

WNO Opera Stories | Hansel and Gretel

Our story begins with Hansel and Gretel doing their chores at home. Hansel complains that he's really hungry and so Gretel tells him a secret. There is a jug of milk in the cupboard for rice pudding this evening! Hansel wants to eat the cream off the top of the milk now, but Gretel says no. They have to finish their chores before Mother gets home. Hansel says he would rather dance than do housework, so he starts to dance around the house. Gretel decides to join in.

Suddenly their Mother bursts through the door. She sees them dancing and tells them off for not doing the housework! In doing so, she accidentally knocks the jug of milk off the table. The jug smashes and the milk is wasted. They now have nothing to eat so Mother sends them into the woods to pick strawberries.

In the forest, Gretel makes herself a flower crown while Hansel picks some strawberries. They start to eat the strawberries until there are none left. They try to search for more but they realise it has become very dark and that they are lost! The magical Sandman fairy appears to help them fall asleep. He sprinkles grains of sand into their eyes and they become very sleepy. Hansel and Gretel sing their evening prayers and fall asleep. They dream of fourteen angels who watch over them while they sleeping.

Morning arrives and the magical Dew Fairy arrives to wake up Hansel and Gretel. She says that she knows who is lazy and who works hard. She reminds them that 'the early bird catches the worm' and tells them it's time to get up!

Suddenly, an enormous, magical gingerbread house appears. The windows are made out of licorice, the roof is made of cakes and the walls are made of cookies! Hansel and Gretel, who are now extremely hungry, cannot resist having a nibble of the house!

All of a sudden, a Witch appears and captures them! She tells them how much she loves to eat... children! She throws Hansel into a cage and instructs Gretel to lay the table. She decides Hansel isn't fat enough and so she will feed him more cakes and sweets, before she eats him!

But Gretel is hatching a plan! The Witch tells Gretel to check the oven to see if the gingerbread is done. But Gretel pretends she does not know how the oven works! She asks the Witch to show her. The angry Witch walks over to the oven and opens the door. Gretel pushes her inside and the oven explodes!

As Gretel frees Hansel from the cage, they see gingerbread boys and girls turn into the real boys and girls they once were before the Witch had trapped them! The magic spell put on the gingerbread house is broken. As they thank Hansel and Gretel for freeing them from the Witch's spell, everyone hears a noise in the distance. It's Hansel and Gretel's Father! Their family are reunited and they all lived happily ever after!