



Parent/Teacher Study Guide

Hansel and Gretel



A Musical for Children Based
on the Grimm Brothers' tale

Book By
Patricia Goldberg

Music & Lyrics by
Kevin Arruda

Storybook Musical Theatre

P.O. Box 473, Abington, PA 19001, (215)-659-8550



Storybook Musical Theatre is a non-profit, professional children's theatre company operating under a Theatre for Young Audiences Contract with Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.



This project was supported by the PA. Council on the Arts, a state agency, through its regional partnership, PA Partners in the Arts (PPA). State government funding comes through an annual appropriation by the PA General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. PPA is administered in this region by the Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

HANSEL & GRETEL Play Synopsis

Act I

As the play begins, Hansel and Gretel are helping their mother with chores while they wait for their father to return from the market. Although they are a poor family, with little to eat, they are happy. The children begin to dream about having plenty of food to eat, but get carried away and accidentally tip over a pitcher of milk. After their mother scolds them for their deed, Hansel and Gretel decide to go into the forest to gather some berries and maybe even trap a rabbit or a squirrel for dinner. They take along some bread in case they get hungry. After they leave, Father arrives from the market with wonderful news. He has sold all his brooms and has orders for many more. They now will have more than enough to eat. Father wants to tell the children of his good fortune, but Mother tells him they decided to go into the forest to find dinner after spilling the milk. Father and Mother are concerned about a witch that is supposed to live in the forest. Rumor has it that she eats children. They quickly leave to find the children. Meanwhile, in the forest, Hansel has eaten all the berries Gretel has picked and she wants to return home. Hansel tells her he has left a trail of bread crumbs to follow back home. But, Gretel tells him that birds have eaten the crumbs as they were walking. They begin to look for a way to get home. In another part of the forest, Mother and Father are frantically looking for their children. In the meantime, Hansel and Gretel finally admit they are lost. Soon a Sandman appears and tells them they should stay where they are because it is starting to get dark. The Sandman and the Guardian Angel will keep them safe while they sleep. With a sprinkle of magic sand, Hansel and Gretel fall fast asleep. The next morning, they begin to look for their way home. As they start out a fox blocks their path. Foxy Freda convinces them that she knows the way out of the forest and lead them on their way. Act One ends.

Act II

As the Act begins, Hansel and Gretel realize they are in a different part of the forest when they come upon a gingerbread candy house. The Fox urges them to eat parts of the house. Rosinna, the witch, hears the commotion and comes to see who is eating her house. Rosinna offers them more goodies to eat. Finally, Hansel and Gretel cannot eat any more. They both fall asleep. Rosinna tells the Fox of her plan to turn the children into gingerbread cookies. She reminds Foxy of her powers and tells her to put Hansel into a cage. Rosinna and Foxy then go off to get some firewood for the oven. Gretel awakens to find Hansel in the cage, but cannot free him. They hear voices and pretend to be asleep. Foxy goes to awaken Hansel and give him more to eat. Gretel sneaks up behind her and pushes her against the cage where Hansel grabs her. Foxy explains about being under Rosinna's spell. She must bring her all lost boys and girls in the forest or be turned into a gingerbread cookie herself. They make a plan for Hansel to pretend to eat lots of food, but when Rosinna wants to see if he is getting fatter, Hansel will hold out a chicken bone for her to feel. With her bad eyesight, she won't know the difference. While the witch tries to fatten Hansel, Gretel has to help with the oven. Gretel and Foxy realize the only way to escape the witch is to push her into the oven. Gretel pretends that she doesn't know anything about cooking or ovens. When Rosinna opens the oven door and sticks her head inside, they push her in and slam the door shut. Foxy is transformed back into a girl. Soon Mother and Father find the children. Freda finds the key and unlocks the cage to release Hansel and everyone finally returns home safely. The End.

FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND COUNSELORS

The following common core aligned* activity ideas and questions may be beneficial to share with your student(s) before and after the play.

BEFORE THE PLAY:

1. Read the original story by the Grimm Brothers. Talk with your child(ren) about the different characters and their feelings. Discuss how they might be different in the play and how they might look when they come to life on stage. Share the Play Synopsis with them. How is it different from the story you read? How is it the same? (RL 2.2, 2.3)

2. Hansel and Gretel don't have very many belongings or food, but are still happy. What would you do if you knew someone who didn't have many things? Would you give them some of your own? Would you help collect food and clothes for them? Perhaps the class could start a project to collect food and clothing to give to a homeless shelter. (SL 2.1, 2.2)
3. Hansel and Gretel get lost in the forest. What would you do if you got lost? Do you know your address and phone number? Who would you ask for help? A stranger? A police officer? A store clerk? What would you do if a stranger came up to you and told you to come with them? Would you run away? Scream? (SL 2.3)
4. Talk to your children about attending a live performance and how it is different from watching TV at home. Try to help them understand what it means when there are a lot of people who also want to see and enjoy the show. They can meet the actors after the show. (SL 2.1)
5. Present the elements of a fairy tale to the students(s) – kind character(s), evil character(s), magic, life-changing event, a happily ever after, a lesson. Cite specific examples from *Hansel and Gretel* text(s) you've read. (RL 2.1, RL 2.2, RL 2.7)

AFTER THE PLAY:

1. Complete a story map listing the characters, setting, and events from the beginning, middle, and end of the play. (RL 2.1, 2.5)
2. Have your student(s) write a descriptive sentence about their favorite characters. Have them draw a picture of or write a letter to their character. **Send the drawings and letters to us!** (W 2.3, 2.7)
3. This version of Hansel and Gretel is partially based on the opera by Engelbert Humperdink. After reading the Grimm Brothers' story, play a part of the score from the opera and compare the two. (SL 2.2)?
4. Hansel and Gretel is set in Germany. Discuss with your child(ren) things related to Germany. Show them a map of Germany. Point out Bavaria. The castles and estates of this area are magical. (RL 2.2)

Foxy's Hidden Words

How many words of 3 or more letters
can you find in the word



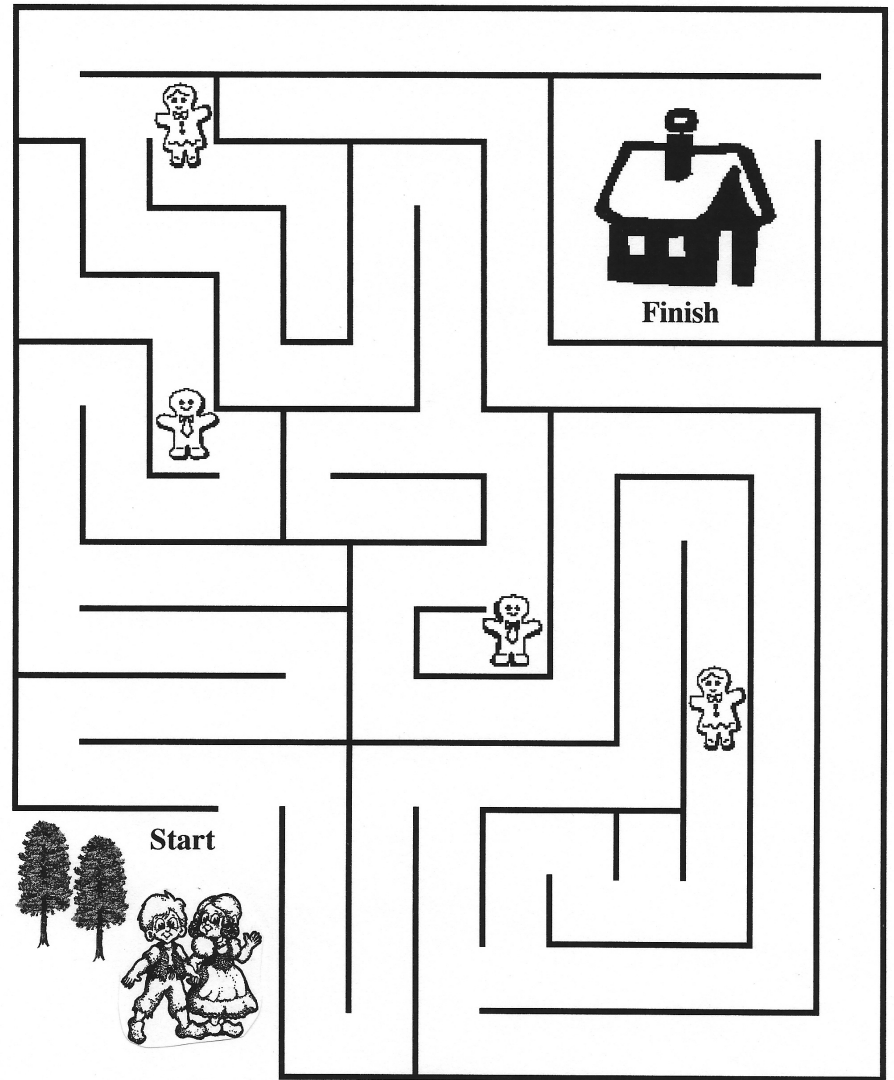
Gingerbread



Ex. red

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Hansel and Gretel Maze



**Draw a path to help Hansel and Gretel get home.
Don't get caught by the Witch's gingerbread cookies**

Hansel & Gretel Word Search

G F O R E S T B K T J
 K I M I C X O E S S J
 M H N R H V V R A Z C
 F O X G W Z E R N B A
 Z X X U E S N I D R N
 U C P K Z R X E M O D
 G R E T E L B S A O Y
 H A N S E L V R N M F
 T N Z M C A G E E S O
 S I A N G E L X H A O
 I H O U S E C P M X D

Find the hidden words:

ANGEL

BERRIES

BROOMS

CAGE

CANDY

FOOD

FOREST

FOX

GINGERBREAD

GRETEL

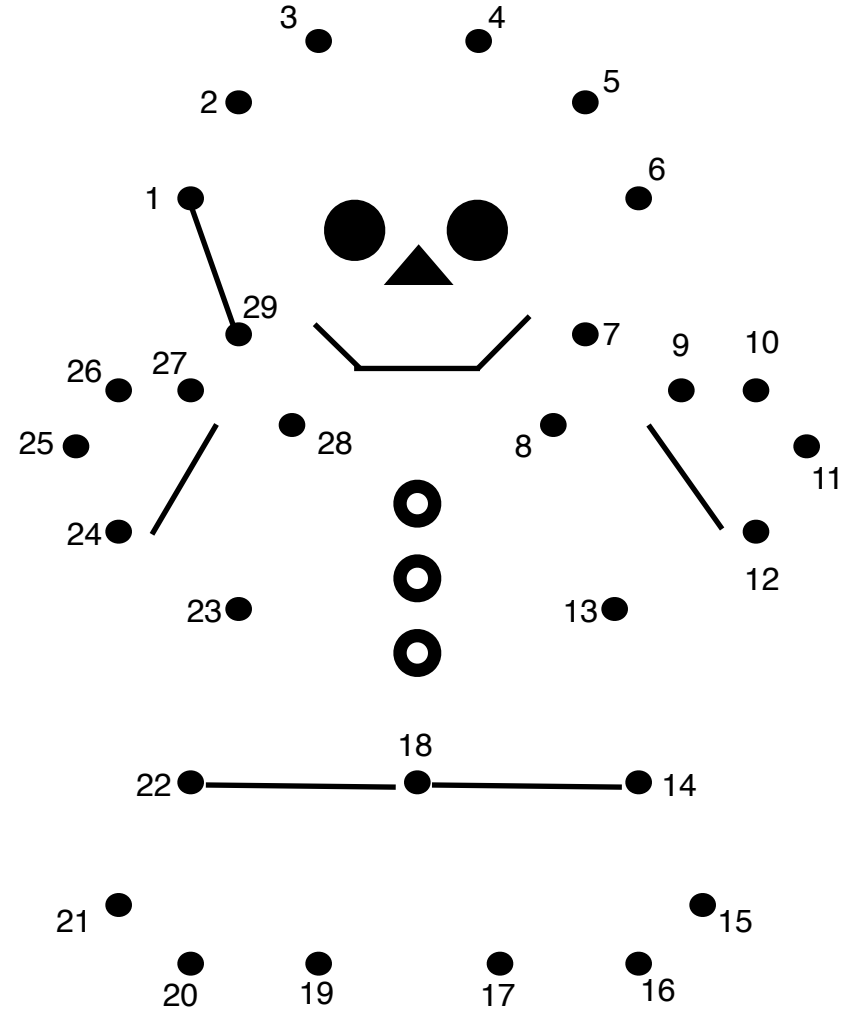
HANSEL

HOUSE

OVEN

SANDMAN

Rosinna's Dot to Dot



Connect the dots to find out what is Rosinna Rubylips' favorite food.