

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 and candy house. The Fox encourages 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 like cookies, gumdrops and jellybeans. 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 the 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 every time 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 that 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 the 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.