



Hansel And Gretel

Hansel and Gretel is a traditional tale from Germany. It was written down and published in 1812. It had been told for many years before that. Hansel and Gretel was also called 'Little Brother and Little Sister'. Here's how the story goes.

Long ago, there were two children. They were called Hansel and Gretel. Their father was a poor woodcutter. The father was married to a wicked woman. She was the stepmother to Hansel and Gretel.

The stepmother was selfish. She only cared about herself.

"There's not enough food to feed everyone. We must take the children to the woods and leave them." She said.

The woodcutter was sad. He didn't want to abandon his children in the woods but his wife forced him.

"We will all die if you don't do as I say!" she said.

The woodcutter and his wife didn't know that the children were listening. They had heard everything.

Hansel was a clever boy. He went out into the woods and gathered lots of pebbles. He had a plan.

The stepmother took Hansel and Gretel deep into the woods. Hansel secretly dropped

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Which word means 'only thinking about yourself'?

wicked selfish forced

2. Which word in the text means 'to leave behind'?

3. Which word in the text means the same as 'very tasty'?

4. What does the word 'cackling' mean?

a trail of pebbles behind him. Then the stepmother pretended to go to fetch wood but she disappeared. She left the children. Luckily, Hansel and Gretel followed the pebbles home.

When they got home, their stepmother was angry. She shouted at them. The next day she took the children back into the woods.

Before they left, the woodcutter secretly gave bread to Hansel. He dropped the breadcrumbs behind him. Once again, the stepmother pretended to fetch wood. Then she disappeared again. The children were alone.

Before night fell, they followed the breadcrumbs back but suddenly, the trail stopped. Where did the crumbs go? They had been eaten by a bird!

The children were lost. Then, Gretel noticed something. What was that smell? There was a delicious smell wafting through the trees. The children followed it.

It took them to a gingerbread house. The whole house was made of food. It was edible. Hansel and Gretel were so hungry. They went into the house and ate as much as they could. It was very tasty. It seemed like they had been saved.

They heard a creaking sound and the door slowly opened. They heard an old lady laughing in a cruel way. She was cackling!

It was an evil witch! What was going to happen next?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

R

What country is this traditional tale from?

I

How do you know the stepmother is wicked and selfish?

P

How do you think the story ends? What happens next? Write an ending to finish the story off.