

## Fairy Tale Reader's Theater: **Hansel and Gretel**

Reader Roles: **Narrator**, **Father**, **Hansel**, **Gretel**, and the **Witch**

### Scene 1 (*at home*)

**Narrator:** Hansel and Gretel lived near a dark forest with their father.

**Father:** Good morning, children. Did you sleep well?

**Hansel:** Yes, I slept very well.

**Gretel:** Me too, Father.

**Father:** Excellent. What are you going to do today?

**Hansel:** We are going to go play in the forest!

**Father:** Okay, well be careful. You may get lost if you go too deeply into the woods. Don't talk to strangers!

**Hansel:** Don't worry, Father.

**Gretel:** We'll be careful!

### Scene 2 (*in the forest*)

**Narrator:** One day, they got lost deep among the trees. They had tried to mark their path through the woods with breadcrumbs, but the birds had eaten their trail.

**Gretel:** Hansel, where are we? It's getting late.

**Hansel:** I don't know, Gretel.

**Gretel:** I'm very hungry, I wish we hadn't used our bread to make a trail.

**Hansel:** Father will come and find us.



**Narrator:** Then, Hansel and Gretel saw a pretty cottage in a clearing.

**Hansel:** Let's go and ask for some food!

**Gretel:** That is a great idea, Hansel.

**Narrator:** As Hansel and Gretel got closer to the house, they realized it was a very special house.

**Hansel:** Look! It's made of sweets.

**Gretel:** And gingerbread!

**Hansel:** Let's try some.

**Gretel:** It's delicious!

**Narrator:** Hansel and Gretel nibbled away like hungry mice. Suddenly, an old woman opened the door.

**Witch:** You are eating my pretty house! Are you hungry?

**Hansel and Gretel:** (*jumping in shock and dropping their food*) We're so sorry.

**Hansel:** We didn't mean to eat your house...

**Gretel:** ...but we were so hungry.

**Witch:** (*smiling sweetly*) Come inside, dear children! You poor things, let me give you some proper food!

**Narrator:** Hansel and Gretel stepped inside the house. Then the old woman locked the door!

**Witch:** How dare you eat my cottage! I will fatten you up and eat you, boy! And you, lazy girl, can get to work doing chores for me!

**Hansel and Gretel:** *(scared and starting to cry)* No, we didn't mean to. We're sorry.

**Narrator:** The witch locked Hansel in a cage. She was a very wicked witch!

**Witch:** Little girl, get me some gingerbread and sweets for your brother to eat. He will get nice and round if I feed him sweets every day, and then he will be very tasty.

**Gretel:** No, I won't.

**Witch:** Then, I will eat you both now!

**Hansel:** Please Gretel, do as she says.

**Narrator:** Each day, the witch fed Hansel lots of sweets and gingerbread. And each day, she felt Hansel's finger to see if he was fat enough to eat. Hansel knew the witch couldn't see well so each time instead of poking his finger out of the cage for the witch to feel, he stuck out a skinny stick he had found.

**Witch:** Show me your finger, boy!

**Hansel:** *(holding out the stick)* Here it is.

**Witch:** *(feeling the stick, and grumbling)* Still too thin!

**Narrator:** Soon the witch grew tired of waiting.

**Witch:** I can't wait any longer! I shall eat you both!

**Hansel and Gretel:** Oh no!

**Witch:** Little girl, add wood to the fire in the oven so that it is nice and hot!

**Narrator:** Gretel had an idea to trick the witch!

**Gretel:** *(craftily)* I don't know how to! Show me how, and then I'll do it.

**Witch:** Silly girl! Like this!

**Narrator:** As the witch bent towards the oven with the wood, clever Gretel pushed her inside the oven and slammed the door.

**Witch:** *(screaming)* It's too hot! Let me out, little girl. LET ME OUT!!

**Hansel:** You are so clever and brave, Gretel! Thank you for saving us! I'm so happy to be outside of that cage!

**Narrator:** Hansel and Gretel soon found their way out of the dark forest, and back to their home, where their father was anxiously looking for them.

**Hansel and Gretel:** *(shouting with joy and running towards the house)* Father! Father! We are home.

**Father:** Hansel! Gretel! Where have you been? I have been so worried about you!

**Hansel:** We got lost in the woods and the wicked witch tried to eat us.

**Father:** Oh my! I missed you so very much! No more going into the woods by yourselves!

**Narrator:** And they all lived happily ever after!

**THE END**