

Building Fluency through Reader's Theater

HANSEL AND GRETEL



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5301 Oceanus Drive

Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030

<http://www.tcmpub.com>

ISBN 978-1-4333-0164-3

eISBN 978-1-5457-1410-2

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Hansel and Gretel

Story Summary

Hansel and Gretel live in a small cottage at the edge of the woods. They live with their father and stepmother. Their father is kind. But he is often away. Their stepmother is cruel. She does not want to be bothered with Hansel and Gretel. She sends them into the woods. They are on their own and soon become lost. But they find a cottage made of tasty treats. They do not know that a witch lives inside. The witch captures them. But they are smarter than the witch.

Will they get away? Read the story to find out.

Tips for **Performing** Reader's Theater

Adapted from Aaron Shepard

- Don't let your script hide your face. If you can't see the audience, your script is too high.
- Look up often when you speak. Don't just look at your script.
- Talk slowly so the audience knows what you are saying.
- Talk loudly so everyone can hear you.
- Talk with feelings. If the character is sad, let your voice be sad. If the character is surprised, let your voice be surprised.
- Stand up straight. Keep your hands and feet still.
- Remember that even when you are not talking, you are still your character.
- Narrator, be sure to give the characters enough time for their lines.

Tips for **Performing** Reader's Theater *(cont.)*

- If the audience laughs, wait for them to stop before you speak again.
- If someone in the audience talks, don't pay attention.
- If someone walks into the room, don't pay attention.
- If you make a mistake, pretend it was right.
- If you drop something, try to leave it where it is until the audience is looking somewhere else.
- If a reader forgets to read his or her part, see if you can read the part instead, make something up, or just skip over it. Don't whisper to the reader!
- If a reader falls down during the performance, pretend it didn't happen.

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