

# **Hansel and Gretel**

The Brothers Grimm

**Level 1**

400 Headwords



*Retold by*  
Jane Richards

# CHAPTER 1

Once upon a time, there was a little girl. Her name was Gretel and she lived in a little house in the **woods** with her older brother, Hansel, her father and her father's wife. This was her **stepmother**.

Gretel's father worked hard as a woodcutter, but the family were very poor. They had no money and very little food, only bread and sometimes some cheese.

Gretel and Hansel worked hard and helped their stepmother in the house. They cleaned and washed and cooked, and Gretel helped her stepmother make bread in the big, old oven. When they had bread, it was very good bread. Hansel helped Father in the woods. He learnt the names of the trees and the birds, but the woods were deep and dark, and there were no houses near.

Every day, after bread and water for breakfast, Gretel and her stepmother cleaned the little house, and Hansel and Father went to cut wood. After they finished work, Hansel and Gretel played in the garden with their little dog, Axel. Every night, after bread and water, Hansel and Gretel climbed into bed and listened to their father and stepmother in the kitchen as they went to sleep.

**woods** (noun) a small forest

**stepmother** (noun) a woman who is married to your father but who is not your mother



*They lived in a little house in the woods.*

One night, Gretel and Hansel **lay** in bed. They couldn't go to sleep because they were very hungry.

'Hansel,' said Gretel. 'Can you sleep?'

'No,' said Hansel. 'Can you?'

'No,' said Gretel. 'I can hear Father talking to our stepmother. Listen!'

They both listened.

'They have to go,' said their stepmother **quietly**.

'But they're my children,' said Father. He was sad.

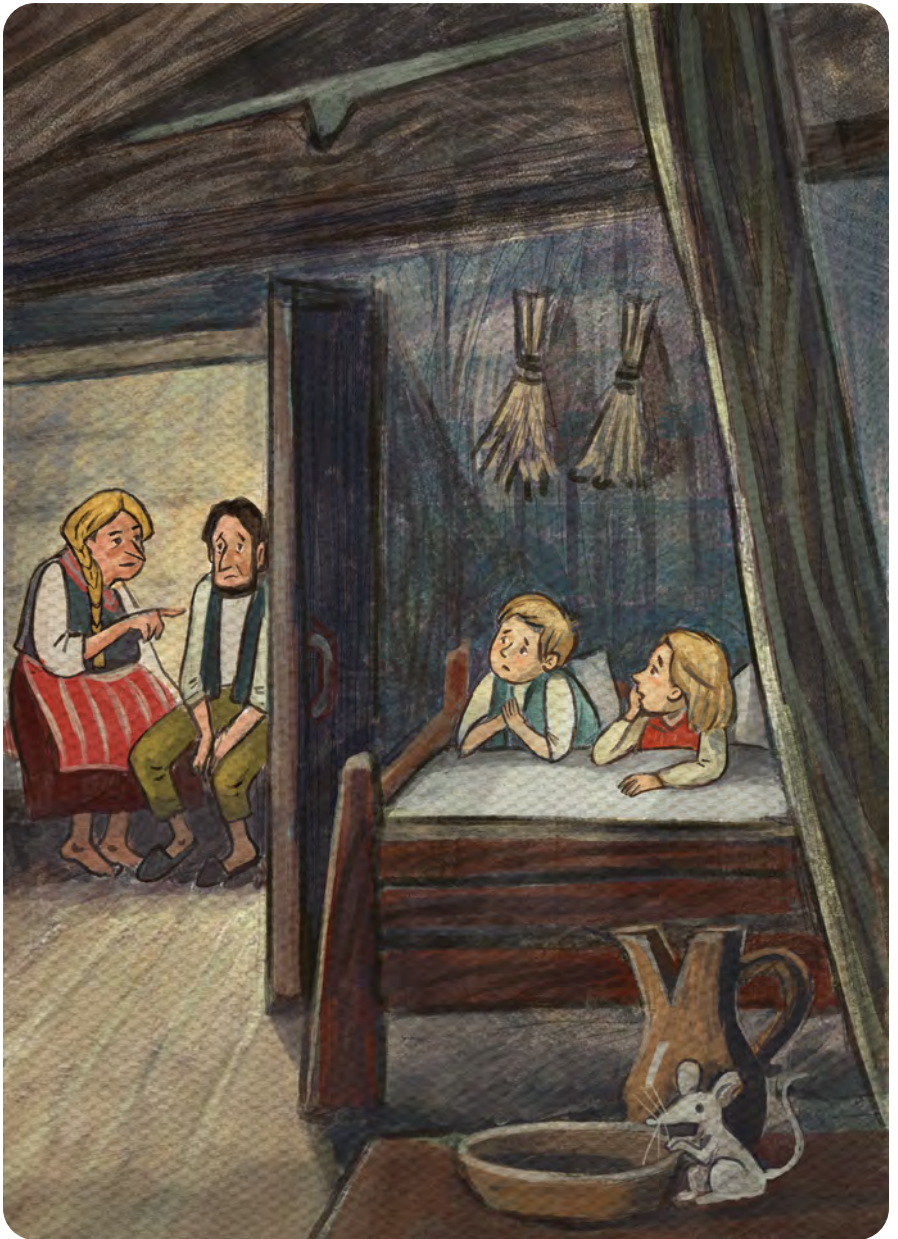
'We have no food. They eat too much. You must take them into the woods and come home.'

'I can't!' said their father.

'Then I'll come too. We have food for you and me, but not for two hungry children. We'll take them to the deep woods and leave them there.'

**lie** (verb) to be in a position in which one's body is flat on a surface such as the floor or a bed

**quietly** (adverb) without making too much noise



*One night, Gretel and Hansel lay in bed.*

Gretel and Hansel were very **scared**. They didn't want to go to the woods to live. They wanted to live with Father. They wanted to play with Axel. They were hungry, but Father loved them. They liked to help in the house and they loved Gretel's home-made bread. But then Hansel had an idea.

'I'll take some white stones and put them in my bag. When they take us to the woods, I'll drop the stones when we are walking. At night, after Father and our stepmother go home, we'll see the stones by the light of the moon and we'll find our way home again.'

It was a good idea, and Gretel was happier now because Hansel was clever and had a plan. Hansel climbed quietly out of the window. He took white stones from the garden and put them in a bag.

'We won't stay in the forest,' thought Gretel. 'We'll come home again and live with Father.' And she fell **fast asleep**.

**scared** (adjective) afraid

**fast asleep** (phrase) sleeping deeply



*Hansel took white stones from the garden and put them in a bag.*

## CHAPTER 2

‘Get up! Get up!’

Gretel opened her eyes and saw her stepmother. She stood in the sun by the window. She had long, yellow hair and she was fat. Sometimes, Gretel thought, ‘Why is she fat? We have no food.’ But today, she didn’t think that. The stepmother was happy.

‘Good morning,’ said Gretel.

‘Get up children,’ said the stepmother. ‘It’s a beautiful day! We’re going to have a picnic in the woods.’

Gretel looked at Hansel. Hansel looked at Gretel. Why was their stepmother so happy? Usually, she wasn’t happy. They were scared.

Gretel and Hansel **put on** their clothes and sat at the table in the kitchen. There was some water in a cup and lots of bread. Gretel took some bread, but their mother said, ‘No, we’ll take it for our picnic.’

**put on** (phrasal verb) to wear (clothes, shoes, etc.)





*Gretel opened her eyes and saw her stepmother.*

# VOCABULARY QUIZZES

## Quiz 1

Complete the sentences with the words below.

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quietly	kind	scared	run
remember	thin	asleep	put
woods	lie	picnic	

1. The boy was fast ..... in his warm bed.
2. She ..... walked past the sleeping baby.
3. I am going to ..... on this sunbed and read my book.
4. I went for a walk in the ..... with my dogs.
5. The boy wanted to ..... away from the fire because it was dangerous.
6. The lady ..... on her new coat to go to the cinema.
7. I felt very ..... when I was on my own in the house.
8. The blanket was too ....., and it did not keep me warm.
9. It was very ..... of my gran to buy me a present.
10. The weather was lovely, and we went for a ..... .
11. Do you ..... when we went to Italy for our holiday?

## Quiz 2

Choose the correct professions to complete the sentences.

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- The ..... checked my teeth and gums.  
a) doctor                      b) dentist                      c) secretary
- The ..... fed his sheep and then milked the cows.  
a) farmer                      b) builder                      c) vet
- I saw the ..... laugh when he was on stage.  
a) cleaner                      b) nurse                      c) actor
- The ..... on the ship had a beard and an eye patch.  
a) pirate                      b) doctor                      c) clown
- She told the ..... why she didn't do her homework.  
a) secretary                      b) caretaker                      c) teacher
- 'I am the ..... of this ship, and you will listen to me!' he said.  
a) captain                      b) lifeguard                      c) swimmer
- I will phone the ..... and ask him to fix the boiler.  
a) surgeon                      b) plumber                      c) vet
- 'Ask the ..... if she has that book in the library.'  
a) librarian                      b) shopkeeper                      c) teacher
- The ..... gave him his Covid vaccination.  
a) nurse                      b) dentist                      c) therapist
- She was the ..... of the book, and it was her first novel.  
a) reader                      b) author                      c) publisher