

HANSEL & GRETEL and FRIENDS



Mike Noland

Inspired by the Brothers Grimm fairytale

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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HANSEL and GRETEL and FRIENDS

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HANSEL and GRETEL and FRIENDS was first performed at North Little Rock High School East, North Little Rock, AR, November 2014: Brianna Allman and Mackenzie Carter, student directors.

HANSEL: Payton Justice

GRETEL: Laken Prowse

SARAH: Anna Pogue

WILLIAM: Joshua Bumpas

JOAN: Tatum Stanley

BEAU: Chase Woodruff

SALLY: Olivia Mack

VLAD: Davis Wing

RICHARD: Christian Clements

MR. POOPER: Timothy Carr

MABRY: Sydney Scott

ISABELA: Sadie Griffith

GUSTAF: Dashun Worthen

WALTER: Will Watson

JACK: Abby Woodward

OLD WOMAN: Teyanna Williams

ALICE: Annie Freer

PARTY GUESTS: Sarah Grace Watson, Makayla Ervin, Mary Van Dusen, Christian Honorable, Sara Beth Seabaugh, Akira Hardin, Alysse Robinson, Raquel Rockins

FRIENDS: Caitlin French, Bratoria Lowery, Caitlin Disterdick, Indea Kirby, Mckenna Nance, Allison Stuff, Kya Ross

HANSEL AND GRETEL AND FRIENDS

FARCE. Hansel and Gretel have noticed that their new stepmother has been as cranky as a bear, gives them creepy looks, and keeps asking them, “How would you like to go on a long trip?” Well, the “long trip” for Hansel and Gretel turns out to be a family picnic deep in the woods—minus the parents—where they meet an old woman who lives in a candy house and has an appetite for children. Luckily, Hansel and Gretel have some friends searching for them including a vampire with large fangs, a kid named Jack who says he has a magical beanstalk, a boy who cries wolf, young William Shakespeare, and even Joan of Arc!

Performance Time: Approximately 45-60 minutes.

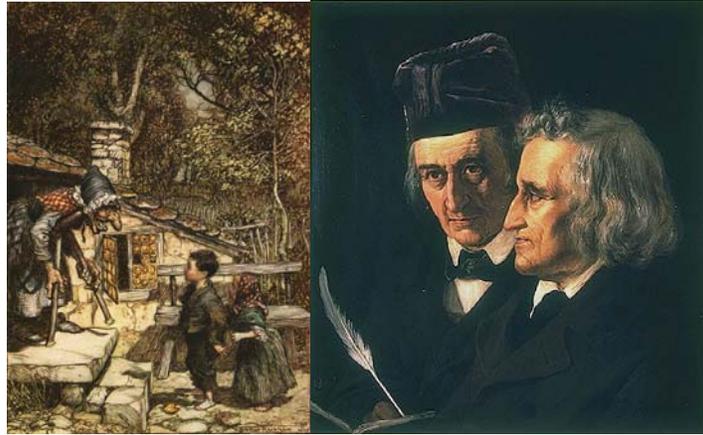


Illustration by Arthur Rackham, 1909. Portrait by Elisabeth Jerichau-Baumann, 1855, Wilhelm Grimm (left) and Jacob Grimm.

ABOUT THE STORY

“Hansel and Gretel” is a German fairytale that was recorded by the Brothers Grimm in their 1812 collection of folklore, *Children’s and Household Tales*. In the Grimm’s version, the woodcutter’s wife is Hansel and Gretel’s biological mother. In later editions, the mother becomes a stepmother. The story is thought to be a cautionary tale for children that originated during the period of the Great Famine (1315-1321) in which desperate parents abandoned their children to fend for themselves.

Characters

(7 M, 7 F, 3 flexible)

HANSEL: Boy who loves food a little too much; male.

GRETTEL: Hansel's sensible sister; female.

MR. POOPER: Hansel and Gretel's father; male.

ISABELA: Hansel and Gretel's evil stepmother; female.

OLD WOMAN: Isabella's older sister, a blind old woman who lives in a candy house; female.

WILLIAM: Shakespeare as a kid; male.

JOAN: Joan of Arc as a kid; speaks with a French accent; female.

BEAU: Kid who always says he sees a wolf; his nickname is "The Beau Who Cried Wolf"; male.

VLAD/VAMPIRA: Vampire kid who has extremely large fangs; pale with black hair and wears a cape; flexible.

JACK: Boy from "Jack and the Beanstalk"; male.

SALLY: Hansel and Gretel's friend; female.

SARAH: Hansel and Gretel's friend; female.

RICHARD: Hansel and Gretel's friend; male.

MABRY: Hansel and Gretel's friend; flexible

GUSTAF/GUSTAFA: Hansel and Gretel's friend who hates mimes; flexible.

ALICE: Hansel and Gretel's friend; female.

WALTER: Wedding party guest who has had four wives; male.

EXTRAS (Opt.): As Party Guests and Friends.

Note: For flexible roles, change the script accordingly. Kids can be played by adults dressed as kids.

Setting

A forest, 1500s.

Set

The sets can be as minimal or as elaborate as your budget allows.

Woods. The backdrop of a forest may be used.

Poopers' cottage. There is a table and chairs.

Candy cottage. The walls are made of gingerbread and candy.
There is a cage large enough for Hansel to fit inside.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1: Woods.

Scene 2: Woods, decorated for a wedding.

Scene 3: Woods, months later.

Scene 4: Inside the Poopers' cottage, dinnertime.

Scene 5: In front of curtain.

Scene 6: Inside the Pooper's cottage.

Scene 7: In front of curtain, and woods at night.

Scene 8: Woods, two weeks later.

Scene 9: Inside the candy cottage.

Scene 10: Inside the candy cottage, two weeks later.

Scene 11: Woods.

PROPS

Basic handmade wedding decorations	Bread
Really ugly dress, for Gretel	House made of candy that can roll onstage
Flowers, for Gretel's hair	Cage large enough for Hansel to fit inside
Plate of sweets	Firewood
Plate of food	Cane
Bags/baskets, for kids	Chicken bone
Hat with "Raolf" in large letters inside it	Necklace with key on it
Assorted food items	Sword
Small pastry	Vase
2 Picnic baskets	Gold coins

SPECIAL EFFECTS

Loud screech	Knock at the door
Music for chicken dance	Scream
Wolf howl	Sound of the forest at night
Sound of something moving through the woods	Lightning
	Thunder

**"YOU WANT TO REASON
WITH A WOMAN
WHO EATS CHILDREN?"**

—HANSEL

SCENE 1

(AT RISE: A forest, 1500s. A group of kids are playing ring around the rosie.)

KIDS: (*Chanting.*) "Ring around the rosie, pocket full of posies,
ashes, ashes, we all fall down!"

(*They all fall down except Joan, a French girl.*)

JOAN: (*Speaks with a French accent.*) I don't like zees game. It makes me sad.

SALLY: Don't be such a namby-pamby, or we'll feed you to the ogres.

JOAN: Don't you zink it's mean to play a game about people getting zee plague?

RICHARD: It's not about that at all. That's just a legend, right? It's just a legend, right, guys?

(*Other Kids look around uncomfortably.*)

JOAN: See, I told you. It's mean, right?

(*Other Kids bust out laughing.*)

MABRY: We're just messing with you. It's not about people getting sick. It's a harmless kids' game where we run around and around in a circle until we all throw up. It's just fun.

GUSTAF: Lighten up. It's the 1500s. Nothing bad's gonna happen. What's the worst thing that could happen?

BEAU: You could be bitten by a vampire and spend the rest of eternity searching for blood.

MABRY: (*To Gustaf.*) Or sail on the ocean until you drop off the edge of the earth.

JACK: *(To Gustaf.)* Or you could have a giant chase you down a beanstalk.

(Others groan and roll their eyes.)

SALLY: Jack, will you give that old thing a rest? Nobody is buying that story.

JACK: But it really happened, I swear.

JOAN: Then where's the golden harp or the golden eggs you say your goose laid?

JACK: I sold that stuff to get some more magic beans. That guy was so stupid.

(Hansel and Gretel enter.)

HANSEL: *(To Kids, acting cool.)* What up, my peasants?

GRETEL: Oh, stop it. You know I can't stand it when you try to be cool.

HANSEL: Chill out, Sis, just keepin' it frosty!

GRETEL: Ugh. *(To others.)* What are you all doing?

RICHARD: We were just trying to play Ring around the Rosie, which is never easy with this bunch. I didn't think we would see you two...with the big wedding coming up.

(Loud screech is heard. Everyone freezes.)

HANSEL: Either there's a dragon nearby or my soon-to-be stepmother is hungry again.

RICHARD: Can't be a dragon this time of year. They migrate south for the winter.

MABRY: Dragons don't migrate. How do you come up with this stuff?

RICHARD: 'Cause I'm a man, and men are smarter than women. At least that's what my dad says.

SALLY: Hasn't your dad been married, like, seven times?

RICHARD: Yeah, so I think he knows a little more about women than you do. So there. *(Kids snicker. To Hansel and Gretel.)* Speaking of women...who is this lady your pops is marrying?

GRETEL: We don't really know her that well. She's not from around here. Daddy met her at a swap meet.

MABRY: What's a swap meet?

HANSEL: It's where people get together and swap different meats. *(In a fake voice.)* Like, "I'll take that mutton, and you can have this squirrel meat." I think that's what it is.

JOAN: Pardon me, but did you all forget about zat scream a second ago? Ve could be eaten at anytime now. I vill stay here and you all run away. Save yourselves.

BEAU: There you go again. You are always such a goody-goody. Joan of Arc, you are such a martyr.

JOAN: Well, excuse me for trying to keep you all from dying or disappearing.

HANSEL: Disappearing? Who said anything about disappearing?

JOAN: I don't mean like a magic trick disappear...more like "Has anybody seen Raolf lately?"

(They all look puzzled.)

MABRY: *(Realizes.)* Oh, yeah. That kid with one ear, walks with a limp and talks in a really high voice? I haven't seen him since he said he went looking for wood fairies about a week ago.

RICHARD: That doesn't mean he disappeared. Maybe he just found a group of kids who were more fun to play with than us. *(All stare for a second and then laugh.)* I'm kidding, I'm kidding.

JOAN: Laugh it up, midgets. We could all be next. The woods are dark and scary.

RICHARD: So's your mom. *(All laugh. Louder screech is heard.)* Okay, that was close. Guess we oughta skedaddle.

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HANSEL: *(To others.)* See you at Pop's wedding...if we live that long.

(All run off. Blackout.)

SCENE 2

(AT RISE: *The woods, decorated for a wedding. There are some basic homemade wedding decorations. Many people are milling about. A tired-looking Mr. Pooper is talking Walter.*)

WALTER: So, Mr. Pooper –

MR. POOPER: (*Correcting.*) It's pronounced, POO-pay. It's French.

WALTER: Excuse me, of course, it is. So sorry. Which marriage is this for you?

MR. POOPER: This would be number two.

WALTER: Oh, really, a man of your age? I would have thought you were on three or four by now.

MR. POOPER: Well, my first wife was young and stayed very healthy for quite some time.

WALTER: Oh, well, tough luck. At least you have a new one now.

MR. POOPER: How many wives have you had?

WALTER: Four. My first wife was attacked by a wolf while taking sweets to her grandmother. My second wife was stepped on by a giant.

MR. POOPER: Yuck.

WALTER: I know...that was not a pretty funeral. My next wife –

MR. POOPER: Gosh, I would love to listen to these stories all day, but I really should mingle.

WALTER: No problem. Later, I can tell you about my fourth wife being turned into stone –

(*Kids run on. Mr. Pooper exits.*)

SARAH: I don't wanna play pin the tail on the donkey.

RICHARD: But it's fun.

SARAH: Not if the donkey keeps kicking you, it's not.

JOAN: You will be fine. You are going to lose those teeth anyway...eventually.

(Gretel enters, wearing a really ugly dress and flowers in her hair.)

GRETEL: Does this outfit make me look stupid? *(They all try not to laugh and shake their heads no.)* You are terrible liars.

(Isabella, the evil stepmother, enters.)

ISABELA: Well, don't you look lovely. I think that dress I designed suits you perfectly.

GRETEL: But don't you think I look pretty stupid?

ISABELA: Stupid, yes. Pretty, not so much. Ha-ha, I'm just kidding. But we can't have you upstaging the bride, now can we? Are these some of your little friends? *(To others.)* Aren't you a handsome-looking group? Would you all be so kind as to do me a favor? I had a friend make all kinds of wonderful sweets, and I want to make sure they taste all right. If I give you all plates of cookies, cake, and pie, would you eat it and tell me if you like it?

KIDS: Yes!

ISABELA: Wonderful, I will send it to you right away. Thanks so much for coming. We all really appreciate it, don't we, Gretel?

(Isabella kisses Gretel on the cheek and exits.)

ALICE: *(To Gretel.)* I think your new stepmother is so beautiful.

(William follows after Isabella and stops.)

WILLIAM: *(To Isabella.)* Goodnight, goodnight! Parting is such sweet sorrow, that I shall say goodnight till...until...next time I see ya. *(Exits after Isabella.)*

SALLY: Hope you are not planning on being a poet, Willy Shakespeare. Ha-ha.

GRETEL: Don't you see what's happening here?

MABRY: Yes, we are all about to gorge ourselves on delicious and delectable goodies your new mommy's friend made.

GRETEL: She's not my new mommy.

(Hansel enters with a plate of sweets.)

HANSEL: Mom, Mother, Mee-Mee, whatever you call her. She's Hansel's best friend as long as she keeps the sugar coming.

GRETEL: That sweet tooth is going to get you into trouble one day.

HANSEL: Hansel will never get fat, if that's what you're worried about.

RICHARD: He's right. Hansel doesn't just eat cookies, cakes, and pies. He also likes candy canes, gumdrops and lollipops.

HANSEL: *(To Gretel.)* Yeah, so take that, Miss Worrywart. Your brother eats from the four major food groups: chocolate, vanilla, frosting, and filling.

GRETEL: You halfwit! Those aren't food groups!

HANSEL: Are they food?

GRETEL: Well, yeah.

HANSEL: Are they in groups?

GRETEL: Sorta.

HANSEL: Gentleman and ladies of the jury, I rest my case.

WILLIAM: *(To Alice.)* What is he talking about?

ALICE: I never know half the time.

HANSEL: Gather round, everyone. We have something very important we have to do before the wedding.

MABRY: Present our gifts?

SARAH: *(To Hansel.)* Take a bath?

WILLIAM: *(To Hansel.)* Handstands? I've been practicing.

HANSEL: No, we have to perfect our dance for the wedding reception. As you all know, the group dance is an important

ritual that celebrates the union of two loving souls and honors their commitment to a long and happy life. We have to do this right to ensure their happiness. So, let's be serious. Now, line up. Imagine you hear the music. *(Kids shut their eyes. Music is heard.)* Everyone, ready?

(Kids line up and start to do the chicken dance.)

SARAH: That's not how you do the dance. It's like this. *(Does a different version of the chicken dance.)*

MABRY: Oh, just stop. You're making a fool of yourself. This is the way it's done. *(Does an even wilder version of the chicken dance.)*

JACK: Ha-ha-ha-ha! Please, you're killing me. Step aside, let a master work.

(Jack dances his version of the chicken dance. Then everyone starts doing their own versions of the dance. They look like a bunch of crazy chickens. Walter enters, eating from a plate of food. Walter sees the Kids dancing and spits out his food.)

[END OF FREEVIEW]