**What is there to object to in Little Red Riding Hood?**

**Feminist reading:**

The two females in this story are victims - the rescuer is a man. That's the surface representation of women as weak and dependant.

The moral of this story for women? Don't go out and don't talk to males - you will be destroyed - stay in where you can be protected. Was this what girls in society were being 'conditioned' to believe?

Going deeper there is the wolf as stalker and devourer - is the wolf referred to as 'he' in your story? What does he represent? Man as destroyer of women? If you think this could be a feminist interpretation it is backed up by the fact that the wolf speaks - it is not a dumb animal acting on instinct - it is premeditated attack by a male on a female.

In your version of the story does the wolf eat the grandmother or stick her in a cupboard - if he sticks her in the cupboard this could represent the elderly woman being confined and neglected and the young being good for having his way with.

Why doesn't red riding hood have a name - is she just an object?

Also look at the adjectives in your story related to men and women - are there active, aggressive ones for males and passive, submissive ones for females? Do men rush and roar and gobble and hack and women skip and scream and plead and cry?

All this could be used by feminist theorists to show the state of society at the time it was written - women weak and passive, men strong and active. Patriarchy being reinforced even if this children's story.

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20101027104806AA3NubH\>

The heroine’s red cap is symbolic of sexuality and the wolf’s literal consummation of Little Red Riding Hood has been considered a parallel to the girl’s sexual consumption by a male.

Perrault’s revision denies the girl of such cleverness, depicting the “poor girl” as “not knowing that it was dangerous to stop and listen to a wolf.” Instead, her beauty is emphasized and Little Red Riding Hood ends up eaten by the wolf with no escape. While the Grimm Brothers do save the girl from eternal peril, a male is required to cut her free from the beast’s belly. This gender imbalance has attracted the attention of feminist critics who have written responses to the tales’ implication that females are inadequate to males. In the 1970’s, feminists such as Simone de Beauvoir, Andrea Dworkin and Susan Brownmiller claimed that classic fairytales from Perrault and the Grimms showcase “passive, helpless, beauty-queen femininity” and make little girls wish to become “glamorous victims” (Orenstein).

<http://www.lonely-moon.net/lrrh/interpretations.html>

Feminist analysis also plays a part in more recent interpretations of the Little Red Riding Hood tale.

**Good quote:** Orenstein features a quote by Susan Brownmiler, who says: "*Fairy tales are full of vague dread, a catastrophe that seems to befall only little girls... There are frightening male figures abroad in the woods--we call them wolves, among other names--and females are helpless before them."*

Little Red Riding Hood is sexist because it *“rationalises male dominance as the norm” (Zipes, Jack ( 1993) The Trials and Tribulations of Little Red Riding Hood,* Routledge, NY*p 351)*