HANSEL AND GRETEL

the real story

Synopsis of the play as performed by KHSPAC.

Characters:
The Narrator
The Father – a woodcutter
The Mother – a housewife
Hansel – a young boy
Gretel – his younger sister
The Evil Stepmother – marries The Father after The Mother dies
The Witch – lives in the forest, captures children
Place: the Black Forest
Setting: Medieval Germany (a long time ago)
Time: Summer; a full moon

Background information:
The Brothers Grimm, who collected and published folk tales from Germany's oral history, first published the story of Hansel and Gretel in 1812. Since that time the story has been told and retold in different ways, including the variation I have chosen for this production. We have not changed the basic story but some details are different; we've added some magic spells and a surprise ending. By way of explanation, considering that our target audience is young children my high school students and I are uncomfortable with certain aspects of the Grimm tale which are socially unacceptable, specifically: parental abandonment, a cruel stepmother, cannibalism , murder, and theft.

Production considerations:
Although parts of the play may be somewhat scary we urge you to teach your students beforehand that this is only a story. The events aren't really happening but the lessons are valid. Some very important messages for children in today's world are: don't talk to strangers, don't take food from strangers, don't go into someone's house if you don't know them.

In our story, the children escape from a crisis situation because they stick together and use their good sense. They trust each other and rely on each other; they work together to solve their problem. At the beginning of the story Gretel is the little sister who's afraid of the dark, depending on her big brother to protect her, but in the end she's the one who saves them both because she keeps her wits about her.

Synopsis of our story:
Hansel and Gretel live in a cottage at the edge of the forest with their loving mother and their father, a woodcutter. They have two pets, a white cat and a white bird. Although they are poor and live a simple life, they are happy until the mother dies of a fever.

The father marries again because he needs someone to take care of the children and the house while he's away at work. The stepmother acts very sweet to the father but is mean and nasty to the children. She is an Evil Stepmother with magic powers and a hidden agenda.

When there is a famine in the land and the family doesn't have enough to eat she convinces the father to take the children into the woods and leave them there. The father loves his children and doesn't want to do this, but he agrees.

Hansel and Gretel overhear the parents' plan. After everyone is asleep Hansel sneaks outside to gather pebbles to drop on the pathway so they can find their way back. The next morning the stepmother gives each of the children a crust of bread to eat and the parents lead them into the forest. When they find a place to stop, the father makes a fire to protect the children. The parents leave to cut wood, telling the children they will come back later but they are lying. The children eat their bread and fall asleep until dark. When the moon rises, the pebbles Hansel dropped shine brightly to guide the children back home. The father is happy they are safe but the stepmother only pretends that she was worried.

The next time the family has no money and no food, the stepmother again demands that they get rid of the children. This time they will go deeper into the forest to make sure the children are lost and can't find their way home. Hansel tries to gather pebbles again but the door is locked and he can't get outside.

The next morning, the only way Hansel can mark their path is with crumbs from the tiny crust of bread in his pocket. They take a different path into the forest and go to a place the children have never seen. The father makes a fire for the children and the parents sneak away. This time the children really are lost because birds have eaten the breadcrumbs Hansel dropped. They wander through the forest, tired and hungry, until they find the Witch's house made of bread and cake and candy.

[Note: in our story there are no angels of sandman or talking owl in the forest, and no white bird leads them to the witch's house. There is a gingerbread cookie outside the house that looks a little bit like . . . . ?]

The Witch in our story is nearsighted and she bumps into things. To make up for her weak eyes, her very good sense of smell tells her when children are nearby. This witch has a special reason for wanting to capture Hansel and Gretel, which we will learn at the end of the play. The witch is greedy and dishonest, and she often speaks in rhyme.

At first when she sees Hansel and Gretel eating her house she pretends to be sweet and kind. She gives the children a delicious supper of pancakes, nuts and apples, and invites them into her house to spend the night in comfy beds, but the next morning she's a different person. She locks Hansel in a cage and orders Gretel to do the chores. The witch gives Hansel lots of yummy food but gives Gretel nothing but crab shells to eat. The children are horrified when they realize the witch is planning to eat Hansel as soon as he gets fat enough. When the nearsighted witch checks to feel whether Hansel is getting fat, they fool her by substituting a chicken bone for Hansel's finger.

[Yes, this witch eats children which makes her a cannibal but this is only a story. Witches don't eat children and children shouldn't talk to strangers.]

The witch becomes impatient and decides to eat Hansel even if he isn't fat enough. Gretel is sent to fetch water to boil while the witch makes bread to bake in the oven. When she asks Gretel to see if the oven is hot enough, Gretel hears a mysterious warning and pretends she doesn't know how. The witch shows her how to climb in, Gretel gives her a shove, and that's the end of the witch and her evil spells.

[Yes, Gretel kills the witch, in self-defense, which wouldn't have been necessary if the children didn't get themselves into her clutches.]

Here's our surprise ending: The gingerbread cookie comes to life – it's the children's mother who didn't really die, she was under the witch's spell.

Now the father's voice is heard, calling the children's names. He has been searching for them every day but the witch cast a spell so the children couldn't hear him.

Mother explains "the whole story" including a mysterious box of gold and jewels that is rightfully hers but was stolen by the witch.

Mother's Story: "When I was a little girl, like you Gretel, my real mother died and my father married again but my stepmother was mean. She made me do all the chores and wear old clothes, but her ugly daughter went to parties and had pretty dresses. Then my father died and I had no one. When I got old enough to take care of myself I ran away from home. I hoped I would never see them again. I fell in love with a woodcutter, married him, you were born, and we were supposed to live happily ever after.

"But they found me and they tried to get rid of me. You thought I died, but my stepmother kidnapped me and turned me into a cookie. Then she went after Hansel and Gretel. She had to destroy my children too, so she could inherit the castle and steal my gold and jewels.

[No, Hansel and Gretel don't take the Witch's gold and jewels. Just because people are mean isn't a reason to steal from them. Just because people have died, you mustn't take things from their house. That's called looting.]

"The witch was my Evil Stepmother and your Evil Stepmother was the witch's daughter, my ugly stepsister. ***[No, all stepmothers aren't evil; many are very kind but watch out for witches!]*** They put a spell on your father to make him get married, and then they made him take his children into the forest and leave them there."

[No, the children were not abandoned by their parents; the father was under the witch's spell.]

The real family is happily reunited. So The Father and The Mother and Hansel and Gretel walked back through the forest to their little cottage. ***[There's no duck or lake in our story because father knows the way back home and leads the way.]***

All their cares were ended and they lived together happily, and that's our story of **HANSEL AND GRETEL.** Is it the real story? Well, this is what we believe really happened long ago and far away.

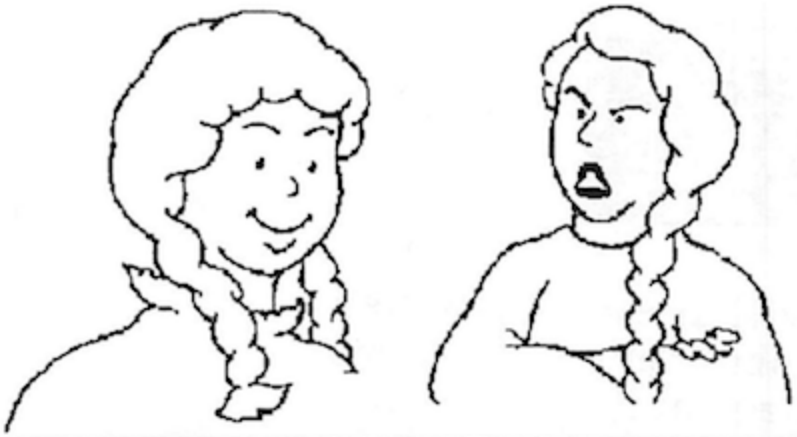
Thank you for your interest and support. We hope you and your students enjoy our play, expand your imagination, learn some important ways to stay safe, and remember to help each other.

Mahalo to Peggy Anne Siegmund, playwright and former KHSPAC Instructor and Coordinator for her contribution to this Educational Packet.

Once upon a time there was a woodcutter who had two children. He had a boy and a girl, called Hansel and Gretel.

They lived with their kind father and a mean stepmother. Their home was a small cottage at the edge of a forest.

The father said to the stepmother, "There is no more money." The stepmother said, "We cannot keep the children. We do not have enough food for them. We must take the children into the forest and lose them."



The stepmother was not kind. She spent all of their money. There was very little left for food and clothes.

The father did not like what the stepmother was saying. "If we take them into the forest, we will never see them again," he said. The father felt very sad.

NOTE: In most of the stories the family is hungry because of a famine.

Hansel was listening behind a closed door. He heard everything his stepmother was saying. Hansel went and told Gretel what he had heard. "Don't worry," he said, " I have a plan."

As soon as it was dark, Hansel got out of bed. He went outside and filled his pockets with pebbles. "These pebbles will lead us back to the cottage," he told Gretel.

The next morning, Hansel and Gretel were awakened by the stepmother. "We are going to the forest to gather firewood," she said. "Here is a piece of bread, that is all you will get."

The children are in another part of the cottage but not behind a closed door.

As they walked through the forest, Hansel dropped his little pebbles. "Don't be so slow," shouted the stepmother. They traveled deep into the woods.

"We will stop here," said the stepmother. "We must build them a fire," said the father. "You can rest here, we are going further into the forest to collect more firewood. We will stop and pick you up on the way back," said the stepmother.

Hansel and Gretel were hungry. They sat by the fire and ate their bread. It began to get very dark and cold. "We shall never find our way home," cried Gretel. "Oh yes, we will" said Hansel. "Soon the moon will come out."

The pebbles Hansel dropped shone brightly in the moonlight. They followed the pebbles back to their cottage. When the stepmother answered the door she began to scold them. She pretended that it was their fault they were lost. The father was happy to see them.

The next morning the woodcutter led the way into the forest. The stepmother gave each of them a piece of bread. Gretel put hers in her pocket. Hansel broke little pieces from his bread. As they walked he dropped the pieces on the ground.

"You must stay here by the fire," said the father. "We will pick you up on the way back." Hansel told Gretel not to be afraid. "I have dropped bread crumbs along the way. When the moon comes out we will follow the path of the crumbs. They will lead us back to the cottage."

Gretel shared her bread with Hansel. Soon it became dark and cold. The moon began to shine. "We must be on our way," said Hansel. They began to look for crumbs.

"Don't be afraid," said Hansel. "We will soon find our way home." They could not find any bread crumbs. The birds had eaten them. They sat down to rest. Soon they fell asleep.

It was now the third morning since they left their father's house. They found themselves going further and further into the forest. It was about noon when they saw a snow-white bird. "It wants us to follow it," said Hansel.

In our story the children do not follow a bird to the cottage.

The bird led the children to a cottage. It was a cottage made out of bread, candy, and cake. The children started to eat some of the cake and candy. Suddenly, an old woman, leaning on a stick appeared in the doorway. "Don't be afraid," she said. "I have plenty of food indoors."

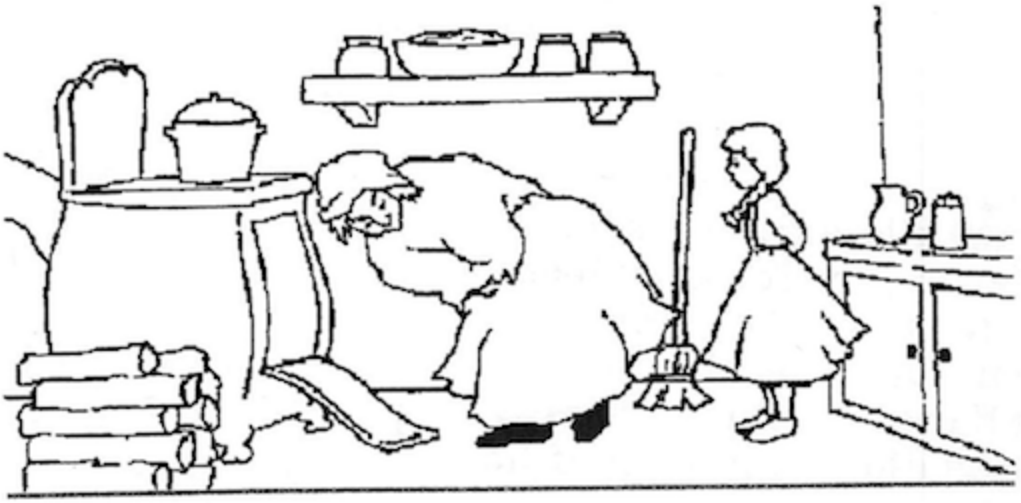
She took the two children inside and fed them well. Later that night the old lady took Hansel and put him in a cage. She didn't want him to run away.

The old lady wanted Gretel to do all the work in the cottage.

Gretel cried at seeing Hansel in the cage. Hansel was fed good food, but poor Gretel was only given crumbs to eat. Each day the old woman told Hansel to put out his finger. She would feel it to see if he was getting fatter.

The old lady had very bad eyes. When she would ask Hansel to put out his finger, he would put out an old chicken bone. The old lady could not understand why Hansel was still thin and bony. It had been three weeks since they found the candy cottage.

Finally, the old lady told Gretel to turn on the oven. "Climb in and tell me if it is hot enough," said the old lady.



Gretel pretended she did not know how to tell if the oven was hot. The old lady pushed her aside and said, "You stupid goose, let me show you." She bent over and looked into the oven.

Gretel gave her a big push from behind. It took all her strength. Then she slammed the door shut. Gretel ran to Hansel and let him out of the cage. "We are safe," she cried, "We are safe."

"Hurry," said Hansel. "We must take what we can." They found a big treasure box. Inside were rubies, pearls, and diamonds. Gretel filled her apron and Hansel stuffed his pockets with the treasure.

"We must find our way home." They started to look for their way home. They came to a large stretch of water. "We cannot cross this," said Hansel. "Look, there is a duck," said Gretel. "He will help us." The duck took each of them across the water.

In our story the children do not steal from the witch's house.

In our story there is no lake and no duck.

Soon Hansel saw a cottage. It was their own cottage. They were so happy they ran as fast as they could to the door. "We're home," cried Hansel.

They ran inside and hugged their father. He was so happy to see them he began to cry.

The stepmother no longer lived in the cottage. She left and never came back.

The children showed their treasures to their father. "We will always be together," said the father. They lived happily ever after.

HAPPY

In our story the children are re-united with their father and their real mother.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

HANSEL AND GRETEL
by James Marshall
Themes: Fairy tales, siblings
Grade Level: K-3
Running Time: 14 minutes

SUMMARY
In this delightful retelling of the classic fairy tale, Hansel and Gretel show intelligence and determination to get out of tricky situations. Colorful illustrations reveal the characters' true personalities and intentions. Children will be delighted by Hansel and Gretel's quick thinking and adventuresome spirits. This movie stays true to the classic tale in simple, yet entertaining language and animation.

OBJECTIVES
- Students will become familiar with the elements of a fairy tale.
- Students will learn about problem solving.
- Students will compare and contrast fairy tales.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Elicit background knowledge about fairy tales.
Guiding questions:
- What is a fairy tale?
- What fairy tales do you know?
- What happens in the fairy tales that you know about?
- What do you like about fairy tales? What don't you like?

Read aloud several well-known fairy tales. Identify the main elements of fairy tales: magic, good and evil characters, trickery, and an ending in which justice is served ("happy ending"). Make a chart with these elements and guide students to fill it in for the fairy tales that you read aloud. Encourage children to look and listen for these elements as they view the movie. Introduce problem solving to the students.

Guiding questions:
- Have you ever been in a sticky situation you had to use your brain to get out of? Describe what happened. How did you solve the problem?

Present students with different scenarios of problems to solve. Give them choices of reasonable and unreasonable solutions. Discuss why some solutions are more reasonable than others. Ask students to suggest other solutions that you did not suggest. Tell students to watch for how Hansel and Gretel solved their problems in the movie.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Use the fairy tale elements chart that you created in the *Before Viewing* activity to identify the elements in *Hansel and Gretel*. Then, use a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the elements from different fairy tales. For example, both *Hansel and Gretel* and *Snow White* have witches in them, but there is no prince in *Hansel and Gretel*. Have students create their own fairy tales using these elements. This could be a whole class exercise in which the students work together to create characters and a plot. Work through the writing process to write at least two drafts. You can transcribe the story for developing writers and the students can illustrate it. Then, you can bind the pages together to make a published piece.

Discuss how Hansel and Gretel solved their problems in the story. Guiding questions:
- What did Hansel do the first time the children were sent into the woods?
- Why didn't Hansel's plan work the second time? What do you think happened to the bread crumbs that he dropped along the way?
- How did the children keep the witch from eating Hansel?
- How did Gretel trick the witch into putting her head into the oven?
- Could Hansel and Gretel have solved their problems in other ways? How?

Analyze the characters in *Hansel and Gretel*.
Guiding questions:
- Who are the good characters? What do they do or say that makes them good?
- Who are the bad characters? What do they do or say that makes them bad?
- Are there any characters that are both bad and good? (If students have no answer, suggest that the father does both bad and good things).
- Do any of the characters change throughout the story? How?

Put on a class play of a fairy tale. You can use *Hansel and Gretel* and expand parts of the movie to either change the story or further develop the characters. For younger children, you can rewrite these parts for them, or older children can help to do this. Alternatively, students can act out one of the fairy tales that you read aloud or the one that was written by the class.

Other fairy tale productions available from Weston Woods are:
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GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS, *by James Marshall*
PRINCESS FURBALL, *retold by Charlotte Huck, ill. by Anita Lobel*
RAPUNZEL, *by Paul O. Zelinsky*
RED RIDING HOOD, *by James Marshall*
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Grimms' Fairy Tales (Selected) | Hansel and Gretel | Summary

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Summary

At the edge of a great forest live a poor woodcutter, his two children, Hansel and Gretel, and his second wife, the children's stepmother. Famine is spreading through the country, and the woodcutter realizes he can't feed the children. His wife suggests that at sunrise the two of them should lead Hansel and Gretel deep into the woods and leave them there. Horrified, the husband refuses, but his wife finally wears him down.

Hansel and Gretel overhear this conversation. Gretel is horrified, but Hansel quickly comes up with a plan. He steals outside and collects a little hoard of white pebbles, which he then hides in his pocket.

At dawn, the woodcutter and his wife follow through on their plan to lure Hansel and Gretel into the woods. Neither parent realizes that Hansel is strewing their path with pebbles as they walk.

The woodcutter and his wife sneak away, leaving the two children to perish—or so they think. As soon as it gets dark, the moon lights up the white pebbles that the children easily follow to their home.

The famine worsens, and the parents decide they must again "lose" the children into the woods. Overhearing this conversation, Hansel tries to sneak out for more white pebbles but finds that his stepmother has locked the door. The next morning, his parents again lure the children deep into the woods, but this time, Hansel can only use bread crumbs to mark the path. Unfortunately, birds eat all the crumbs. The children have no idea where to go.

With nothing to eat but a few berries, Hansel and Gretel wander the forest for three days. Then a white bird flutters to a nearby branch and sings so sweetly that the children follow it when it flies off. The bird leads them to a little house made of bread, with a cake roof and sugar windows.

The ravenous children are breaking off pieces of the house to eat when an old woman opens the front door and kindly invites them in. She feeds them well and tucks them into cozy little beds. Hansel and Gretel don't know she's an evil witch who built the edible house to lure children into her hands. Early the next morning, the witch closes Hansel into a little shed and forces Gretel to become her servant.

Each morning the witch asks Hansel to stick a finger through the bars of the shed, so she can see how he's fattening up. Instead Hansel always pokes a small bone through the bars to make the witch think

he's as skinny as ever. After a month of this, the witch's patience runs out. She has Gretel light the brick oven. Then she tries to trick the girl into crawling inside, planning to slam the oven door on her.

But Gretel claims she doesn't know how to climb into the oven. Irritated, the witch sticks her own head into the oven to demonstrate. Gretel shoves the witch into the oven, slams the iron door, and locks it. That's the end of the witch.

A joyful Gretel frees her brother. They stock their pockets with jewels from the witch's house and make their way home to their joyful father, who tells them that their stepmother has died. With the treasure the children have brought home, the little family's worries are over.

Analysis

The best-known Grimm tales are famous for good reason. They speak to universal traits in human nature. They're soundly constructed and don't wander off into subplot byways. Though the Grimm stories aren't known for vivid characterization, the memorable ones have characters with at least some personality. Even better, these protagonists usually have names, and those names are generally used as the story titles. ("Cinderella" is not called "The Girl Who Lived in the Ashes.") They're filled with little details that help fix the story in the reader's mind.

"Hansel and Gretel" meets these requirements. In addition, its plot centers on two themes that speak especially strongly to children: starvation and abandonment. These themes, which are introduced without buildup, are entwined. If Hansel's and Gretel's parents hadn't been starving, they wouldn't have had to abandon the children in the woods.

The children's father and stepmother are given character-revealing dialogue at the very beginning of the tale. Their father is worried enough to lie awake all night, "tossing and turning in despair." He put his children's needs before his own. "How can we possibly take care of our children when the two of us don't have enough to eat?"

His wife doesn't care what the children need. To her, they're an inconvenience. Calmly she suggests leaving Hansel and Greteldeep in the woods. "They'll never find their way back home, and we'll be rid of them." When the woodcutter protests, his wife thinks of a new argument. "Then all four of us can starve to death," she snaps. This is another way of saying, "We can't help the children until we help ourselves," and the woodcutter falls for it. He may love his children, but he has a weak character and doesn't want to make his wife angry.

The children's personalities are made clear by their first words. Gretel sinks into despair, but Hansel is confident he can come up with a plan to foil the adults. The white pebbles he gathers are one of the story's most satisfying details. They're not just white pebbles; they glitter "like silver coins." In the

middle of all the tension, the writer takes the time to put in a charming description! It makes the children's plight seem like an adventure. It's not surprising that strewing breadcrumbs along the path doesn't work, but the fact that Hansel thought of them gives the reader further insight into his character.

The next three days are condensed into a couple of paragraphs, but they're enough to convey a sharp image of the children's distress. It's not surprising that they follow the white dove to the witch's house; what's surprising is that the three nice animals mentioned in the story—Hansel's kitten, his dove, and the duck—are also white. This sweet-seeming bird is as treacherous as the old woman inside the house made of bread.

Many later versions of "Hansel and Gretel" depict the witch's house as made of decorated gingerbread, which certainly makes for a more interesting illustration. But the idea of a bread house with a cake roof must have seemed fantastic enough to early hearers of this story. Fairy tales were born in an era when most people were malnourished. The standard diet for many was, literally, bread and water with perhaps a vegetable or two. Unlimited quantities of bread, cake, and sugar would have seemed like a dream.

The witch, too, seems to live out a food fantasy. What a vision of domestic happiness she seems to present! Her larder is well stocked, and she has plenty of clean sheets. It comes as a shock that the house and larder are both meant to trap children, her favorite food. She continues to feed Hansel well, but only to fatten him up. If Gretel despaired earlier, she has far more reason to do so once the witch has locked Hansel in her shed. But once again Hansel is using his brain, this time to trick the witch. Gretel seems more passive under the witch's control, but she rises splendidly to the occasion when her life and Hansel's are threatened.

The children are overjoyed to be safe, but it's important to the story that they collect as much treasure as possible before heading home. Their father proved unable to care for them. Their adventure ends with their being able to care for him. Of course treasure wouldn't be much use if there were another famine, but the narrator assures us that the children's worries are over. This story's extra-happy ending is one more reason it has remained so popular.

MULTIPLE CHOICE
Circle the correct answer.

1. The children lived on the edge of a _____ .
   1) river
   2) forest
   3) town

2. The stepmother was mean.
   true false

3. The stepmother wanted to take them into the _____ .
   town river forest

4. Hansel filled his pockets with _____ .
   1) glass
   2) bones
   3) pebbles

5. They traveled deep into the forest.
   true false

6. When the stepmother saw Hansel and Gretel she _____ them.
   hugged scolded kissed

7. "We must take them into the forest," said the _____ .
   1) father
   2) stranger
   3) stepmother

8. The stepmother gave each child a piece of candy.
   true false

MULTIPLE CHOICE
Circle the correct answer.

1. The _____ ate the crumbs.
   dogs birds frogs

2. The children followed a snow-white _____ .
   1) bird
   2) fox
   3) dog

3. The old lady was kind.
   true false

4. The old lady had very bad _____ .
   ears teeth eyes

5. Gretel let Hansel out of the _____ .
   1) box
   2) cage
   3) barn

6. A frog took Hansel and Gretel across the water.
   true false

7. Hansel and Gretel's father began to _____ .
   yell cry scream

8. The children showed their father their _____ .
   1) treasures
   2) stones
   3) pictures

FILL IN THE BLANK
Print the correct word on each line.

1) The woodcutter had _____ children.
ten two six

2) The stepmother spent _____ of their money.
little some all

3) Hansel filled his _____ with pebbles.
pockets shirt coat

4) The _____ Hansel dropped shone brightly in the moonlight.
gold pebbles silver

5) Gretel shared her _____ with Hansel.
soup candy bread

6) The stepmother no longer lived in the _____ .
cottage barn church

TRUE or FALSE
Circle true or false.

1) Hansel and Gretel had a mean stepmother.

true false

2) Hansel filled his pockets with pebbles.

true false

3) Hansel and Gretel were never hungry.

true false

4) Gretel did not share her bread with Hansel.

true false

5) There was a cottage made out of bread, candy and cake.

true false

6) The old lady put Hansel in a cage.

true false

VOCABULARY
Circle the correct answer.

1) A small house.

cottage garage shed

2) A small stone.

rock gem pebble

3) You can put things into this in your clothes.

plastic paper pocket

4) A tiny piece of food.

loaf crumb muffin

5) A thick growth of trees and plants.

forest lake park

6) The place where a person lives.

tree home forest

SPELLING

Print the correct spelling of the word on the line.

1) stepmother
   stepmuther
   stepmoter _____

2) cotage
   cottage
   cottige _____

3) pebbels
   pebbles
   pebles _____

4) woodcutor
   woodcuther
   woodcutter _____

5) crums
   crumbs
   crumms _____

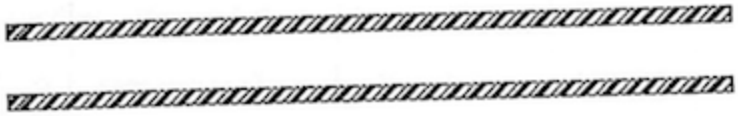
6) firewood
   firwood
   ferewood _____

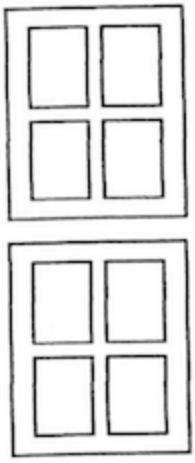
Put the events in the right order

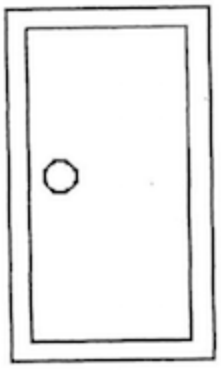
Cut out the rectangles and put the story in the correct order.

The witch locks Hansel up in a little cage with bars	Hansel hears the plan and gathers little white pebbles	An old lady brings Hansel and Gretel into her house and gives them something good to eat	A little duck helps Hansel and Gretel
Gretel pushes the witch into the oven	Hansel and Gretel are being sent into the woods with a little bit of bread	Gretel frees Hansel	Hansel and Gretel see a little house made of bread and cakes
Hansel and Gretel find their way back home by following the pebbles	The mother makes a new plan	Hansel says that he want to see the doves on top of the roof	A poor wood cutter lives by the edge of the woods with his family
Hansel and Gretel can not find their way home	Hansel and Gretel see a bird after 3 days and they follow him	Hansel says that he wants to see the cat on top of the roof	Hansel and Gretel hear a voice: Nibble, nibble, gnaw .....
The witch tells Gretel to fatten up her brother	The witch does not want to wait any longer and tells Gretel to fetch water and light a fire	The witch wants to bake Gretel	Gretel asks the witch to show her how to get into the oven
Hansel and Gretel take pearls and precious stones	The wife wants to save her husband and herself and makes a plan	Hansel and Gretel find their house, run to their father and live happily ever after	Hansel throws little pieces of bread on the ground

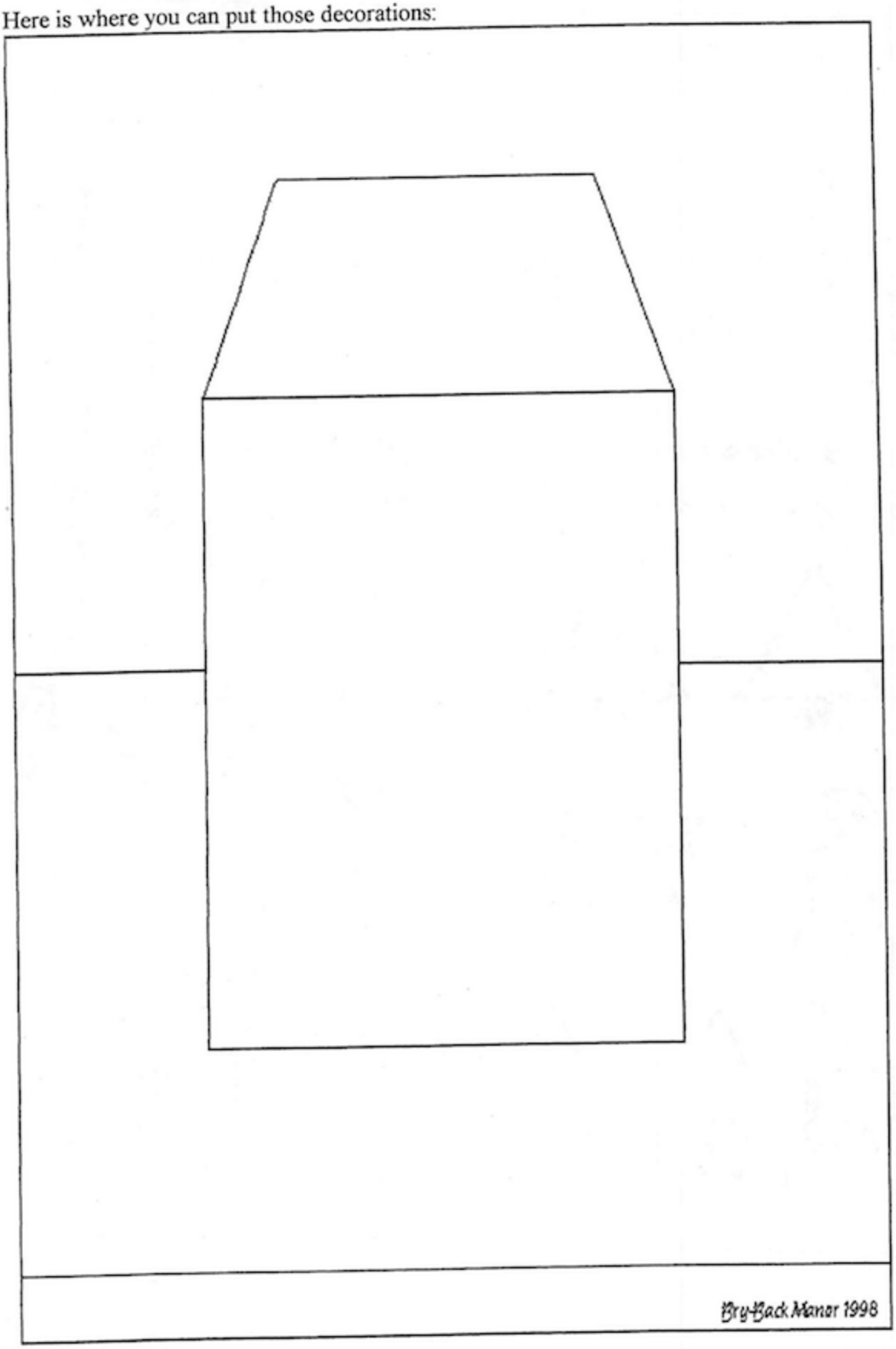
Decorate your gingerbread house with these decorations.







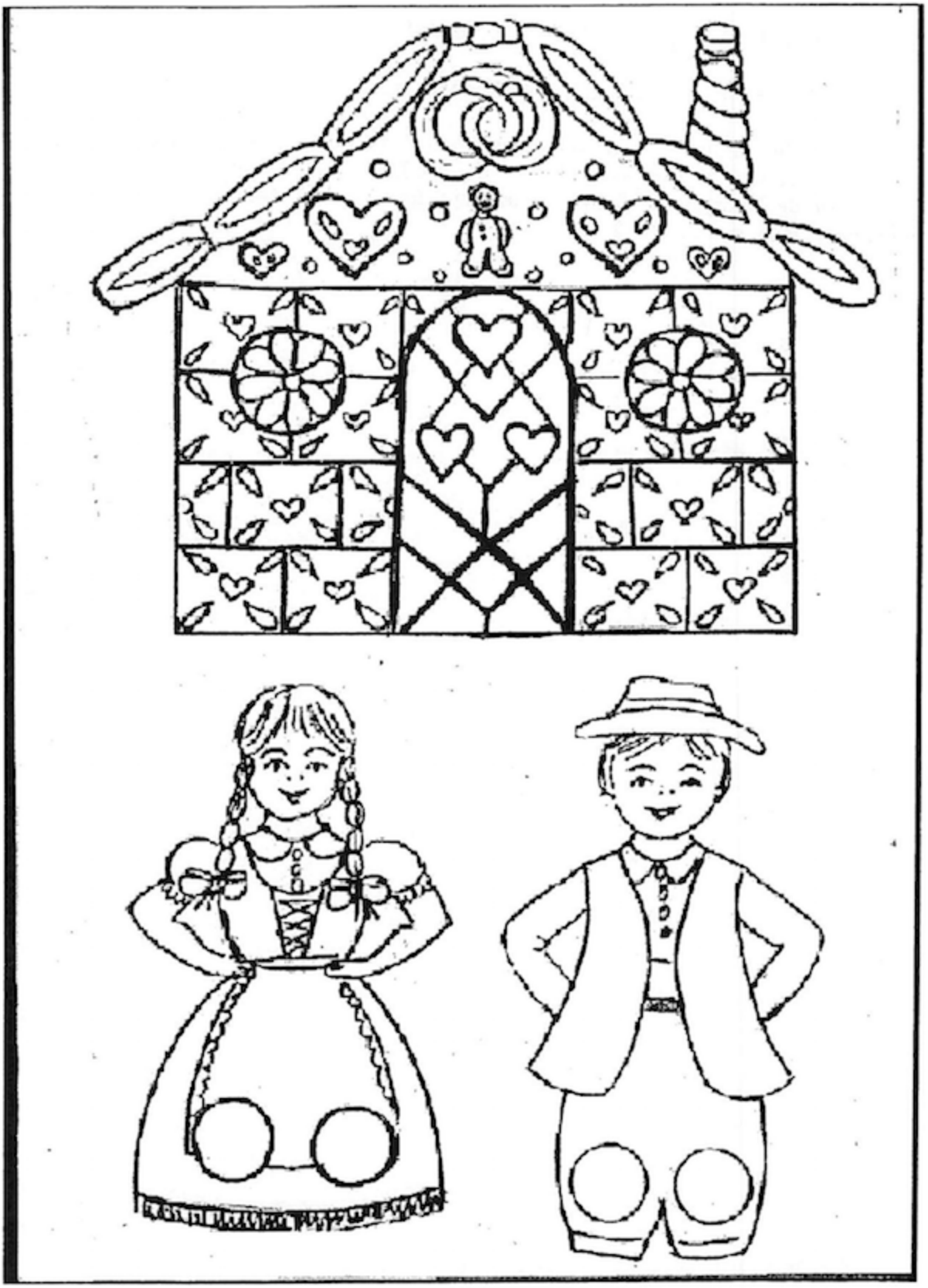
Here is where you can put those decorations:



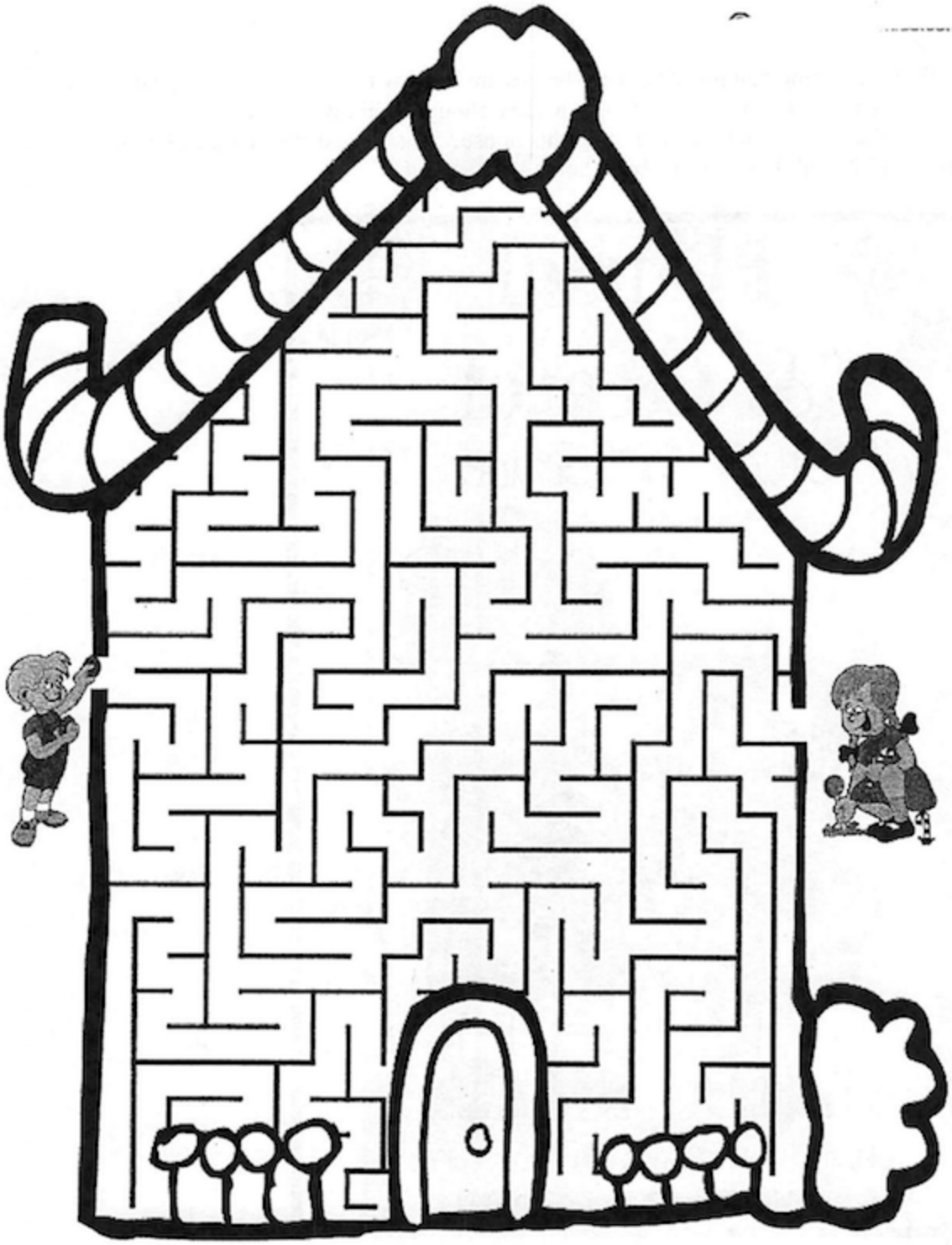
Hänsel und Gretel Finger Puppets and Lebkuchenhaus.

This activity was devised by Resi Schwarzbauer.

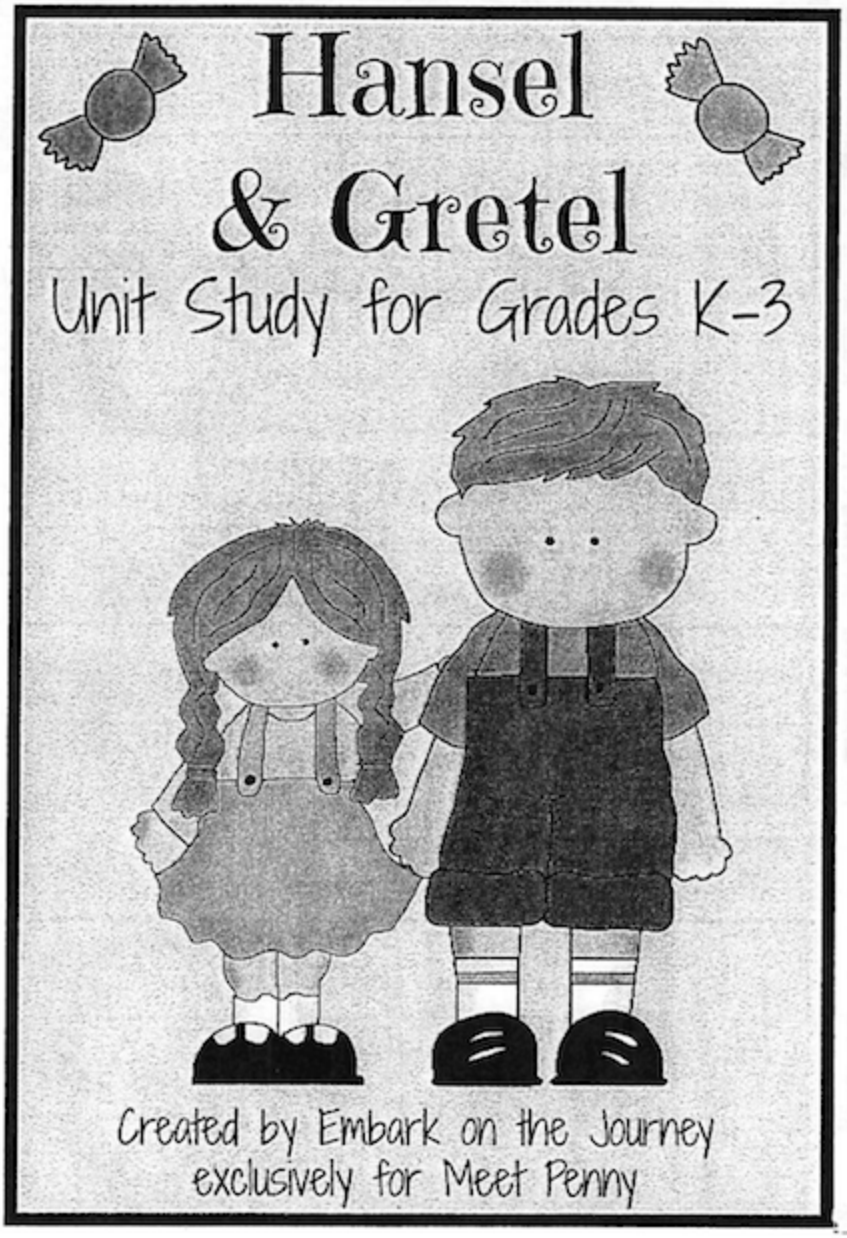
These puppets can be made by the children. The round holes in the trousers and skirt being for the finger. Colour in brightly and cut out. The puppets can be stored in the Lebkuchenhaus after it is coloured in. Glue is applied to the bottom and 2 sides and stuck into student's workbook - thereby creating a pocket for the puppets to be stored.



Guide Hansel through the candy cottage maze to find Gretel.



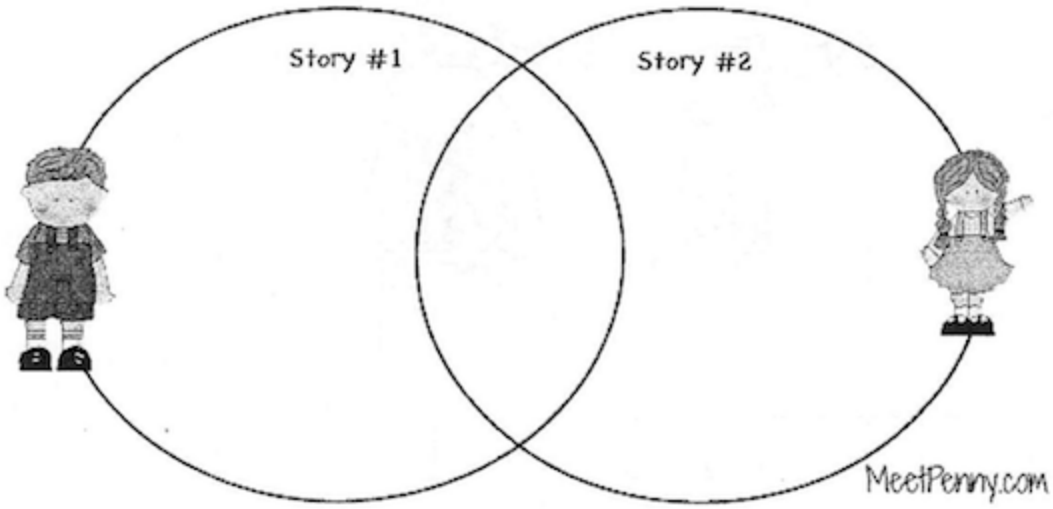
October is the time that grocery store shelves are lined with all kinds of fun candy! What better time to read Hansel and Gretel – a story about two children who discover a candy house in the woods. How did they find this house? What happens when they begin to nibble on it? Will they ever get back home?



Hansel and Gretel is a classic fairy tale. There are so many print versions available to choose from. It should be easy to find one at your local library. There are also numerous

versions available online if you can't get one at your library. Because there are so many versions available, this would be a great time to complete a Venn diagram. Choose two versions of the story to read.

Then, discuss the similarities and differences with your child. Have them fill out the Venn diagram included in the printable pack.



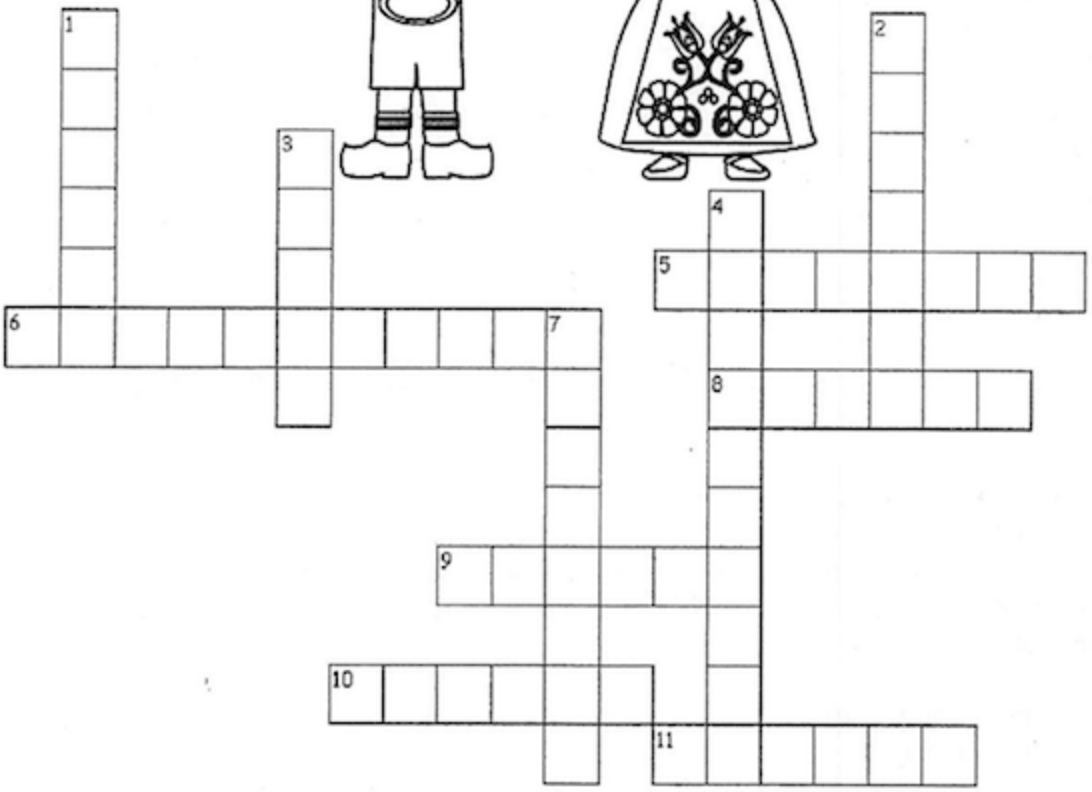
Save

More Language Arts Activities

After reading the story, talk about the characters, the setting, and the plot. Use the flipbook to record information. In this printable pack, you'll also find the following language arts activities:

- common and proper noun sort
- identifying synonyms
- letter writing – Have your child write a letter of apology to the witch for eating her house. Or, have your child write a letter of apology from the witch to the children.
- compound word practice cards

Hansel and Gretel Crossword



Across

5. In front of the candy house there was a _____ garden.
6. Every few feet, Hansel dropped _____ on the ground.
8. The witch unlocked the steel door and ran outside in search of the supposed _____.
9. Hansel, Gretel, and their mother journeyed into the thick-wooded _____.
10. _____ was smart and charming.
11. _____ was cautious but quick-witted.

Down

1. When Hansel and Gretel returned, their _____ welcomed them home.
2. Hansel was locked up in a cage hanging directly overtop of a _____ pot of water.
3. The old woman, who lived in the candy house, was actually a _____!
4. Once upon a time there lived a _____ _____ and his wife.
7. Gretel distracted her mother by saying there was a _____ dancing in the trees.

Hard

Hansel and Gretel Word Ladder

Make your way from PINK to CAKE by changing just one letter on each step to make a new word! There are 6 steps in this word ladder.

P I N K — The colour between red and white.

				An evergreen tree.
				A heap or large amount.
				Light in colour.
				A story.
				To grab something.

C A K E — A sweet bread-like treat.