

# Red Riding Hood

## Talking Points

These Talking Points are suggestions designed to allow exploration and discussion of the story. You may wish to select from the range at various points in the unit or explore other aspects of the story which interest your class. The Talking Points explore each of the different versions in turn.

### ***The Coroner's Report***

#### **Getting the facts**

- Why is the Coroner visiting the village?
- What facts were in the crime report?
- What did the villagers do with the old woman's body? Why did they say they had done this?

#### **Using the imagination**

- Describe the crime scene at the cottage.
- Richard Swynford was an eye witness. What did he see?
- What are the villagers hiding?

#### **Using the senses**

- At the beginning of the story the Coroner stood looking at the scene before him. What did he see and hear?
- What did Mrs Lupin look like? What was she wearing? What was her expression?
- As the villagers gather round the Coroner there was a sense of menace. Describe how this felt.

#### **Using the emotions**

- From the point of view of Mrs Lupin, explain how you felt when Nettles didn't come home.
- How did Brickman feel when he was in the forest?
- If you were one of the villagers, how would you feel about the events?

#### **Philosophical enquiry**

- Nettles had to go through a very dangerous forest to see her grandmother. Was her mother right to ask her to go?
- The villagers are gathering together to influence the Coroner. Is it ever right for a group to try to influence someone in this way?
- The Coroner thinks that this is a story of starvation. Is it right to break the law to feed your family?

### ***The Real Story***

#### **Getting the facts**

- Why did Gulliford go to Middlesham? What did he unpack from his bags?
- What did he say about the Nettles family?
- Why did he say he followed Nettles? What did he see?

#### **Using the imagination**

- What questions might you want to ask Gulliford about his version of the story?
- Catherine Lupin used to make potions to help cure people's illnesses. As one of the villagers, describe how she cured you.
- What else might account for Nettles seeming to disappear from under her Red Riding Hood in the forest?

### **Using the senses**

- Describe the scene in the Market Street at Middlesham.
- The customers at the Inn had a good look at Gulliford while he was telling his story. What did he look like?
- What did Gulliford see, hear, feel and smell when he encountered the wolf?

### **Using the emotions**

- How did Nettles feel as she went on her journey to her Grandmother's house?
- If you were one of the villagers, how would you have felt when you knew Catherine Lupin had been killed?
- What different emotions did Gulliford experience as he followed Nettles through the wood?

### **Philosophical enquiry**

- Gulliford said that Nettles deserved her fate. Was he right?
- Was Gulliford right to kill Catherine Lupin because he thought she was a werewolf?
- Is killing ever right?

### ***The Diary***

#### **Getting the facts**

- What did Lady Isabelle bring to the Coroner? Why did she say she had brought it?
- What did Nettle write about how the villagers were treating the Lupins?
- What are the differences between Gulliford's version and Nettle's story?

#### **Using the imagination**

- What is the room like where Nettles is writing her diary?
- Nettles said that she dreamed while she was in the hospital. Describe one of her dreams.
- Make up Nettle's life story from when she wrote the diary to when she became a woman.

#### **Using the senses**

- The Coroner is drowsing beside the fire on a rainy evening. What can he hear?
- What does Lady Isabelle de Vere look like? What is she wearing?
- Describe the meeting between Nettles and the Wolf. What did she see, feel, smell and hear?

#### **Using the emotions**

- If you had been one of the villagers, did you feel any conscience about how the Lupins were being treated?
- How did the Coroner feel when he read the Diary and heard what Lady Isabella had to say?
- Does Lady Isabella feel any hatred towards the villagers when she looks back at her early life?

#### **Philosophical enquiry**

- The Coroner thought this was, in the end, a story about prejudice. Were the villagers justified in being prejudiced against the Lupin family?
- The story seems to have a good ending. Is it a happy story?
- The news often tells stories of persecution. Is there anything that can be done to stop people persecuting others?