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### **The queerest of them all: The Grimm's Little Red Riding Hood**

In recent years, the fairy tale has been experiencing a revival with every year producing new adaptations and imaginings of canonical tales. These reimaginings, such as *Snow White and the Huntsmen*, often superficially update the heteropatriarchal politics of the source tale with the aim to create a more palatable version of the tale for today's audience. Yet, implicit in this idea is the assumption that the possibilities for fairy tales to explore queer identities and ideas occurs only in contemporary culture, and must therefore be imposed on the text.

However, as this paper will argue, the possibility for queer readings and the exploration of queer identity already exists within the fairy-tale tradition, even in the classically heteropatriarchal texts.

Through an examination of the Brothers Grimm's 1812 tale, *Little Red Riding Hood*, which has entered our popular imagination as a tale about the socialisation of girls and their obedience to the paternal authority, this presentation will argue that queerness is part of the fabric of the tale, often challenging the dominate heteropatriarchal ideology. This, in turn, suggests that queer identities and possibilities have always existed, and been explored, within the fairy-tale tradition.