

Ms. Flinner

September 1, 2015

LRRH Curator Notes: Sample

Basket of Goodies

“One morning Little Red Riding Hood's mother said, "Put on your things and go to see your grandmother. She has been ill; take along this basket for her. I have put in it eggs, butter and cake, and other dainties." (Little Red Riding Hood)

The basket of yummy treats that LRRH must take across the forest occurs just after the exposition/introduction. In fact, this moment is the inciting incident, because LRRH must be independent and act alone as she sets off, away from her family. This basket is the reason LRRH sets out.

The basket is said to contain “eggs, butter and cake, and other dainties.” These are all items necessary for cake and other sweet treats. The “daintiness” of the basket goodies mirrors the “daintiness” of the females. None of these items are meat or other significant nutritional things. I chose the traditional red-and-white checked towel to connect to LRRH’s red hoodie cape. The fruits are healthy, but sweet.

These kinds of foods suggest love and care and time. Cake and other dainties, even butter, are things that take time and effort to make; fruits and eggs require time and gentleness to collect. So even the things LRRH carries in the basket remind the reader of sweetness, feminine things which are nice but extra, not essential.

The idea the basket conveys is the feminine characteristic of nurturing. This reinforces the theme that gender roles are clearly set, and that females are of less worth, less essential: basically non-essential frills.