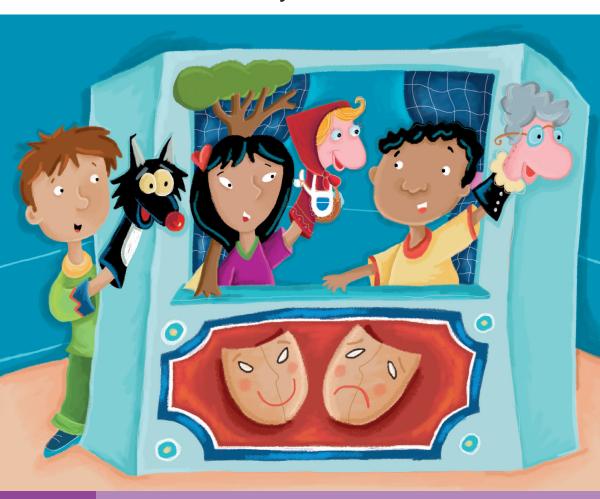
Little Red Mix-Up

by Nancy Butts
Illustrations by Hector Borlasca



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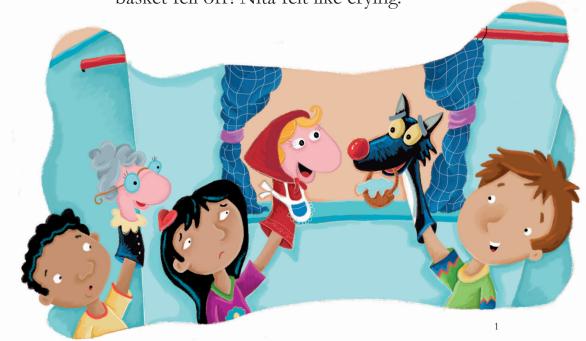
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The second-grade puppet show was about to begin! Nita slipped her hand inside her sock puppet. She was playing Little Red Riding Hood. Her puppet wore a red cape and a white apron. A little straw basket was taped to the side of the sock.

Nita wiggled her fingers inside the sock. As she moved her puppet onto the stage, the basket fell off! Nita felt like crying.



Her friend Daniel knew exactly what to do. He used his Wolf puppet to pick up the basket. "My, what a fine basket you have, my dear," Daniel growled.

The audience laughed, and Nita felt much better.

"Time for my Grandmother puppet," whispered Troy. But as he brought it on stage, its yarn wig was caught on a cardboard tree. The hair was yanked right off its head! Troy's eyes went wide. This time, Nita knew exactly what to do. She used her puppet to grab the wig and set it on top of Troy's sock.

"My, what fine hair you have, Grandma," Nita said. "But keep it on your head!" The audience laughed even harder, and Troy smiled.



They thought their problems were over. But then Daniel bumped into the stage. It swayed and fell on the floor in front of them!

Troy and Nita grinned at each other. They knew exactly what to do. "My, what a big bad wolf you are," Nita said.

"But we aren't the three little pigs,"
Troy added. "You didn't have to blow the house down."

The audience laughed harder than ever.



When the play was over, Troy shook his head.

"This play sure didn't go the way we planned."

"I think it went even better," Daniel said.

"I agree," said Nita. "It was because we worked as a team."

"A funny team!" said Troy.



Level M

Literary

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