

Hansel and Gretel – Lesson Guide

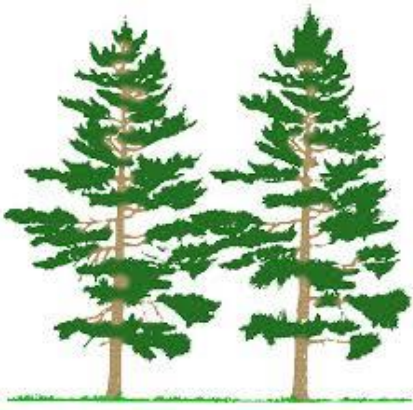


Book List:

1. *Grimm's Fairy Tales* by, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (many versions available, perhaps try an audio version)
2. *Hansel and Gretel* by, Holly Hobbler
3. *It's Not Hansel and Gretel* by, Josh Funk
4. *Hansel and Gretel the graphic novel* by Donald Lemke and Sean Dietrich
5. *The Cookie House* by Margaret Hillert
6. *Hansel, Gretel, and the Pudding Plot* by Isabel Thomas
7. *Hank & Gertie; A Pioneer Hansel and Gretel Story* by Eric A. Kimmel

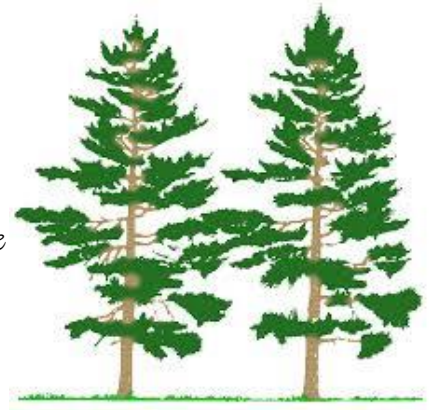
Activities:

1. Shadow Puppet Theater – use the printout below to act out the story as you tell it.
2. Color pages (below)
3. Make a gingerbread house
4. Paint stones (lots of ideas on Pinterst, perhaps paint them to look like candy and other sweet treats.)
5. Take a nature walk
6. Feed bread crumbs to birds
7. Watch one of these Hansel and Gretel shows:
 - Super Why
 - Fairy Tale Theater
 - Amazon Prime Video
 - Looney Tunes



Hansel and Gretel

A retelling of the original Grimm's Fairy Tale
By, Kendra Bott



Once upon a time, deep in the forest lived a woodcutter and his two children, Hansel and Gretel. Their mother had died long ago, so the woodcutter married again, but his new wife had no love for his children.

Famine spread throughout the land and the poor woodcutter's family slowly ran out of food. "We will all die at this rate!" the wife said. "If we get rid of the children, we may have enough food for you and I to survive the season."

"Get rid of the children?" The woodcutter was astonished. "I can't do that. I love them."

"Then we will all die," his wife said.

With a heavy heart, the woodcutter agreed that they would take the children to the woods in the morning and leave them there.

Hansel and Gretel were wide awake in the bedroom, listening to their step-mother beg their father to get rid of them.

"What will we do, Hansel?" Gretel asked her brother.

"Don't worry," he told her. "I have a plan."

He sneaked out of the house and gathered some white stones from the garden and stuffed them in his pockets.

The next morning, the woodcutter and his wife took the children deep into the woods. They did not see Hansel drop white stones in their path.

"Stay here," their step-mother told them once they got far away from the cottage. "We are going off to cut wood. We will get you before dark."

Hansel and Gretel waited and waited, but their parents never came back. Once the moon rose, it glistened off the white stones Hansel had dropped and the children followed them back home.

"Father! Father!" they cried as they entered the cottage. Their father was overjoyed to see them, but their step-mother scowled at them.

The next morning, the four of them got ready to leave the cottage once again. But this time, the step-mother emptied the children's pockets, making sure they had no stones to drop in their path and follow back home.

"Here is bread for when you get hungry," their father said, giving each child a small slice of bread.

They all walked deeper into the woods than they had before and it was midday before they stopped.

"Wait for us," their father told them. With a tear in his eye, he turned and followed his wife through the trees.

"Hansel, what are we going to do now?" Gretel cried.

"Don't worry, sister. I crumbled up my piece of bread and dropped the crumbs in our path. We will find our way home again."

The children waited, but their parents did not come at nightfall. When they got up to follow the bread crumbs home, Hansel gasped.

"The bread crumbs are gone!"

Birds had come and eaten the trail of bread crumbs. The children cried, but determined to still get home, they walked through the forest all night.

Lost and hungry, the children walked and walked and walked. In the morning, seeing a house on the horizon, they started running, thinking they had made it home. When they got closer, however, they saw it was not their cottage, but one made of gingerbread and candy with sugar paned windows.

Hansel and Gretel looked at each other and their tummies rumbled. They started picking off pieces of the house and eating.

"Who is eating my house?" a voice bellowed from the front door.



The children yelled and backed away. An old woman was standing in the door way, glaring at them.

“We’re sorry, ma’am,” Hansel said.

“We were so hungry!” Gretel said.

“Of course you are.” The old woman smiled and invited them inside for tea. The children went in.

Immediately the old woman slammed the door and grabbed Hansel’s arm. She dragged him to the corner of the room where a huge bird cage stood. The old woman tossed Hansel inside the cage and shut and locked the door. Gretel cried by the door.

“You!” the old woman said to her, “go boil some water for dinner.”

Gretel was frightened, but after the old woman threatened to lock her up too, Gretel started to fill a big cauldron with water.

The old woman gave Hansel stew and candy and milk and fruit. She gave Gretel crusts of bread and made her clean the house. Day after day, Gretel was made to be the old woman’s slave, and Hansel was locked in the bird cage given lots of food to eat.

“Eat well, little boy. You need to fatten up.”

“Hansel, Hansel. I’m so scared.” Gretel whispered to him while the old woman was distracted.

“You must do something, Gretel. You must be brave,” he told his sister.

One day, the old woman started to make a fire in her enormous stone oven. “Tonight I will feast on little boy meat!” She sang to herself.

Gretel got an idea when she saw the old woman bending through the oven door to stoke the flames. She took a deep breath to gather her courage. She walked quietly across the room to where the old woman was. As the old woman tossed some more wood into the fiery oven, Gretel ran up behind her and pushed the old woman in. Quickly she closed the gate and latched it, locking the old woman in the stone oven.



Gretel put her hands over her ears as the old woman screamed and screamed, until finally it was quiet. She unlocked the bird cage where her brother was being kept and let him out. They hugged.

“Let’s go home,” Hansel said. “But first. Grab what food you can fit in your pockets.”

The children opened the pantry door and instead of food, they found gold coins and precious stones. They looked at each other with wide eyes. They gathered up as much as they could carry and ran out of the house.

It took them several days walking, but finally the forest started to look familiar. They gathered speed and over the next hill, they spotted their cottage. They ran and cried out for their father, who opened the door and ran to them. They held each other for a long time.

“I’m so glad you’re home, children. I’ve been looking for you for days, ever since your step-mother died from eating bad food. I’m so sorry children. I love you so much.”

“We love you too, Father, and look!” Hansel and Gretel emptied their pockets of the gold coins and precious stones and told their father their story.

They lived happily ever after.

The End





Shadow Puppet Theater

Print on cardstock, cut out images and glue to craft sticks.

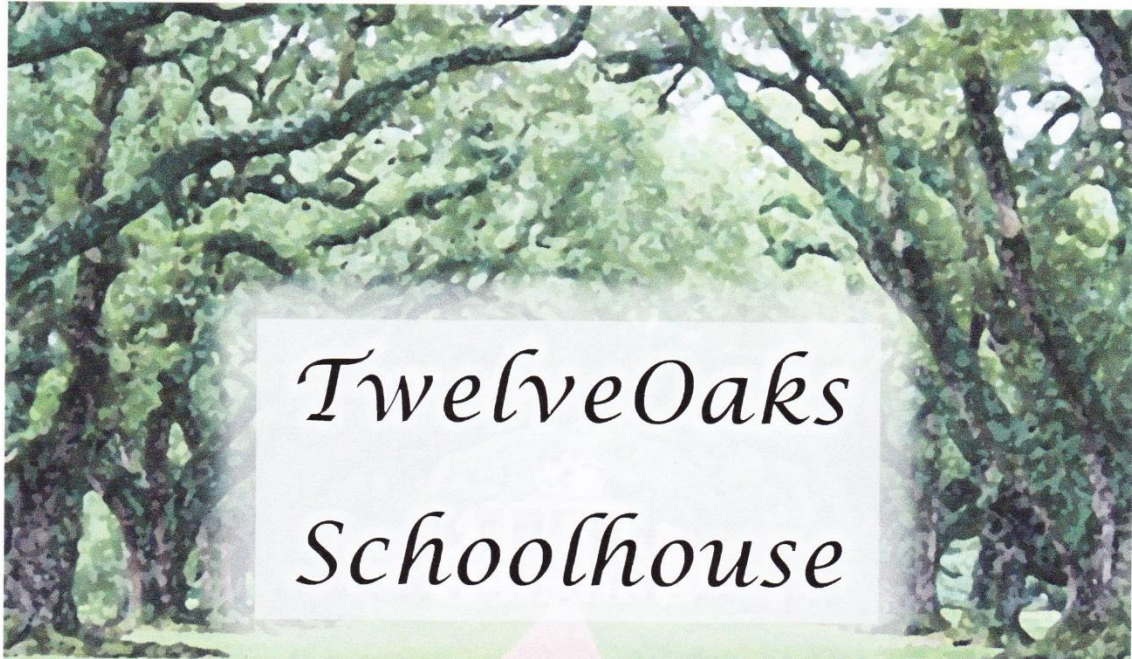




Hansel and Gretel



“Who’s eating my house?”



Feature Stories and Fairy Tales ~ Hansel and Gretel

Thank you for downloading the Hansel and Gretel Lesson Guide. All of the curriculum on my website is intended for home use. There are Amazon Affiliated links on my site of any books or supplies I mention. If you decide to buy any of them, please use the links on my website. I take no credit for most of the images I use. It's either on-line clip art or pictures that I may or may not modify, or drawings from my son, Sky Bott. He asks that I mention his YouTube channel, MrSkyPanda. It's a family friendly channel. I'm especially proud of the CandyWorld Episodes.

If you really enjoy Twelve Oaks Schoolhouse curriculum and printables, consider donating on the website.

twelveoaksschoolhouse.com

Kendra Bott