

# **HANSEL AND GRETEL VS. THE WITCH**

Based on the opera *Hansel and Gretel*  
by Engelbert Humperdinck and Adelheid Wette  
and *The Original Folk and Fairytales of the Brothers Grimm*

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck  
Libretto/Adaptation by Joshua Borths

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### Scene 3 (Continued)

*Gretel is forced to take the tray of sweets from the Witch and zoom over to the cage. As the Witch sings the aria with her broom, Gretel is forced to feed Hansel.*

#### WITCH

I GIVE HIM SWEETS  
SO HE CAN EAT  
AND GROW INTO A TASTY TREAT.

AND ONCE I'M DONE WITH LITTLE HANS,  
THEN GRETEL JOINS MY WITCH'S DANCE.

WHEN WITH GRETEL I AM THROUGH,  
I'LL TURN MY ATTENTION ONTO YOU!

*The Witch turns to the students and crosses out into the audience.*

TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE A STEW,  
MY WORLD-FAMOUS "WITCH'S BREW!"

I'LL ADD A DASH OF BLACKENED CAT,  
AND DRAGON'S BLOOD,  
AND BIG-OL' BUGS!

WE WILL HAVE THE MOST-EST FUN!

*The Witch interacts with the students. Hansel and Gretel take this opportunity to conspire.*

Prrr.... IT'S BEGUN!

*The Witch turns her attention back to Gretel. She snaps and Gretel is now free to move.*

COME HERE, GRETEL.  
ARE YOU FINISHED WITH HANSEL'S SWEETS?  
HE WANTS MORE.  
HE LOOKS HUNGRY!

#### GRETEL

*Giving the Witch the now empty tray* WE'RE OUT OF COOKIES.

*The Witch puts down the broom to take the tray. While the Witch is distracted with her back turned, Gretel grabs the broom. As the following exchange happens, the Witch gathers up empty cooking equipment and stokes the fire.*

HOCUS POCUS MAGIC SPELL!  
FREE US NOW AND DON'T YOU TELL!

*The spell works!*

**WITCH**

*Turning around* WHAT DID YOU SAY LITTLE ONE?

*Gretel puts the broom behind her back. She is now filled with confidence.*

**GRETEL**

I SAID, WE WILL VANQUISH YOU TODAY!

**WITCH**

WHAT?!

**GRETEL**

*Making up something that sounds better to the Witch.* I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY.

**WITCH**

*Mollified, believing that she just misheard* HA HA HA! THAT IS QUITE RIGHT.  
YOU GAVE ME SUCH A FRIGHT.

NOW GRETEL, COME TO ME.  
ALTHOUGH YOU'RE MINE,  
I STILL ASK NICELY.

*Aside to the students* I cannot wait to push her into the fire... mmmm...

*Gretel moves towards the Witch and notices the now roaring fire.*

**HANSEL**

*To Gretel* PLEASE, WATCH OUT!  
SHE'S ABOUT!

**WITCH**

*Aside as she gathers up baking accoutrements* I CANNOT WAIT FOR WHAT'S NEXT.  
WE HAVE REACHED OUR CLIMAX!

*To Gretel, handing her cooking equipment* NOW COME AND SEE

HOW TO BAKE MY SWEETS!

SINCE WE ARE OUT OF HIS TREAT-IES,  
YOU MAKE THE NEXT BATCH OF COOKIES.

FIRST, MAKE THE BATTER,  
THEN STIR IT FASTER.  
WHEN THAT IS DONE,  
OFF TO THE OVEN!

*The Witch pushes Gretel towards the fire.*

**HANSEL**

*To Gretel* PLEASE, WATCH OUT!  
SHE'S ABOUT!

**GRETEL**

*To Hansel* I KNOW WHAT TO DO!  
WAIT FOR MY CUE!

**WITCH**

*To Gretel (not having heard the above exchange)* COME ON AND HURRY.  
I'M GETTING HUNGRY!

*Gesturing to the oven impatiently* IT IS OPEN.  
NOW, GET THEM IN!

**HANSEL**

*To Gretel* PLEASE, WATCH OUT!  
DANGER'S ABOUT!

**GRETEL**

*Overdoing her lie* I HAVE A QUESTION  
ABOUT THE OVEN.  
SHOW ME ONCE AGAIN,  
HOW DO THE COOKIES GO IN?

**WITCH**

IT'S QUITE EASY.  
JUST FOLLOW ME!

*Happening in quick succession: The Witch impatiently shows Gretel how the oven works and how to put the cookies inside. While the Witch is distracted, Gretel again grabs the broom. She*

*releases Hansel from the cage with the broom's magic. The two then begin to chant the text below of the "Evening Prayer" as if they were a sports team getting ready for the big game.*

**HANSEL AND GRETEL**

WHEN WE BOTH BEGIN TO STRAY,  
FAM'LY HELPS YOU FIND THE WAY!

*They both push her into the oven. The Witch screams. Older Hansel appears on the other side of the stage and watches the action unfold.*

**HANSEL AND GRETEL**

AND WITH ONE BIG HEAVE HO,  
DOWN THE WITCH GOES!

NOW THE WORLD IS TOTALLY  
WICKED-WITCH-FREE!

**OLDER HANSEL**

*Cutting off the possible audience applause and music Stop! The actors freeze Everyone thinks that this is how the story ends, but it wasn't like that at all. The true story is far more magical. Let's rewind and see what really happened.*

*The actors "rewind" the staging back to the earlier point. NOTE: Have fun with this staging! Pianist improvises as the "rewind" occurs.*

**HANSEL**

PLEASE, WATCH OUT!  
DANGER'S ABOUT!

**GRETEL**

I'VE A QUESTION  
ABOUT THE OVEN.  
SHOW ME AGAIN,  
HOW DOES IT OPEN?

**WITCH**

IT'S QUITE EASY.  
JUST FOLLOW ME!

**HANSEL AND GRETEL**

*Chanted* WHEN WE BOTH BEGIN TO STRAY,  
FAM'LY HELPS YOU FIND THE WAY!

*Upon hearing them chant the text of the "Evening Prayer," the Witch suddenly turns around clearly in agony. The music stops. The following dialogue should stay high energy and over-the-top.*

**WITCH**

Wait! I know that song! Where did you learn it?

**GRETEL**

Our parents taught it to us when we were little.

**HANSEL**

We've known it our whole lives.

**WITCH**

*Memories flood back* I used to know that song. My parents taught it to me when I was young.

**GRETEL**

You have parents?

**WITCH**

*Had* parents. I got lost in the woods and never saw them again. *Getting mad* I hated them for never finding me. How could they just give up like that!?! So, I made it my life's work to make all children suffer as much as I did.

**HANSEL**

Well, maybe they did try to find you, or maybe you needed help finding them... Maybe all you needed to do was ask. Hey! You could ask us.

**GRETEL**

And if we follow the directions of the song, maybe your life could change.

**HANSEL AND GRETEL**

*Preferrably a cappella* FOR WHEN THE NIGHT IS DARKEST,  
DON'T FORGET WHERE YOUR HEART IS.

IT IS FOUND IN FAM'LY:  
EVERYTHING IN HARMONY.

SO, HAND-IN-HAND KEEP MARCHING ON.  
'CAUSE SOON WE ALL WILL GREET THE DAWN.

**WITCH**

But, I'm an *Evil* Witch. How could I change?

By asking for help—

**GRETEL**

And using your powers for good!

**HANSEL**

*Getting an idea* You could use your magic to make all lost children found so that no one has to go through what you experienced.

**GRETEL**

And you could use your baking skills to help Tom Thumb feed everyone who's hungry.

**HANSEL**

You have so much to offer the world... You just have to try.

**GRETEL**

*Theatrically* And let others guide you to the light!

**HANSEL**

No one's ever wanted to help me before. I only get what I want through fear... But... Well... Here it goes: Hansel and Gretel, can you help me find my parents and use my powers for good?

**WITCH**

Of course!

**HANSEL AND GRETEL**

HURRAY! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES.  
THIS END IS A BIG SURPRISE.

**HANSEL AND GRETEL**

HURRAY! THE WITCH HAS BECOME GOOD,  
FEEDING ALL THE CHILDREN IN THE WOOD!

MUSIC AND FAMILY  
WON THE DAY, AND SO WE SING!

NOW... LET THE WORLD KNOW  
WITCHES CAN ALSO GROW.

WE CAN CHANGE HEARTS AND MINDS  
WITH OUR SONGS AND RHYMES.

YES, HOW GRAND AND STRANGE

TO KNOW HOW THE WORLD CAN CHANGE!

*The three of them celebrate as Father appears with Tom Thumb (still a puppet).*

**To Be Continued...**

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PERUSAL