

## Oedipus, Little Red Cap Part Two

Two stories seemingly worlds apart, that upon further examination are more similar than they first appear. Of course the plots differ but the lesson they teach go hand in hand. Little Red Cap is the story you use to teach that it's important to stay on guard. Oedipus is the story you use to teach that it's important to know how to use one's guard.

In Little Red Cap, Red's main problem is she trusts the wolf wholeheartedly. Red goes so far as to tell the wolf where her granny lives, carefree and happily. The wolf employs a certain amount of cunning, distracting Red by the beauty of the forest around her to get to granny first. Even then the wolf tricks granny who should be wise in her old age.

In Oedipus, his main problem is that he trusts the prophecy so wholeheartedly. It tells him he will kill his father so he leaves to head to a nearby city. The prophecy employs a certain amount of cunning however, distracting Oedipus with a sense of relief. Now that he's away from his father certainly it can't come true. So as one does, Oedipus kills the first group of travelers to be rude to him as he runs away from a prophecy about him killing his father. The prophecy even tricks Jocasta, his wife/mother into a sense of relief so that she also takes unguarded actions that further bring the prophecy into fruition.

In both stories be it prophecy or wolf, cunning is shown to be a danger to innocence. Neither Red nor Oedipus have done anything wrong, but this entity is out for blood either way. While Little Red Cap teaches readers to always be on guard for danger, Oedipus teaches readers that even if you think your guard alone will keep you safe, you need to be careful. The prophecy in Oedipus is very similar to the wolf in Little Red Cap. They both employ the same methods of redirection to get the upper hand on the main character. However, while Red has a lack of guard,

Oedipus's story begins with him utilizing his guard in what seems like a flawless way. In both stories it is seen that the antagonist (wolf for Red, Prophecy for Oedipus) expertly manipulates the protagonist into following the path the antagonist chose for them. The stories differentiate in the fact that Red doesn't know what she did wrong and is innocent, while Oedipus is so sure he beat the prophecy and almost arrogantly takes unguarded action immediately after. In both stories it is shown that no character is safe from the antagonist as both granny and Jocasta fall victim. Themes continue in these characters of ignorant innocence in granny as she is tricked by the wolf, and what seems to be arrogance as Jocasta assumes the prophecy is dead.

Little Red Cap and Oedipus are stories that go hand in hand. Little Red Cap teach that it's important to always be on one's guard, while Oedipus serves as a continuation upon that lesson but taking a step further by teaching that being on guard isn't effective unless you know how to use it.

## References

Sophocles. "Oedipus the King." *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. Ed. Kelly J. Mays. New York, 2013. 1737-1776. Print.