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ADVENTURES IN LEARNING
Episode 179
Adventures in Learning Podcast
www.drdianeadventures.com

Co-Creating STEM Storytime With
Pirate Sheep, Muddy Bears & Big Bad Fred

Little Red AND BIG BAD FRED
Ashley Belote

DON'T WASH WINSTON

A Conversation with
Author/Illustrator And Joyful Teacher
Ashley Belote

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What if your next great STEM or STEAM lesson started with a pirate sheep, a muddy teddy bear, or a very confused Little Red who thinks a wolf is a cat? To prepare for this workshop,.Ashley and I recorded a podcast episode just for you. In Episode 179 of the Adventures in Learning podcast, we offer practical guide to help you turn picture book read-alouds into rich learning adventures for early childhood and elementary students

Audio version of the podcast is available on any major platform. You can also find it here: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2019975/episodes/18756836>

Video version of the podcast is available here:

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From sink-and-float challenges with Sheepwrecked, to slime chemistry in Valenslime and Frankenslime, to circuits, empathy, and seasonal change in Little Red and Big Bad Fred, you'll walk away with classroom-ready ideas that blend laughter, literacy, and hands-on STEM/STEAM exploration.

Bonus Resources

In *Little Red and Big Bad Fred*, one of the first challenges that popped into my mind came from this page. What is challenging Fred? What two things is he torn between? How could we connect this to science content?



In the podcast, we explore the energy stick example. Get a volunteer to help you with the energy stick. Model turning Fred from an insulator to a conductor, talk about transformation. From there, give students a paper towel Fred, who is currently an insulator. Using only the materials at your table, can you find a way to transform Fred into a conductor and make him part of a circuit using your table's energy stick.

Materials should include a range of conductors and insulators (foil, water, chenille sticks, metal forks or spoons, felt, etc.)



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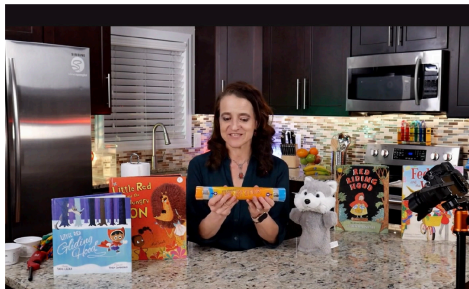
Can you transform Big Bad Fred from an insulator to a conductor?



Dr. Diane Jackson Schnoor LLC

Little Red Variations – Coding, Electricity, and Physics, Oh My!

The *Little Red* variations lend themselves nicely to the animal adaptations activities we discussed earlier, as well as the habitats activities (think savannah for [Little Red and](#)



[the Very Hungry Lion](#) by Alex T Smith, Southwest town for [Federico and the Wolf](#) by Rebecca Gomez/Elisa Chavarri, or forest for [Little Roja Riding Hood](#) by Susan Middleton Elya/Susan Guevara).


I've developed a PDF that is chock full of ideas for connecting variations of the Little Red stories to science, STEAM, and literacy.

Little Red Science and STEAM ideas for sparking creativity in the classroom ([Dr Diane Jackson Schnoor LLC PDF link](#))



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2026-02-08
Title: Little Red and Big Bad Fred
Author/Illustrator: Belote
Empathy Prompt: How can teamwork make hard things easier?
STEAM Invitation: Design your own trickster trap using recycled materials and simple levers. Invite learners to notice, wonder, and connect as they explore together.

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[@ashleybeloteillustration](https://www.instagram.com/ashleybeloteillustration)

365 Days of Read Aloud/STEAM Magic:

Start every morning with a beautifully curated picture book recommendation featuring a quick discussion prompt and a simple STEAM invitation using simple everyday materials. Perfect for families, educators, librarians, and anyone who believes in the power of story to build a kinder, more curious world.

This calendar is free to access. It is offered in the spirit of generosity, equity, and shared learning.

<https://www.drdianeadventures.com/read-aloud-calendar>



For more information, scan the QR code or check out the resources at www.drdianeadventures.com