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Millersburg, Ohio
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A Study of China with *Lon Po Po*, a Chinese Little Red-riding Hood

Purpose

Students will study the elements of a story (setting, character, plot, and theme) using two versions of the folktale Little Red-Riding Hood.

Grade level

Sixth grade language arts

Materials

- *Lon Po Po* by Ed Young (Scholastic Inc., New York: 1989)
- Website for information about author Ed Young <http://www.nccil.org/young.html>
- Optional – the familiar version of Little Red-Riding Hood in written form

Length of Lesson

2 40-minute classes

Activity

Read aloud *Lon Po Po* to the class. Then tell the standard American/European version.

Lon Po Po is a Red-riding Hood folktale from China. It was translated and illustrated by Ed Young. Young was raised in Shanghai during the 1940's. He traveled to the United States at the age of 20. A fateful encounter with Ursula Nordstrom, editor of children's books at Harper's, propelled him into the world of writing children's books.

After reading *Lon Po Po* and telling the familiar Little Red-Riding Hood to the class, compare the various elements of a story with the two folktales. Have students create a chart showing the similarities and differences between the two versions. The use of different colors of ink to accentuate the similarities and the differences would be helpful for the students.

Discuss the charts. There are major differences with the children in the stories. Relating this to another book we read, *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, the students can compare how Brian is more like the older sister in *Lon Po Po* than the child in the familiar version.

Vocabulary

latch
paced

cunning
fetched

awl
hemp

gingko
translation

pluck
version