

**Playstage**

**Junior**

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# **HANSEL & GRETEL**



**Adapted with humour and songs from  
the Grimm Fairy Tale.**

**Written  
by  
Stewart  
Auty**

**CAST LIST FOR HANSEL & GRETEL****Narrator****Woodcutter****Wife****Hansel****Gretel****Badger****Rabbit****Mole****Magpie****Gingerbread Witch****Pigeon****Villager 1****Villager 2****Villager 3****Villager 4****Villager 5****RUNNING TIME APPROX 50 MINUTES TO 1 HOUR.****16 speaking parts plus any number of singing but non-speaking extras.**

***Lyrics for 7 suggested songs included. Inclusion of these songs is optional. Please feel free to amend the script if you decided to omit any or all of the songs. The full lyrics are given but, in practice, most schools prefer to cut the songs down to about half of their written length. See MUSIC page overleaf.***

## MUSIC

***Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. If you cannot source them from amongst the school community, then Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Below we give the song title and source of backing tracks. Where it says "Traditional" or "Disney" this means there is no backing track we know of but it may be in sheet music form in your school or on a children's school music compilation CD.***

### HANSEL & GRETEL SONGS

<b>Fairy Tales (Anita Baker)</b>	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
<b>Fast Food Song (Fast Food Rockers)</b>	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
<b>I Can Help (Billy Swann)</b>	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
<b>Wherever You Are (The Military Wives)</b>	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
<b>Sweets For My Sweet (The Searchers)</b>	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
<b>Hot, Hot, Hot (Arrow)</b>	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>
<b>All You Need Is Love (Bandaged)</b>	<a href="http://www.ameritz.co.uk">www.ameritz.co.uk</a>

**SCENE 1**

***Outside the Woodcutter's Cottage. The NARRATOR is seated on the bench.***

**NARRATOR (*reads from Book of Grimm Fairy Tales*)**

**Now is everyone sitting comfortably? Then it's time for a fairy tale.**

***(The whole cast come on stage to sing)***

**SONG – FAIRY TALE**

**I can remember stories, those things my mother said  
 She told me fairy tales, before I went to bed  
 She spoke of happy endings, then tucked me in real tight  
 She turned my night light on, and kissed my face good night  
 My mind would fill with visions, of perfect paradise  
 She told me everything, she said he'd be so nice  
 He'd ride up on his horse and, take me away one night  
 I'd be so happy with him, we'd ride clean out of sight  
 She never said that we would, curse, cry and scream and lie  
 She never said that maybe, someday he'd say goodbye**

**The story ends, as stories do  
 Reality steps into view  
 No longer living life in paradise - of fairy tales - uh  
 No, uh - huh - mmm - mmm**

**She spoke about happy endings, of stories not like this  
 She said he'd slay all dragons, defeat the evil prince  
 She said he'd come to save me, swim through the stormy seas  
 I'd understand the story, it would be good for me  
 You never came to save me, you let me stand alone  
 My story end, as stories do  
 Reality steps into view  
 No longer living life in paradise - no fairy tales - yes**

**I don't look for pie up in the sky, baby  
 Need reality, now, said I**

**Don't feel the need to be pacified, don't cha try  
Honey, I know you lied**

**You never came to save me, you let me stand alone  
Out in the wilderness, alone in the cold  
I found no magic position, no horse with wings to fly  
I found the poison apple, my destiny to die  
No royal kiss could save me, no magic spell to spin  
My fantasy is over, my life must now begin**

**My story end, as stories do  
Reality steps into view  
No longer living life in paradise - no fairy tales - eh,  
Hey, hey - eee - mmm, mmm**

*(The cast leave and THE NARRATOR continues)*

**NARRATOR**

**Once upon a time, for all good fairy stories begin in this way, there lived a poor woodcutter. His cottage was close to a large forest (looks up from book) – well, what do you expect? He was a woodcutter, so he needed wood to cut, and wood sort of grows on trees, so he lived close to his place of work. Got it? Now, there were many advantages of this arrangement – everything he needed was close by, he didn't have to commute to work, so he had no worries about petrol prices, or tube strikes, or delays at the airport. This seemed a good way for him to make a living. He cut down trees, chopped the wood into logs, and sold the wood in the nearby villages. Simple.**

*(Enter the WOODCUTTER with large axe over one shoulder)*

**NARRATOR**

**Here is the woodcutter now. Well, say something! Introduce yourself!**

**WOODCUTTER** (*touches cap*)

**Afternoon everyone!**

**NARRATOR**

**And now for the government health warning. Some of you might find the story you are about to hear quite upsetting. But remember, many scary fairy stories have a happy ending. However, there is no flash photography during this performance.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**Besides being a Grimm Fairy Tale – that is, written by the Brothers Grimm, it's also a grim fairy tale. Grim, as in dreadful, frightful, terrible, horrible, hideous, ghastly, grisly, savage, cruel and sinister!**

**NARRATOR**

**I wonder who got a Thesaurus for his birthday? I'm going to let you tell your story from now on. Just don't frighten everyone! OK?**

**(Exit NARRATOR)**

**WOODCUTTER**

**OK. Now, let us begin. As you've just heard, I'm a woodcutter by occupation. Yes, I know the axe is a bit of a giveaway. But times are hard. Not everyone has wood burning stoves or open fires these days. What with central heating and solar panels, wind turbines and geothermal energy, the demand for logs has fallen. You could say the bottom's dropped out of the market. Like I said, times are hard, very hard.**

**(Enter WIFE)**

**WIFE**

**What are you doing, standing here talking? There's trees just waiting to be chopped down.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**You've not met the wife before, have you? She's my second wife – not a bit like the first one. Nag, nag, nag, all day long. The only peace and quiet I get is when I'm alone in the forest.**

**WIFE**

**If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times!**

**WOODCUTTER**

**Not that you exaggerate, or anything.**

**WIFE**

**Get a move on! Go on, off with you, into the woods.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**If it wasn't for my two children, I'd have a pretty miserable life – with the emphasis on the miserable, and not the pretty, if you see what I mean.**

***(Enter HANSEL and GRETEL)***

**WOODCUTTER**

**Here are my two children now. They are lovely, aren't they? This is my son Hansel....**

**HANSEL**

**Hi, Papa.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**And this is his little sister Gretel.**

**GRETEL**

**Hi Papa.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**They go everywhere together, and Hansel is such a good boy looking after his sister like that.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**Say hello to your mother, children.**

**HANSEL**

**But she's not our mother!**

**GRETEL**

**She's our stepmother.**

**HANSEL**

**And just as in all other fairy stories, there's a wicked stepmother.**

**GRETEL**

**She's horrible to us, and that's just on a good day.**

**HANSEL**

**Sometimes we think that she'd rather we weren't here, that we lived somewhere else.**

**WIFE**

**So you're not stupid then, you've worked that out all by yourselves? Of course I wish you weren't here. You get in the way. You need feeding, not to mention the washing and the ironing.**

**HANSEL**

**But we do the washing and the ironing!**

**WIFE**

**I said not to mention the washing and the ironing!**

**HANSEL**

**And we do the cooking, and the cleaning!**



**WIFE**

**I've my nails to think about. I'm a classical trained concert pianist, and I must not damage my hands. That's why I wear these elegant white gloves.**

**GRETEL (*aside to audience*)**

**It's so obvious she hates us. It's not a secret.**

**WIFE**

**Inside both of you, now! There's work to be done. I can't be bothered with sweeping the floor, but why should I when you two can do it for me?**

**HANSEL (*to audience*)**

**I also meant to say that as well as being horrible, she is pretty mean too.**

**GRETEL**

**With the emphasis on the mean and not the pretty, if you see what I mean.**

**WIFE (*Raises hand*)**

**Inside I said! Or you'll feel the back of my hand! I need to talk with your father, in private. (*To the WOODCUTTER*) We have something very important to discuss.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**We do?**

**(*HANSEL & GRETEL exit. WIFE sits on one end of the bench.*)**

**WOODCUTTER (*hastily*)**

**Well, I'd best be off, there's trees to cut down, just like you said.**

**WIFE**

**Not so fast!**

**WOODCUTTER** *(very slowly and deliberately)*

Well... best... be... off... then.

**WIFE**

Very funny. Sarcasm will not get you anywhere.

**WOODCUTTER**

Anywhere would be better than here.

**WIFE**

What was that? What did you say?

**WOODCUTTER**

Oh, nothing important dear.

**WIFE**

Sit, here, on the bench, next to me.

**WOODCUTTER**

Do I have to? There's work to be done, like you said.

**WIFE**

Yes you do.

*(WOODCUTTER sits down, very reluctantly, keeping his distance.)*

**WIFE**

This is serious. You're poor, so we're starving. I'm used to better. We can't carry on like this.

**WOODCUTTER** *(stands suddenly and sounds hopeful)*

You're leaving then? You've found somewhere better? Oh, please tell me you have!

**WIFE** (*pulls him back down*)

**You'd like that I know. But as to somebody leaving, well - that's not a bad idea.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**What do you mean?**

**WIFE**

**You simply don't earn enough to feed a family of four. Agreed?**

**WOODCUTTER**

**I know! You're going to get a job, aren't you? You're going to stop lazing around the house all day, and pull your weight. At last!**

**WIFE**

**Me? Work? Don't be so stupid! What about my hands?**

**WOODCUTTER**

**I'm sick of hearing about your hands! I'm sick of seeing those long white gloves!**

**WIFE**

**But I'm a classically trained concert pianist!**

**WOODCUTTER**

**We've heard all that, and I'm sick of hearing about that too. It isn't as if we had a piano.**

**WIFE**

**Well, I can't, and I won't work. That's a man's job, working. I'm a lady of leisure.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**I thought it was too good to be true. Now I'm disappointed. I'd got my hopes up, only to have them dashed.**

**WIFE**

**So we have to think of something else.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**We do?**

**WIFE**

**And as you're a bit short in the brain department, the thinking is down to me, as usual.**

**WOODCUTTER**

**I hate it when you start thinking. That's when the trouble begins.**