to be brown, though they used to be blue.*

The Wolf responds:

*“I can’t see you too well, would you mind coming here?  
My eyes must be bigger, the better to see you with my dear. “*

Little Red notices other differences such as her ears and teeth. The Wolf jumps up to grab Little Red and Grandma comes out of the closet to help. The Wolf has them in his clutches. But just as he prepares to eat, they mention every gooey treat. The wolf gets sick and off he runs, thinking of candy and sticky buns. Just then, a Woodsman standing nearby puts an end to the Wolf with his ax. *“The Wolf is Dead!”* They are safe now and the story ends with Little Red and Grandmother singing:

*“Loudly sing with voices blending, Hallelujah for a happy ending!”*

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The Moral of the story: You should always keep your promises. And, you should always obey your Mother, because, *“Mother Knows Best!”*



## The Big Bad Wolf Entrance Music

Seymour Barab

I'm the Wolf - ha, ha, ha! I'm the long and lean and gray hung-ry  
Wolf - ho, ho, ho! I'm the vil-lain of this play!

# THE STORY

*Fill in the missing words, then put them where they belong in the puzzle on the next page.  
We give you the line number and if it's across or down (A= Across; D = Down)*

The Wolf is very \_\_\_\_\_. (15 A)

“The next person I meet, I’ll eat”, said the \_\_\_\_\_. (12 D)

The Wolf’s mother had told him not to eat anything but \_\_\_\_\_. (2 A)

Little Red was given advice to not speak to strangers by her \_\_\_\_\_. (11 A)

Then she went to visit her \_\_\_\_\_. (10 D)

In the forest, she hears \_\_\_\_\_. (16 A)

She breaks her \_\_\_\_\_ to her mother, (9 A)

When she stops to pick strawberries in the \_\_\_\_\_. (12 A)

The Wolf hears about the goodies in her basket and loses his \_\_\_\_\_. (6 D)

Then he rushes off to Grandmother’s \_\_\_\_\_. (15 D)

Grandmother sings about being \_\_\_\_\_. (14 D)

The Wolf plans to eat Grandmother for \_\_\_\_\_, (13 D)

And then have Little Red Riding Hood for \_\_\_\_\_. (19 A)

To get into Grandmother’s house, the Wolf pretends to have a \_\_\_\_\_. (7 D)

Grandmother hides in the \_\_\_\_\_. (1 D)

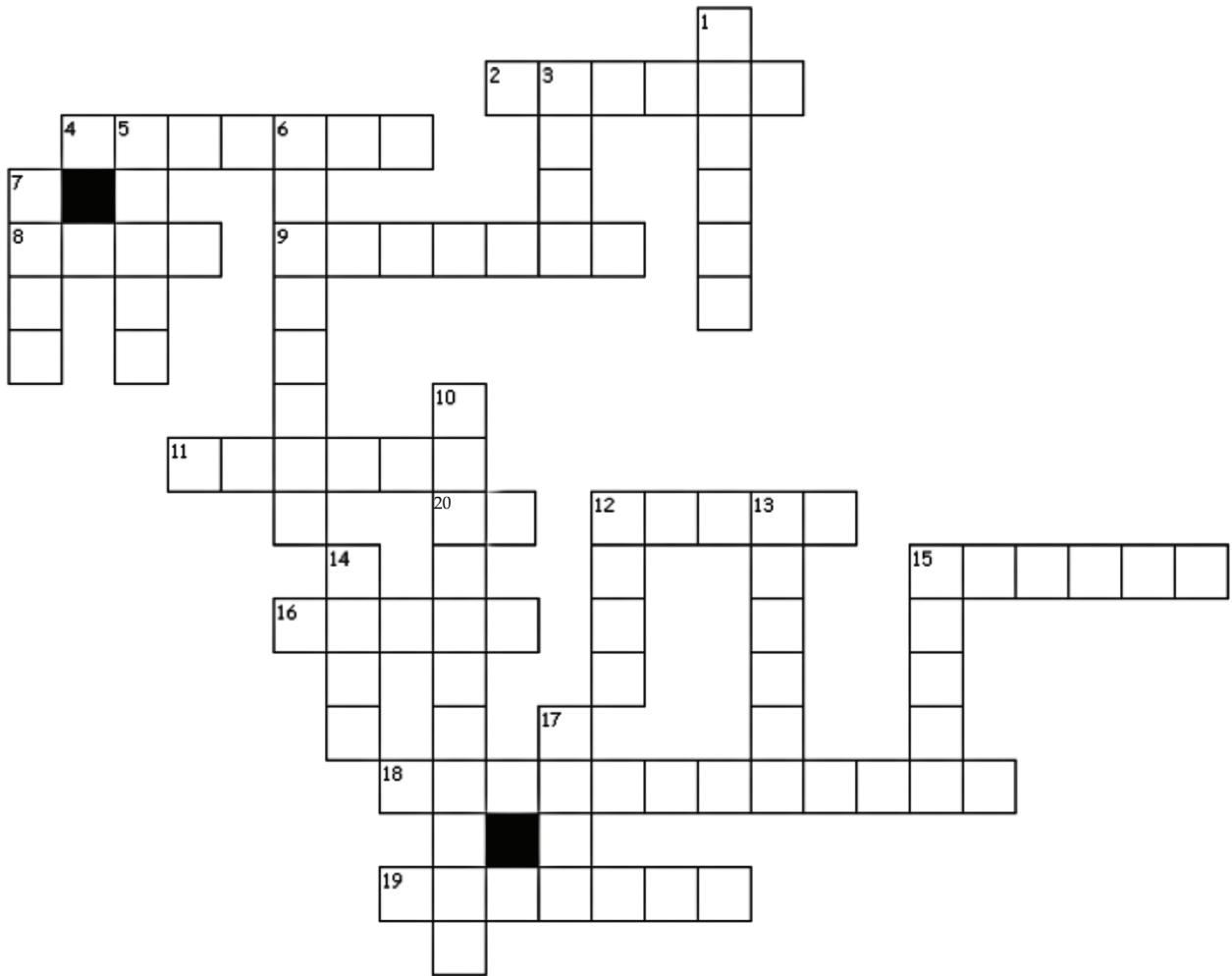
Little Red Riding Hood asks the Wolf about his voice, \_\_\_\_\_, (3 D)  
\_\_\_\_\_, (5 D) and \_\_\_\_\_. (17 D)

When Little Red Riding Hood says that she ate \_\_\_\_\_, (18 A)

The Wolf gets sick to his \_\_\_\_\_. (4 A)

Little Red Riding Hood learned the lesson to always \_\_\_\_\_ (8 A) her mother,  
because, mother knows best!

# CROSSWORD

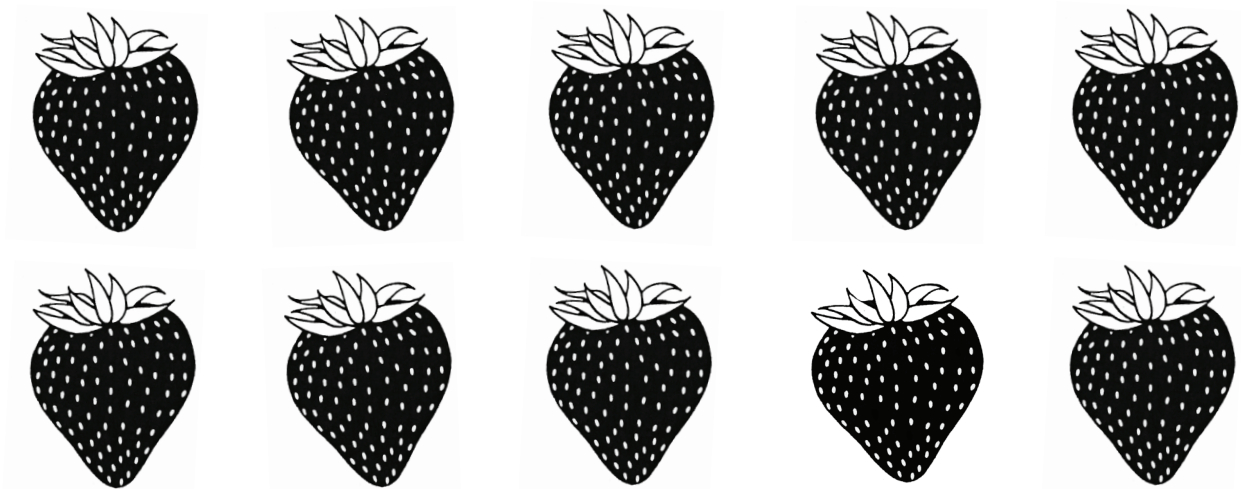


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## WHICH ONE IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER?

The Wolf felt sick from eating, seeing or hearing the names of candy and fruit, especially strawberries. Circle the strawberry is different.



# WORD SEARCH



S E I K O O C S P R Y O P V S  
K U E K Y H F T P W F X O S R  
S J L O P T Z R B I I P E B A  
Z N H I J H W A C S E M G V E  
S X U N Q L Z W O P M I N Y B  
P E O B F U S B P Z C G I C Y  
M A H H Y T O E I E O D D U M  
D P S C U K R R C W G H D P M  
R J H N A M C R I F E E U C U  
B I O V I E E I Q S O G P A G  
X D A N W A P E T L H M C K I  
F X T B M G G S G S N P L E L  
X S E T A L O C O H C W Q S F  
Z J E L L Y P W Q S R Y Q I G  
B Y R W A T E R M E L O N R T

Chocolates  
Peppermints  
Gummy Bears  
Strawberries  
Peaches

Donuts  
Stickybuns  
Liquorish  
Cupcakes  
Pudding

Jelly  
Cookies  
Pie  
Ice Cream  
Watermelon

.....

Unscramble this message from the opera:

**ethrom sawaly wonks tebs**



# HELP LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD FIND HER GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE



# Opera Etiquette

## Be Courteous



Learn about the opera **B**efore you go.



Wear your nic**E**st clothes to the show.

Turn off **C**ell phones and electronics too.

No photos, recording **O**r texting will do.



Get there early and take yo**U**r seat.

No noisy w**R**appers on what you eat.



Don't wear a ha**T** or large hairdo;  
(so others can see past you).

Be very qui**E**t throughout the show.

Don't talk or sing **O**r snore, no, no!

Show the singers yo**U** like what they do.

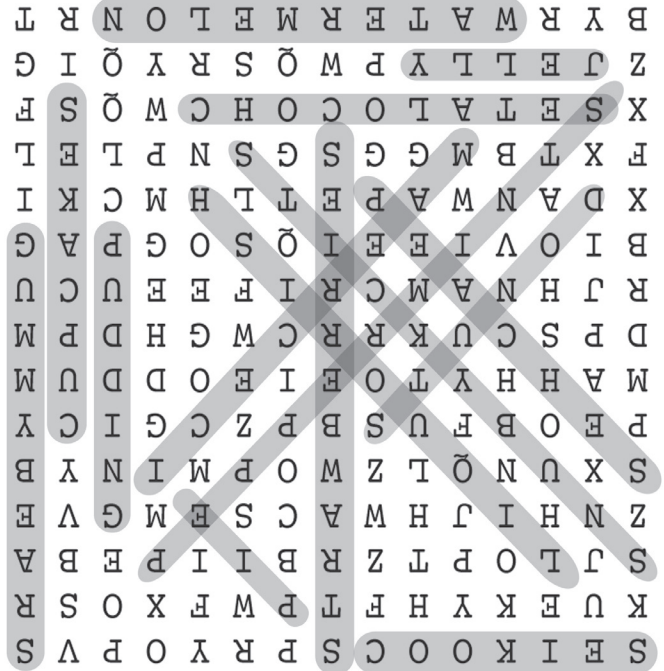
Yelling “Bravo” or “Bravi” i**S** a great “thank you!”



# THE SOLUTIONS



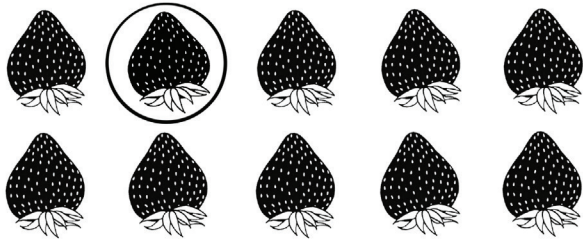
Page 9 - The Maze



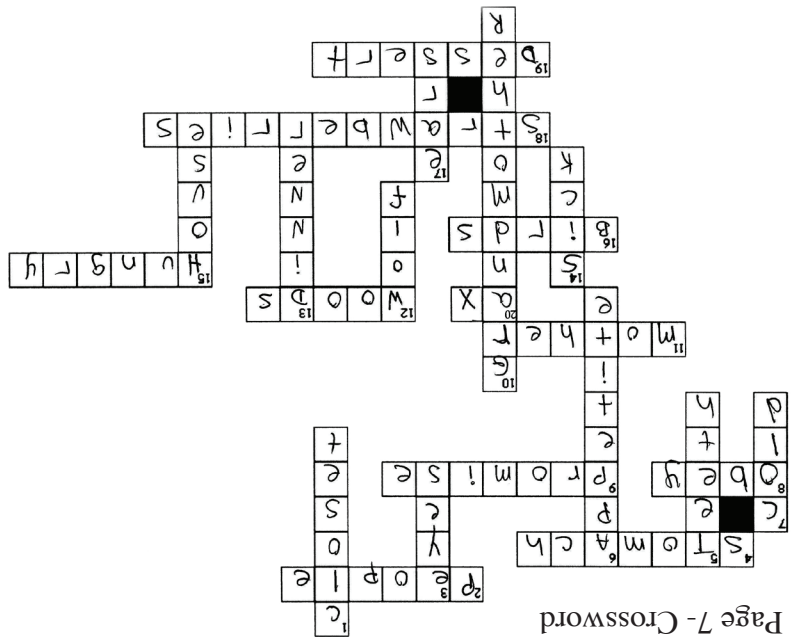
Page 8 - Word Search

## Mother Always Knows Best

Page 8 - Unscramble this message  
from the opera:  
ethrom sawly wonks tebs



Page 7 - Which one is not like the other?





*Young Patronesses of the Opera*



***Opera's Fun  
For Everyone***