HANSEL AND GRETEL'S GRIMM TALE

BY E. GRAY SIMONS III AND TARA FRANKLIN



2011

Idaho Shakespeare Festival Presents

IDAHO THEATER FOR YOUTH

FEBRUARY 14—APRIL 29

2011 IDAHO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

IDAHO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SCHOOL OF THEATER NOW PLAYING!

Table of Contents

Section one: welcome!

Special thanks.....pg 4
Using this study guide.....pg 4
A note from the director.....pg 5
About the Idaho Shakespeare Festival..... pg 5

Section two: before the show

Meet the artists.....pg 6
Meet the author..... pg 7
Get to know the Brothers Grimm..... pg 8
Before the Show Activitie..... pg 9
Getting to Know Folk Tales.....pg 10
Types of Folk Tales.....pg. 11
Hansel and Gretel Synopsis.....pg. 12
The Three Golden Hairs Synopsis.....pg. 13



Section three: after the show

Vocabulary Words..... pg. 14
Activity: Draw Like an Art Director..... pg. 14
Activity: Create a Character..... pg. 15
Activity: The Sequel..... pg. 15
Activity: Time Machine..... pg. 15
Activity: Your Choice..... pg. 15
Activity: Think like a Set Designer..... pg. 16
Activity: Color the Set!..... pg. 17
Activity: Think like a Costume Designer..... pg 18
Costume sketches..... pg 19
Activity: Write Your Own Fairytale!..... pg 20
Activity: Candy Experiments..... pg 21
Activity: Word search..... pg 22
Activity: Who said that..... pg 23

Section four: appendix

Suggested reading..... pg 24
More information about The Grimm Brothers.... pg 24
More information about E. Gray Simons III..... pg 24
End Quote.....pg. 25

welcome!

A Very Special Thank You!

As a part of Idaho Shakespeare Festival's educational programming, *Idaho Theater for Youth (ITY)* performances have enriched the lives of well over one million students and teachers since 1981 with productions that convey the unique and impactful voice of theater arts. The magic of this art form is brought to schools across the State of Idaho each Winter/Spring semester with assistance from a generous group of underwriters:

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Boise City Department of Arts & History

OfficeMax Community Fund

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Union Pacific Foundation

The Whittenberger Foundation



Using This Guide...

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to the Idaho Theater for Youth study guide for *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale!* These materials have been designed to expand your students' engagement with the fantastic folk tales of the Grimm Brother's.

This resource includes a range of information, discussion topics, and activities that can stand on their own or serve as building blocks for a larger unit. The activities are designed to be mixed, matched and modified to suit the needs of your particular students.

Inside, you'll find activities to share with your students both **before the show** and **after the show**, indicated by headings at the top of the page. These are designed to help focus your students' engagement with the performance by giving them specific themes to watch out for, as well as to foster critical thinking and discussion following the performance. Each activity is designed to meet Idaho Content Standards. The activities are labeled with an abbreviation of the standards it meets in order to aid in your planning.

We encourage you and your students to share your thoughts with us! Any of the artwork or activities your students send will be shared with the artists who created *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale*, and any feedback from you will help to improve our study guides for future audiences! Our mailing address is located on page 9.

Thank you so much!

Idaho Content Standards Addressed *in this study guide: Health (he), humanities (hum), language arts (la), physical education (phys), science (sci), social studies (soc), theater (th), and visual arts (va).*

A Note From the Director...

Who doesn't love Fairytales!?

Everyone has a favorite one and a story about when they first heard it.

Mine is *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. I was about 4 years old and Disney had rereleased the original film in the theaters. I remember my father being thrilled that he was able to take me to see it on the big screen and experience the magic of that fairytale with him.

When Gray first sent me this script I found it to be a little dark and worried that it would be too scary for our younger students, but also loved the idea of the challenge to make it accessible to a wide range of audience members. With this amazing group of actors we have discovered the not only the morals in these two stories but also the wonderful humor of it as well. *Hansel and Gretel* is a timeless story that can be told in many different lights. My hope is that we are telling one that presents this story in a new light for you. Enjoy.

Warmest Regards, *Renee Knappenberger*

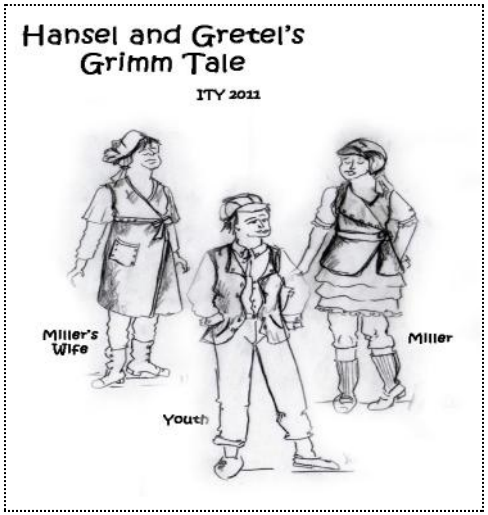


About our education program...

The Idaho Shakespeare Festival has become an integral part of the arts education throughout Idaho. The Festival's annual *Shakespearience* tour brings live theater to more than 25,000 high-school students in more than 50 Idaho communities each year. Since it began touring in 1986, *Shakespearience* has enriched the lives of nearly 500,000 students.

In 1999, the Festival assumed the operations of Idaho Theater for Youth (ITY). This alliance has more than doubled the Festival's annual educational programming, resulting in the Festival becoming the largest provider of professional, performing arts outreach in the state of Idaho. In addition to the statewide *Idaho Theater for Youth* school tour, which brings professional productions to nearly 30,000 students in grades K-6 across Idaho, the Festival oversees year-round *School of Theater* programs. This series of classes in acting, playwriting and production, for students of all ages, enrolls over 300 Treasure Valley students each year. Look for upcoming student productions throughout the summer, fall and spring.

For more information on any of the Festival's educational activities, please contact the Director of Education at the Festival offices or by email at renee@idahoshakespeare.org.





before the show

Meet the Artists!



Renee Knappenberger
Director



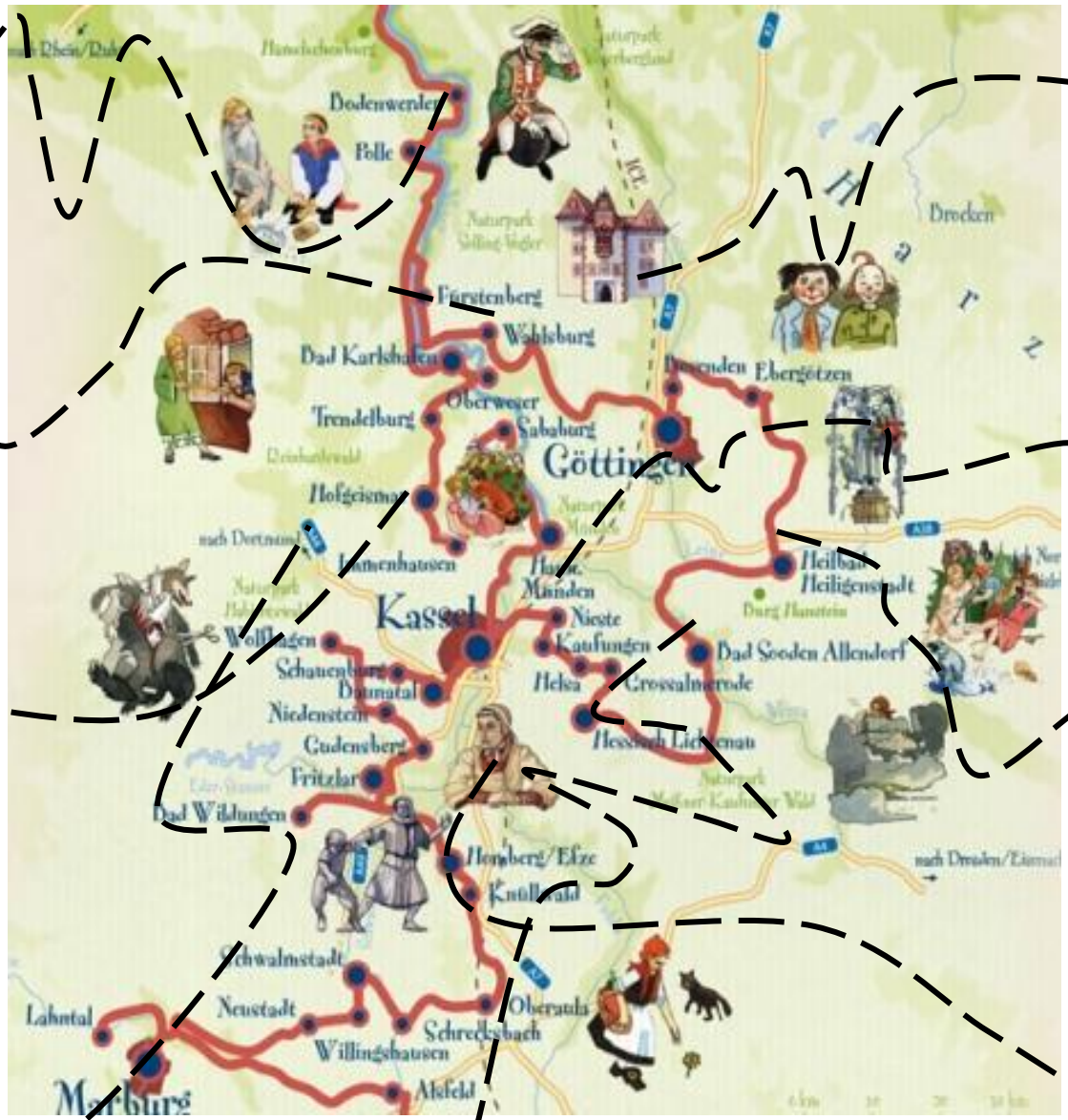
Piper Trulock
Actor
Mother
Miller's Wife
Robber 2
Queen
Monster's Mother

"I have always loved the story of "Rapunzel." I always wanted hair like hers!"



"My first word was from the story of "Sleeping Beauty" - 'Pink'"

Noah Moody
Actor
Father
King
Old Woman
Witch
Monster





T.J. Little
Actor
Hansel
Youth

"My favorite fairy tale is "Three Billy Goats Gruff." I love the Troll—he is so misunderstood."



Katie Hamilton
Actor
Gretel
Miller
Robber 1
Princess
Ferryman

My sister and I loved to play "Little Mermaid" but she always made me be Flounder!



Tim Long
Sound Designer



Jodi Dominick
Stage Manager



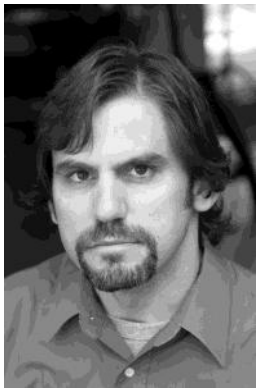
Nicole Frachiseur
Costume Designer



Josh Frachiseur
Scenic Designer

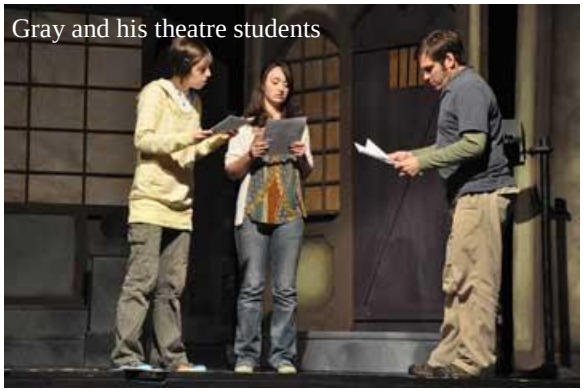

Gray and students at the Berkshire Theatre Festival

Meet the Author!



E. Gray Simons III – Gray has worked for thirteen years as an Artist-in-Residence at Berkshire Theatre Festival. In 2000, he became the Artistic Director of BTF PLAYS! and since then he has written several original plays including *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale*, *Hercules*, *Aesop's Network: Broadcasting Theatrical Fables*, *The Three Threads of Fate*, *Nursery Rhyme Café*, *Mystery Sideshow*, *Strange Waves* and *Way Out West*. In 2000 he made his playwriting debut at Berkshire Theatre Festival with his adaptation of *Wind in the Willows*. In the summer of 2001 he became the director of the Summer Performance Training Program and since that time he has adapted several classics such as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Just So Stories*, *The Odyssey, Arabian Nights, Robin Hood* (Co-adapted with Foster Durgin) and *Monkey* – initially, a 1997 collaboration with Eric Hill's Bluehill Performance Ensemble.

E. Gray Simons III


Gray and his theatre students

Check out: www.berkshiretheatre.org for more information!

An Introduction to the Brothers Grimm *his*

The Brothers Grimm

Jacob Ludwig Carl Grimm was born in January 4, 1785, in Hanau, Germany. Just over a year later, in February 24, 1786, his little brother Wilhelm Carl Grimm was born. Their father was a lawyer, and they had six more brothers and one sister.

In 1802, Jacob went to university to study law at the University of Marburg. As always, his little brother followed him, and entered law school in 1803. During their university years they began to collect folk and fairy tales. Folklore is stories that have been passed down from parents to children, by word of mouth, but at that time many had not been published in books. The Grimms were especially interested in stories that included Germany and German culture.

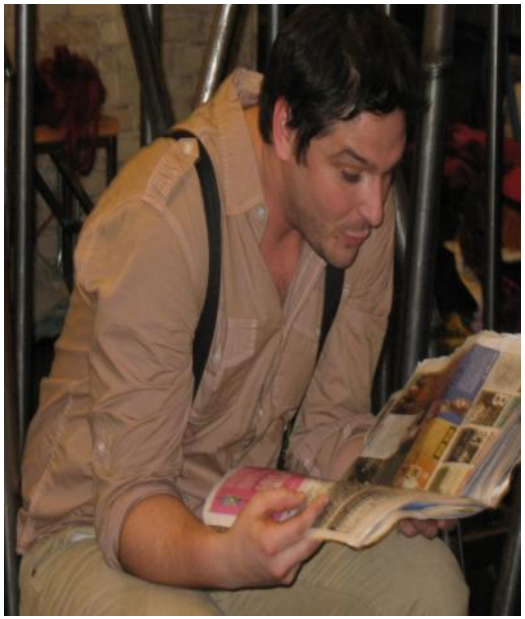
Jacob and Wilhelm published their first book of fairy tales – "Children's and Household Tales" - in 1812. There were 86 folktales. Readers were so happy to see the stories they had been told as children all collected together that the book was a success.

In the next volume of "Grimm's Fairy Tales", the brothers added 70 more stories. It went on growing like this for six more editions. Finally, the book contained over 200 stories! It is probably the best-known work of German literature. Even if you don't know the Brothers Grimm, you definitely know a Grimm fairy tale.

If only all brothers were as close as the Brothers Grimm. They were always together – even when Wilhelm married his wife Henriette, Jacob continued to live with them! The Brothers Grimm were both professors and scholars. In fact, Jacob Grimm is considered to be the father of the study of German history. They both taught as professors in Germany's capitol, at the University of Berlin. They became known throughout Europe as experts on anything to do with folktales, language, and anything German. They were so into books that they both became librarians as well! During their lifetimes they published many more very important books, including "German Mythology", "Old German Tales", "The History of the German Language", and even the German Dictionary.

Grimm fairy tales include stories of kings, magic, and talking animals. Even though the stories are sometimes scary, fairy tales allow us to work through our fears. They often teach us a lesson about moral values, and right and wrong.

In the next volume of "Grimm's Fairy Tales", the brothers added 70 more stories. It went on growing like this for six more editions. Finally, the book contained over 200 stories! It is probably the best-known work of German literature. Even if you don't know the Brothers Grimm, you defnitely know a Grimm fairy tale.



Famous Grimm Fairytales

Cinderella
Rumpelstiltzkin
Snow White
Red Riding Hood
Frog Prince
Sleeping Beauty
Hansel and Gretel



before the show

Folktale Concert *his*

As you have read, the Grimm brothers collected Germanic stories that had been passed down from generation to generation. Ask students to pick an ethnicity that interests them. Students can investigate that culture and then have each student learn a folktale from the culture. The students can have a concert of all the different folktales and bring in foods from their different ethnicities.

Activity… *la*

Chain Sentence

Teams of two students orally construct the first sentence of an invented story. To orally make the sentence, each says one word, trusting their ears to recognize conventional grammar, until a long sentence evolves. Shape the improv by setting the tone of the sentence. Make the first sentence of a: ghost story, pirate story, love story, mystery, any story, etc.



Getting to Know Folktales

la, hum

Definitions

folktale: a story, often with mythical or legendary elements, made and handed down among the common people

motif: a main element, idea, or feature to be elaborated on or developed

traditional: handed down, customary to a people

climax: the final element or event in a series; in literature, it is the turning point of the story

hyperbole: an exaggeration not meant to be taken literally. Example: This story is as old as time

Common Folktale Motifs:

- wishes granted
- a monster
- magic objects
- use of trickery
- a poor person becomes rich
- the number three is significant
- the youngest or smallest of siblings is successful after others in the family fail
- a variety of unwise characters

Elements of Folktales:

- Folktales are usually about ordinary people and everyday life.
- The stories include setting, characters, and a problem.
- The characters are often flat, representing one particular trait



Folktale Activity

Come up with your own Folktale! Ask family members and friends about stories that their ancestors have told them. The stories can be about their childhood or history. Create a folk tale of your own using their story! Share your folktales with the class. You can create pictures to go with your folk tale or act it out. Make sure to include the elements of folktales that you have learned about.

Types of Folktales

Can you think of an example for each or you can write your own!



A Fool's Tale

In a "fool's tale," a clever character outsmarts a foolish character. One way to get started is to make up or adapt a joke that you have heard, and expand it into a tale.

A Tall Tale

A tall tale centers around a hero or heroine of tremendous size and strength. To write the tale, you might tell how your character solves a problem by using his or her special abilities.

An Animal Tale

In this tale, the central character is an animal that has special qualities and powers. The animal can be one that is unusual or imaginary. To create a memorable animal character, use personification and try using similes to describe your animal. You might use a story starter such as: "One day, like any other day, I was…"

A Fairy Tale

A fairy tale focuses on a unique character who is introduced to magical forces. An interesting scenario is to grant the character three wishes and detail the outcome (positive and/or negative) of the character's choices.

Hansel and Gretel Synopsis

. A poor woodcutter and his wife, faced with starvation, abandon their two children in the woods. The children find their way home once by leaving a trail of pebbles. The woodcutter's wife, who is the children's stepmother, persuades the woodcutter once again to desert his children in the woods. This time they leave a trail of breadcrumbs which is eaten by birds so they are lost, and they wander helplessly till they come upon a little house made of gingerbread and candy. When they take a taste of the walls, the inhabitant of the house — a witch – calls out some variation on, "Nibble, nibble, little mouse, who is nibbling on my house?"

The children answer, and the witch lures them in and imprisons Hansel. Each day she checks to see how fat he is getting, but he outwits her by presenting a chicken bone.

Finally, the witch loses patience and decides to go ahead and eat the children. She builds up a fire in the oven and asks Gretel to check the temperature. Gretel tricks the witch into checking it herself and pushes her in. Gretel then rescues Hansel and the two find their way back home, where their stepmother has disappeared. The woodcutter and the children are happy to be reunited, and have the witch's treasure, or at least her cottage, to live on.



The Three Golden Hairs Synopsis

A poor woman gave birth to a son with a birthmark, which was predicted to mean that he would marry the king's daughter. The king, hearing of it, persuaded his parents to give him the child to raise. He put the boy in a box and threw the box into the water. It drifted down to a mill, where the miller and his wife thought that God had sent them this child, and raised him as their own.

One day the king visited the mill and, hearing how they had gained their son, sent him with a letter to the queen, which said that the bearer of the letter should be killed at once. He fell among robbers, who read the letter, had pity on him, and substituted one that said he should be married to the king's daughter. The queen received it and obeyed, much to the shock of the king.

The king dispatched him to get the monster's three golden hairs. On the way, he is asked why a fountain that used to give wine no longer gives even water; a tree that used to bear golden apples no longer has even leaves; and a ferryman's bound to ferry people back and forth.

He got to the monster's house, and his grandmother was there. She changed him into an ant to hide him. When the monster got home and went to sleep, his grandmother pulled out his three golden hairs. Each time, she woke him, and told him that she had dreamed of the dry fountain, the leafless tree, and the ferryman. He told that a toad in the well had caused it to go dry, that a mouse nibbling at the roots had stopped the apples, and that if the ferryman stuck his oar into someone else's hand, that man would be the new ferryman, and he could go free.

The grandmother gave the boy the hairs. As he went back, he answered the questions: the ferryman's only after he had ferried him across. The two towns, with the well and tree, both gave him two donkeys laden with gold. The king was pleased with the gold and asked where it came from. The other side of the river, answered the boy. The king went off to get more, and the ferryman stuck the oar in his hand. He may be ferrying people there still.

after the show

Vocabulary Words... *la*

Perilous— *adj.* Involving or full of risk, hazardous, dangerous

Miller—*noun.* Person who operates a mill

Fortune—*noun.* Good luck, success, riches, wealth

Ominous—*adj.* Indicating evil or harm, threatening

Foundling—*noun.* An infant or small child found abandoned: a child without a known parent

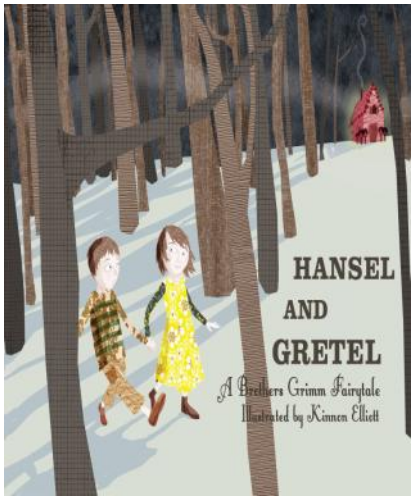
Inherit—*verb.* To take or receive (property, a right, a title, etc.) by succession or will, as an heir

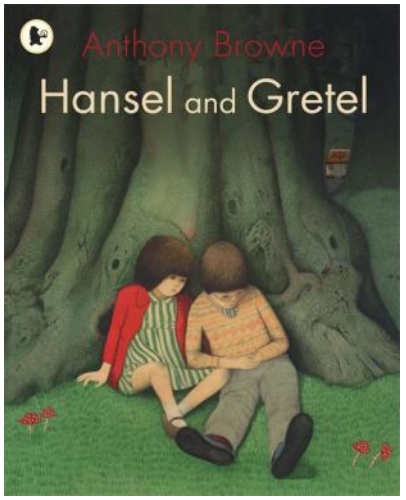
Whimsical— *adj.* Capricious humor or disposition; extravagant, fanciful, or excessively playful

Definitions provided by: www.dictionary.com

Activity... *va, th*

Draw Like an Art Director!







In professional theater, there is often a person called the 'art director' who is responsible for designing all the advertising materials for a production, including promotional posters, programs, etc. Using any art materials from the classroom or special materials from home (magazines to make a collage, etc.), have your students design posters for *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale*. They can advertise the ITY production, or use their imaginations and create their very own productions! Above are three examples of book covers of *Hansel and Gretel* you can share with your students for inspiration. Some information they may want to include:

- The show's title
- The dates, times, and location the play is being performed
- Contact information (phone numbers, addresses, or websites)
- Names of actors appearing in the play (could be their friends, celebrities, anybody!)
- A tagline or excerpts from imaginary reviews ("Two paws up!")
- A drawing or collection of drawings that highlights a character, scene, location, or theme from *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale* that the student feels is important for a potential audience member to understand about her production.

Activity… *la, th*

Create a Character

Write a journal entry for a fairy tale character! What it is like to be_____ (one of the characters)? Take on the identity of a fairy tale character and describe a typical day.
Here are a few examples of some Fairy Tale characters:

Rapunzel
The Wolf from Little Red Riding Hood
Prince Charming
Snow White
Cinderella
The Frog from the Frog Prince

Activity… *la, th*

Your Choice

Ask students to create one of the following narrative forms based on *Hansel and Gretel* or *The Three Golden Hairs's* plot:

A picture book
A puppet show
A play
A song
A pantomime show





after the show

Activity… *la, his, th*

Time Machine

In groups of 3 or more assign students a different Grimm's Fairytale. Have each group imagine that their fairytale was set in modern times. For example instead of Hansel and Gretel getting lost in the woods, they get lost in the city. How does this change the entire story?

Have each group perform a short skit of their modern fairytale. Discuss the changes that each group made. Here are some examples of fairytales (you can find these and other fairytales at *grimmfairytales.com*):

Cinderella
The Frog Prince
Little Red Riding Hood
Snow White
Rumpelstiltzkin

Activity… *la, th*

The Sequel

Have you ever wondered what happens after 'happily ever after'? It's your turn to create what happens next in the story. Choose either *Hansel and Gretel* or *The Monster and the Three Golden Hairs* and write the next episode. Share all the ideas with the class.



after the show

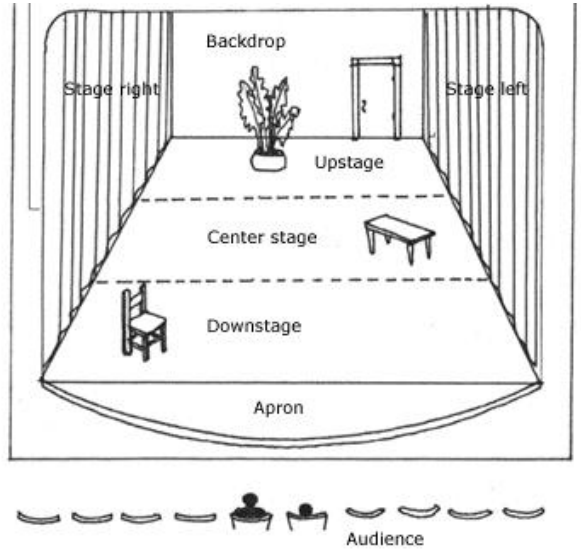
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Think Like a Set Designer!

va, th

The set of *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale*

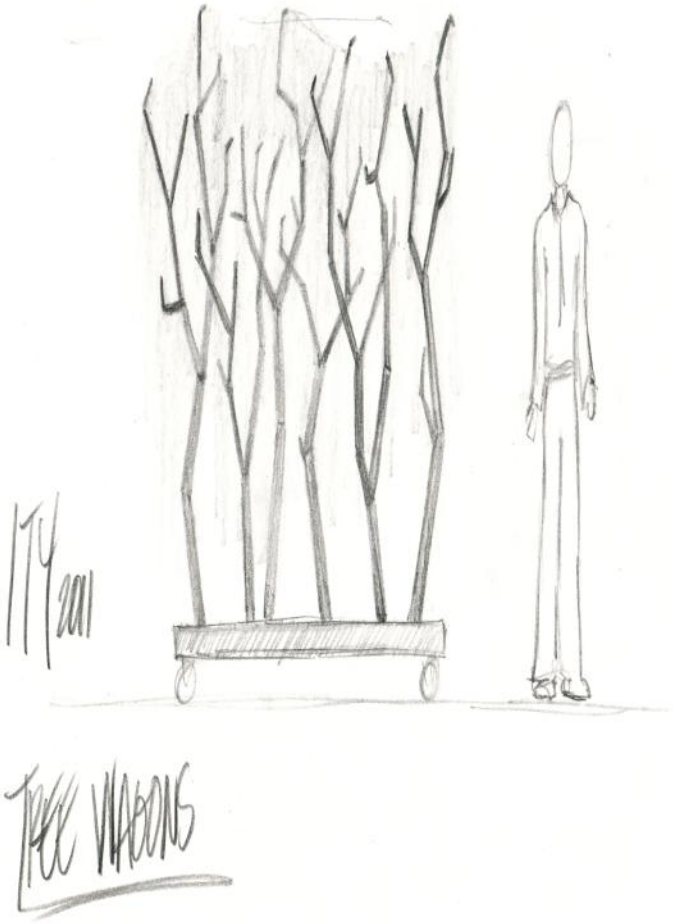
Here is a stage drawing for reference



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after the show





Color the Set! You decide the colors of the set for the show

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Think Like a Costume Designer! *va, th*



The director and costume designer of *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale* worked together to create costumes that would be colorful, whimsical, and fit the turn-of-the-century when this book was written. They had the challenge of creating costumes that would remind the audience of animals without being literal.

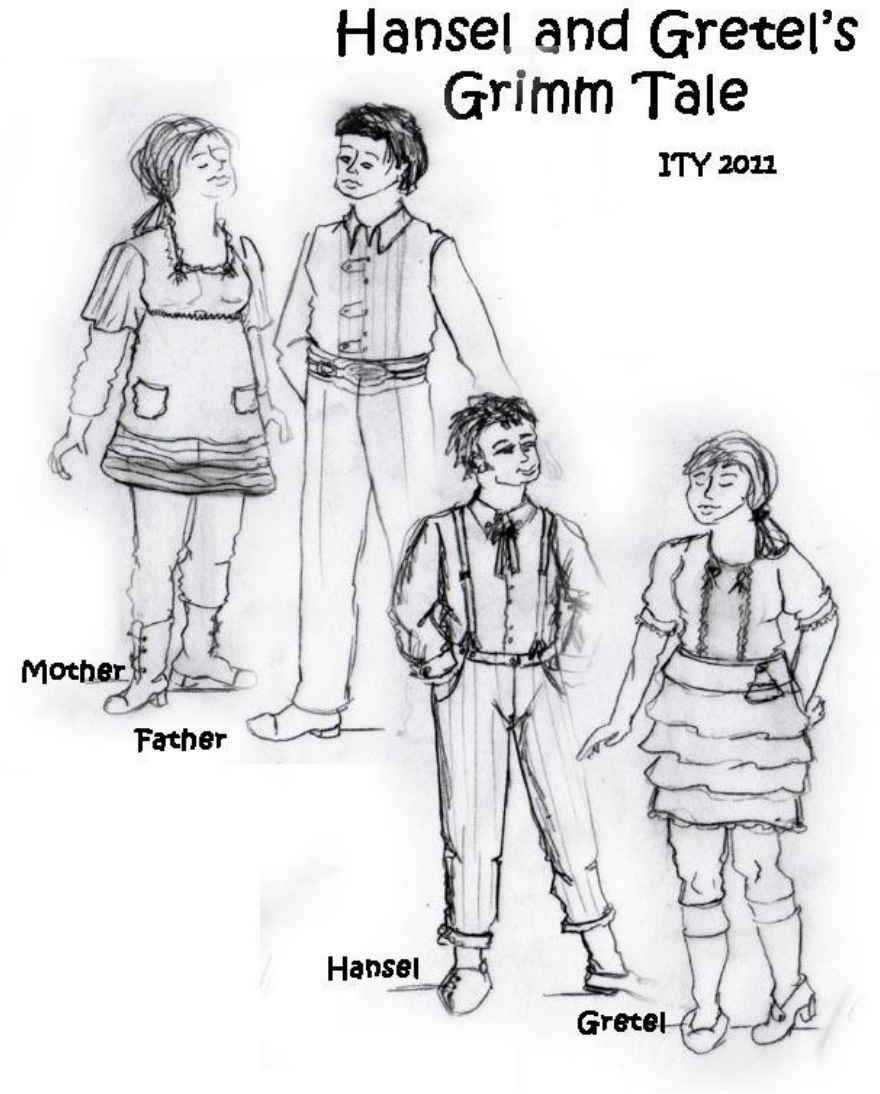
Think like a costume designer and choose what colors you would want the costumes to be! They can be the same as in the ITY production, or completely different. Be creative with color!

HANSEL	GRETEL	WITCH	MONSTER

Costume Sketches!

Our costume designer worked very hard to draw out these sketches of what the costumes for *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale* would look like.





Write Your Own Fairy Tale

la

Travel through the sections below and choose one or several elements from each. Tell, write or verbally improvise a story that utilizes all the elements chosen. For improvisational fun...put each element on a card and randomly select character, setting, problem and solution.

Devised by Heather Forest Copyright © 2000

Character(s)

Choose one or more characters.

girl
boy
animal
man
woman
idea
spirit
machine
thing
plant, etc.

Setting

farm
village
otherworldly
city
mountains
forest
arctic
ocean
desert

Problem:

Caught Stealing
Told a lie
Saw or heard a secret
Lost something
Been captured
Under a spell or curse
Goes to forbidden place
Finds forbidden object
Has enemy
Is undervalued
Is unrecognized
Causes jealousy
Forgets something
Broke something
Does not like something
Needs something
Needs to escape or hide
Needs to rescue someone
Needs to rescue something
Needs to prove worth

Inner Traits

Inner Traits That Cause Original Trouble:

Is greedy
Dangerously curious
Doesn't follow advice
Is lazy
Is pessimistic
Is blindly in love
Is enraged & seeks revenge
Is naive & trusting
Is clumsy
Is untrained
Lacks confidence

Inner Traits That Aid Solution:

Is courageous
Is resourceful
Is imaginative
Is kind
Is generous
Is clever
Is loyal
Is strong
Is optimistic

Solution

Has helper
Magical
Non-magical
Is rescued
Is transformed
Discovers skill
Finds magic
Helps self:
Exercises cleverness
Uses inner traits
Journey undertaken to obtain solution

Conclusion

Returns to original setting new in some way:

Is rewarded
Is wiser
Is transformed
Comes with gift or treasure

End

Lives well
Passes luck or reward on to others
Has positive impact on the world

Life Saver Lightning

Crunching on a life saver creates a tiny lightning storm in your mouth!



Materials:

- A mirror
- A dark room
- A roll of wintergreen-flavored LifeSavers

Directions:
Go into the dark room and wait until your eyes adjust to the dark. Bite down on a wintergreen candy while looking in the mirror. In the mirror, you should see the candy sparking and glittering as you chew.

Explanation:
When you crunch on the wintergreen candies, you are making light with friction. When you crush sugar crystals, the stress in the crystals creates electric fields, like the electric fields in a lightning storm.

Experiment provided by: © 2010 Exploratorium



Floating M's and S's

M&Ms and Skittles sink in water--mostly. To see what floats, try this:



Materials:

- Cup of water
- M&Ms or Skittles

Directions:

1. Drop the M&Ms in the water.
2. After a few minutes, look for floating letters. (Do not stir the water--you might break the letters.)

Explanation:
The white letters on M&Ms and Skittles are printed with edible ink that doesn't dissolve in water. When the rest of the candy shell dissolves, the letters peel off and float. Some of the letters break into pieces, but a few should survive intact.

TIPS: Try using warm water and it takes a couple minutes to see results!



Experiment provided by:candyexperiments.com

Activity... **Just for fun!**

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Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale Word Search

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

Hairs
Monster
King
Queen
Youth
Hansel
Gretel
Mother
Father
Princess
Witch
Fairy
Tale
Story
Crumbs
Candy
Ginger-
bread

Copy this page!

Activity... Just for fun!

Who Said That?

Below is a list of quotations from the Idaho Theater for Youth production of *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale*. Read each line, and see if you can remember which character said it! Write the character's name on the line next to the quotation. Some characters may be used more than once.

1. "You will perform every task that I ask. Any whimsical wish that might strike my fancy will be your command. Do you understand?'_____

2. "Hey, the next time she asks to see my finger, I could hold out one of these sausages. Then she'll think I've gotten fatter."_____

3. "Here are the three gold hairs that you asked me to get from the Monster of the Black Forest!"_____

4. "You're going to slowly for me. I've got to get the gold on the other side of the river. I'll take over."_____

5. "I've dropped little pieces of my bread on the ground since we've started walking this morning."_____

6. " Wait! What's this? A basket floating down the river. What could be in it, I wonder. Maybe something someone doesn't want."_____

7. " Every time I finish a chore she comes up with a new one. I just finished digging a ditch in the back yard, who knows what's next."_____

8. "Yes, you're skinny, but we'll fatten you up. Once you put on a few more pounds, you'll be set free."_____

Character Bank!

Youth
Gretel
Witch
Miller
Hansel
King

additional materials

Suggested reading for students who enjoyed *Hansel and Gretel's Grimm Tale:*

Young Readers

Tales From The Brothers Grimm by Jacob Grimm
The Golden Book of Fairy Tales by Adrienne Segur
Beatrix Potter: The Complete Tales by Beatrix Potter
Curious George by H.A. Rey
Bonjour, Barbar! By Laurent de Brunhoff
Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans
Eloise by Kay Thompson

Older Readers

The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brother Grimm by Jack Zipes
Treasury of Hans Christian Andersen by Margaret Clark
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
Stuart Little by E.B. White
James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne

For more information on The Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales

Online Resources:

www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm/
www.grimmfairytales.com

DVD:

Hansel and Gretel (1987)
directed by Len Talan
The Brothers Grimm (2005)
directed by Terry Gillam

For More Information on E. Gray Simons III:

Berkshire Theater, Stockbridge MA
www.berkshiretheatre.org

the end



"Your Mother and I have the two of you and we all have each other… and that makes us the luckiest people in the world."

— Father