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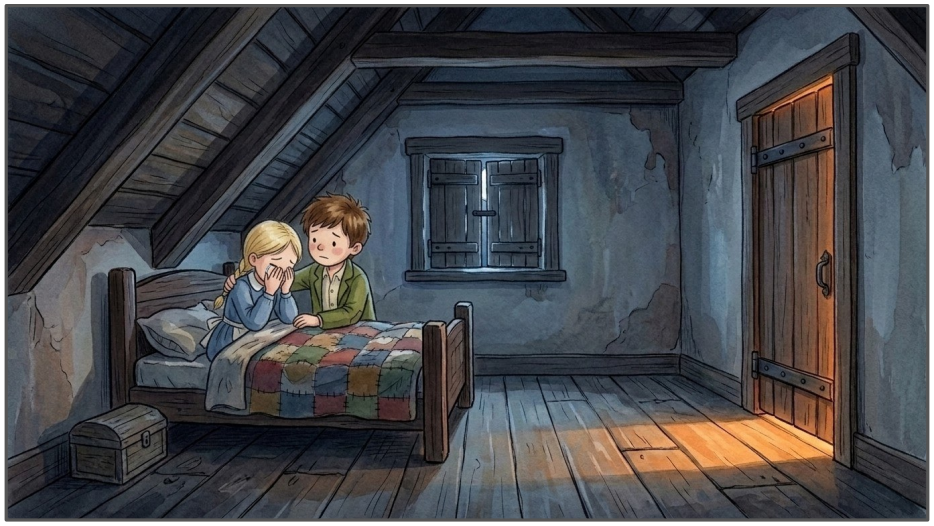
classic tales
1-2

Hansel and Gretel



A Classic Tales Reader • Grades 1-2

Printable Scholar Readers



Once upon a time, a poor woodcutter lived at the edge of a great forest with his two children, Hansel and Gretel, and their stepmother. One night, there was nothing left to eat. “Don’t cry, Gretel,” said Hansel. “I will find a way.”

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When everyone was asleep, Hansel crept outside. White pebbles glittered in the moonlight like silver coins, and he filled his pockets.



Next morning, Hansel dropped the pebbles along the path into the forest. When the moon rose, the pebbles shone, and Hansel and Gretel followed them all the way home.



But soon there was nothing to eat again. This time Hansel dropped bread crumbs along the path. The children were left by a fire, and nobody came back. When the moon rose, the birds had eaten every crumb.



“Hansel, we’re lost!” said Gretel.
“Don’t be afraid,” said Hansel.
“We shall soon find the way.”
They walked all night and all the next day, deeper and deeper into the woods.



A snow-white bird led them to a little house made of gingerbread and cake, with windows of clear sugar! “Nibble, nibble, gnaw, who is nibbling at my little house?” called a voice. “The wind, the wind, the heaven-born wind!” said the children.



Out crept a very old woman. “Oh, you dear children! Come in, and stay with me,” she said. She gave them pancakes and apples and two little beds.



But she was really a wicked witch!
She shut Hansel in a cage.
“Stretch out your finger,” she said
every day. Clever Hansel held out
a little chicken bone, and the
witch’s dim eyes could not tell.

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“Creep in, Gretel, and see if the
oven is hot,” said the witch. “How
do I get in?” asked Gretel. “Silly
goose! Look, I can get in myself!”
The witch poked her head in, and
Gretel gave her a great push and
bolted the iron door!



Gretel set Hansel free. They filled their pockets with pearls and jewels and ran home to their father. They never went hungry again, and they all lived together happily ever after.

Talk About It

1. How did the pebbles help Hansel and Gretel get home?

2. Why did Hansel hold out a chicken bone?

3. How did Gretel trick the witch?

Words to Know

pebbles • crumbs • forest
gingerbread • witch • oven

Read me 3 times!

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