

*Hansel & Gretel
and the Creepy Woods*

3 Elves/11 Actors + Creatures version

by Jeannette Jaquish

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Offered for free performance use by J. Jaquish, if she is notified.

READER

HANSEL

GRETEL

STEPMOM

FATHER

Optional CREEPY CREATURES

(can be played by Elves or Frog and Dog):

WITCH

ELF 1 - Bossy

ELF 2 - Whiny

ELF 3 - SNEEZY – Actions but no lines

FAIRY DOG MOTHER

FAIRY FROG MOTHER

(PROPS: Big pot, potato & carrot, 2 hankies for Sneezy. Dog's & Frog's wands optional.)

Other Cast Size Variations Exist - ask J Jaquish

-How to reduce the number of actors:

Reader may be played by the Director

Stepmom and Father can play Dog and Frog

with quick costume change at end

Elves can play Forest Creatures

Cut Elves - Ask J. Jaquish for a version for fewer actors.

-How to add actors:

Forest Creatures, as many as you like

Ask Jeannette to write you more Elf parts

Give the Witch a Pet

Give Hansel and Gretel a pet or sibling

Use multiple Readers

=====

READER: Welcome! The _____your
group_____ is happy to perform the
story of

Hansel and Gretel and the Creeeeepy Woods,
as adapted by Jeannette Jay-quish.

So sit back, and enjoy the show!

Once upon a time, a long long time ago, there
lived a brother and sister named Hansel
and Gretel.

HANSEL: I'm Hansel.

GRETEL: I'm Gretel!

HANSEL: We're Hansel and Gretel!

READER: Yes, just as I said. They lived in a
cottage in the woods with..

HANSEL: I'm Hansel.

GRETEL: I'm Gretel!

(FATHER ENTERS, then STEPMOTHER.)

READER: Enough! They lived in a cottage in
the woods with their father who loved them
very much, and their stepmother who had
her sanity to consider.

STEPMOM : Husband! Your children are
driving me crazy. I'm Hansel! I'm Gretel!
Take them into the woods and leave them!

FATHER : But, Darling, they'll get hungry.

STEPMOM : Don't worry. A nice witch will
feed them gingerbread.

FATHER : Oh. They like gingerbread. OK!
Come on kids!

READER: So the stereotypically clueless father
took Hansel and Gretel far far away and left
them. However, he made one mistake.
Instead of taking them out into the
WOODS...

GRETEL: Why did Daddy leave us in the weeds?

HANSEL: Ow! It's all sticky.

FATHER : But they'll get hungry.

READER: Hansel and Gretel stood around in the prickly sticky weeds waiting for their father.

STEPMOM : Don't worry. Seven little dwarves will feed them.

GRETEL: Ow!

FATHER : Oh. They'd like that. OK! Come on, kids!

HANSEL: Ow!

(STEPMOTHER EXITS.

GRETEL: Ow!

FATHER leads H&G through the audience. CURTAIN CLOSES - change set.)

HANSEL: Ow!

READER: Finally, Gretel realized he was not coming back.

READER: So their father took them oooooooooover the hill ... and through twisted, scary trees.. past the dens of hideous, smelly, unsupervised creatures, who watched them as they passed (*children look at audience fearfully*)..... to a clearing. Their father patted them on the head, and gave them some words of wisdom.

GRETEL: Daddy is not coming back! How will we find our way back to our house?

HANSEL: Look, it's right over there. You can see it!

READER: So they walked home and jumped on the couch and got stickers all over it.

FATHER: Say hello to Sneezzy for me. Bye kids! *(EXITS)*

(JUMPING)

HANSEL: I'm Hansel! Hansel! Hansel!

READER: Their father headed home wishing HE was going to have gingerbread for breakfast.

GRETEL: I'm Gretel! Gretel! Gretel!

HANSEL & GRETEL: We're Hansel! Hansel! Hansel! and Gretel! Gretel! Gretel!!

FATHER: Mmmm... gingerbread. *(EXITS)*

READER: Their stepmother heard the noise and came out to see.

READER: Hansel and Gretel stood around as the forest got darker and darker.

STEPMOM: Ohhhh, they're back.

HANSEL (scared): I'm Hansel.

READER: Their stepmother had a splitting headache when she called her husband.

GRETEL (scared): I'm Gretel.

STEPMOM : HUSBAND!

(ELVES or CREATURES do sound FX:)

FATHER: Yes, dear?

READER: Hansel and Gretel stood around as the forest got darker and darker.

READER: She told him where to take those noisy children.

The crickets chirped. *(Elves chirp.)*

The owls hooted. *(Elves hoot.)*

The moon came out. *(Elves sing "Aaaah!".)*

The wolves howled. *(Elves howl.)*

STEPMOM : Take those noisy children over the hill and deep into the forest and leave them!

(You may skip the next song, and go to the next page.)

Optional Song & Page:**HUDDLE CLOSER****DANCE OF THE SCARY CREATURES**

(MUSIC UP: Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, by Tchaikovsky, performed by Kevin MacLeod -- 1min 47 sec.)

READER: Hansel and Gretel began to realize the danger they were in.

HANSEL *(shivering)*: I'm Hansel. . . .

GRETEL *(shivering)*: I'm Gretel. . . .

(CREATURES Enter, creeping closer to Hansel & Gretel who look genuinely afraid.)

(start singing as glockenspiel begins)

READER:

**Huddle closer, Children,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
Very far from home.**

(Oboe descends)

WITCH (entering):

**It is getting darker,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
You are all alone;**

(Oboe descends)

READER:

**Silly children, wake up,
You don't know,
you don't know,
you don't know,
What is in the woods.
Build a fire, Climb higher,
Find a way to, SURVIVE!**

(0:40 to 0:47 strong violins, then violas - CREATURES reach stage, flit across.)

HANSEL - Do you hear the branches breaking?

(0:47 to 0:51 violin surge)

GRETEL - Something flew across the moonlight.

(0:51 to 0:54 violas - no singing)

(Bolder bigger Creature movements.)

(0:54 to 1:00 violin surge)

HANSEL - I hear breathing, I smell danger, I can't stay awaaaake.

(1:00 - dreamy glockenspiel

- HANSEL & GRETEL slump to the ground asleep.

CREATURES slowly circle, facing in, then out, claws up. Witch lurks near.)

WITCH & READER:

**Huddle closer, Children,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
Very far from home.**

(Oboe descends)

**There are dark things, lurking,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
in the Woods,
Eat you to the bone;**

(Oboe descends)

READER & CREATURES-protective pose:

**Silly children, sleeping,
We will stay,
We will watch,
We will fight,**

What is in the woods.

(WITCH sneaks toward Hansel & Gretel)

With our sharp teeth (snap teeth),

With our long claws (slash claws),

We will help you, SURVIVE!

Rahhrr!

(CREATURES Chase Witch -EXIT!)

READER: Yawn! Oh, my! It's morning! I must have fallen asleep!

Looks like it was an uneventful night. Gretel shook Hansel awake.

GRETEL: Hansel, it's morning.

HANSEL: I'm hungry. What's for breakfast?

WITCH (entering): You are! Hee Hee Hee Hee! Oh, I mean you delicious, I mean darling, children are HAVING breakfast with me!

READER: Hansel and Gretel introduced themselves.

HANSEL: Hi! I'm Hansel.

GRETEL: Hi! I'm Gretel!

HANSEL & GRETEL: We're Hansel and Gretel!

WITCH: And I'm a nice old lady. My house is over here... through those trees....

HANSEL: I'm Hansel.

GRETEL: I'm Gretel!

WITCH: Enough! Walk this way...

(WITCH walks bent over; HANSEL & GRETEL walk like her to her "house" back at center stage.)

READER: The nice old lady was really a wicked witch who liked to eat children. She took them into her house. Gretel looked around.

GRETEL: I thought you would have a gingerbread house.

WITCH: Oh, the property taxes on that thing were killing me!

READER: Hansel was getting hungrier so he asked again:

HANSEL: What's for breakfast?

WITCH: Something delicious, but first you must wash up.

READER: The witch invited them to hop into a big pot of hot water. She said:

WITCH: Scrub a dub a dub, into the tub!

GRETEL: Why are there carrots and potatoes and celery...

HANSEL: floating in the bathtub?

WITCH: Oh, hee hee hee hee. Those are bath toys!

READER: So Hansel and Gretel, who never were the brightest candles on the cake, hopped into the pot.

(HANSEL & GRETEL climb into tub but stay standing.)

HANSEL (rubbing potato under arm like soap):
La la la la. . .

GRETEL (using carrot like a Q-tip in her ear):
Ahhhhhh....

WITCH: For Pete's sake! Sit down or you'll never cook -- I mean get clean. Squeaky-deeeky clean!

HANSEL & GRETEL (plopping down) OK!
Kersplash!

HANSEL (singing): Rubber ducky, you're the one.

GRETEL: Quack! Quack!

HANSEL: Rubber ducky, you're lots of fun!

GRETEL: Quack Quack!

READER: Unfortunately, this witch was not allergic to water like her 2nd cousin in the Land of Oz.

WITCH: I'm melting! I'm melting. Ha Ha!
Not!

READER: The Witch began to add some salt and spices while Hansel & Gretel splashed away in blissful ignorance of their impending doom.

WITCH (*hums*): A pinch of this.. a sprinkle of that...

GRETEL: What are you sprinkling on us?

WITCH : Oh... um..bubble powder! Hee hee hee...

GRETEL: More bubbles! Hooray! (*Splash splash*)

READER: There was a knock at the door.

WITCH : Who's there?

(*Elves march in singing a marching chant.*)

ELF 1: I don't know but I've been told!

ELVES: Leprechauns got pots of gold.

ELF 1: But do not grab one by the leg.

ELVES: Their feet smell like rotten egg!

ELF 1: Sound off

ELVES: One two!

ELF 1: Sound off

ELVES: Two Three

ELF 1: Sound off

ELVES: One two threeee Dwarves!

(*Elf 1 stops, 2 & 3 crashes into them, rebound back and all fall. Elf 1 jumps up.*)

ELF 1: Attention! (*Elves jump to attention.*)
Pleased to meet you! I'm Bossy!

ELF 2: I'm Whiny.

ELF 3: I'm.. I'm... I'm... *Aaaachoo!*
(*Sneezes on other dwarves who fall.*)

ELF 1 & 2: SNEEZY!!!
(*Elves jump up.*)

ELF 1: We're here to wish you a good day!

ELF 2: We live in a cottage down the way.

ELF 1: We were just passing by when we came under the spell,

ELF 2: Of a most delicious, bewitching smell.

ELF 3: Aaaachoo!

ELF 1: Of cinnamon, fingers and margarine,

ELF 2: So if you don't mind, may we come in?

WITCH : You are in!

READER: Hansel jumped up and hollered.

HANSEL: Hey! Sneezey!

ELF 3: Aaaachoo! (*Wipes nose with hanky and waves it.*)

HANSEL: My dad says hi!

READER: The seven dwarves were real moochers!

(*ELVES search front row of audience.*)

They started scrounging around for something to eat. They hadn't had a hot meal since Snow White married the Handsome Prince and moved away. But all they found were hideous gargoyles!

ALL ELVES (*face to face with audience*):
EEEEEEK! (*ELVES run back to stage.*)

READER: That caused some confusion. And instead of finding food they found:

(*pantomiming finding these things:*)

ELF 1: Spider legs in the cupboard!

ELF 2: Frog tongues in the refrigerator!

ELF 3: Monkey ears in the toaster!

ELF 1: Rabbit teeth in the candy dish!

ELF 2: Hissing cockroaches in the cookie jar!

ELF 3: Piggy tails in the Spaghetti-Ohs

ELF 1: Sugarless candy corn!

ALL ELVES: Sugarless candy corn??? Blech!
Disgusting!!!

ELF 3: Why do people buy that stuff?

READER: But the dwarves knew they smelled something good. They followed their noses until they found...

(ELVES go to both sides of pot.)

ELF 1: A big pot of soup!

HANSEL & GRETEL: Soup? Where? I'm hungry!

ALL ELVES: Children Soup!

HANSEL & GRETEL: Eeeeeek!

READER: The dwarves tried to rescue the children. Unfortunately they weren't very organized.

(Dwarves pretend to pull on both arms of children, left, right, left, right.)

READER: But they only made it worse. The dwarves yelled for the children to get out!

ELF 2: Get out of that soup pot!

ELF 3: That witch wants to cook and eat you!

READER: But the children had been in the hot water too long.

GRETEL *(wiping brow):* I'm melting....

HANSEL: Me toooooo....

(HANSEL & GRETEL faint over edge of pot)

READER: Hansel and Gretel fainted in the hot water! And it was getting hotter! The dwarves tried to lift them out.

ELF 1: 1, 2, 3, Lift!

READER: But the witch flapped her arms and yelled:

WITCH : Stop that right now!

READER: The leader of the Elves was very brave!

ELF 1 *(in her face):* Let them go you mean ol' witch!

WITCH : YOU let them go or I'll turn you all into dwarf hamsters.

HANSEL: Dwarf hamsters are so cute.....

WITCH : Bite-size dwarf hamsters. Yum.

ALL ELVES *(jumping back):* Eeeek!

READER: The Elves let go! They were afraid to be turned into hamsters. Their leader had an idea. She told Gretel:

ELF 1: Gretel! Call on your Fairy Godmother!

ALL ELVES: Gretel! Gretel! Wake-up!

ELF 1: Gretel! Call on your fairy Godmother!

ALL ELVES: Gretel! Gretel! Wake-up!

GRETEL *(groggy):* Calling Fairy Dog Mother...

READER: In a blinding flash of light there appeared:

DOG *(leaping onto stage):* Woof!

ELF 1: What are you?

DOG: Gretel's Fairy Dog Mother!

ELF 1: No No! Gretel! Call on your Fairy GOD MOTHER!

GRETEL: Calling Fairy Frog Mother....

READER: And with another blinding flash of light:

FROG *(leaping onto stage):* Kribbit!

ELF 1: What are you?

FROG: Gretel's Fairy Frog Mother!

ELF 1: No No! Gretel! Call on your Fairy GOD MOTHER!

GRETEL: *Snore!*

READER: Gretel's snoring shook the house!
(*ELVES stumble around.*)

ELF 2: She's asleep!

ELF 3: She can't call anyone!

ELF 2: How about Hansel? Could HE call HIS Fairy God Mother?

ELF 3: He would probably call his Fairy Hamster Mother!

ALL ELVES (*nodding*): Yeah....

READER (*walking across stage gesturing*): This looks bad! Hansel and Gretel are almost gravy and instead of a fairy godmother, we have a Fairy Dog Mother...

DOG: Woof!

READER: ... and a Fairy Frog Mother!

FROG: Kribbit!

READER: It looks like there will be no happy ending to this story. The elves burst into tears.

ALL ELVES: Boo-hoo-hoo-hoo!

ELF 6: This is terrible, terrible, terrible!

READER: The Fairy Dog and Fairy Frog Mothers looked at each other.

FROG : Well this is a pretty mess!

DOG: You said it, Wonder Warts. I guess it's up to us.

FROG: Right you are, Magical Mutt. Do you know what to do?

DOG: Sure do. Let's roll! (*DOG & FROG roll.*)

READER: The Fairy Dog Mother cast a spell on the Wicked Witch giving her fleas and allergies.

DOG (*waving paws*): Fleezus-Sneezus! (*shakes*)

WITCH : Ha ha! Dog magic? (*sarcastic*) Oh, I'm sooo afraid! Ha ha ha!. So... so... so... Itchy! Itchy! Itchy! Aaachoo! Aaachoo!

(*SNEEZY hands a hanky to the Witch who blows a raspberry into it and tries to hand it back.*)

SNEEZY: Yuck! (*SNEEZY jumps back in disgust and the Witch drops it on the floor.*)

READER: The Fairy Frog Mother hopped over to the pot and said these magic words:

FROG: Hoppus Ploppus Stoppus!

READER: She hopped into the pot splashing Hansel and Gretel out in a huge tidal wave!

(*FROG jumps in – HANSEL & GRETEL jump out. ELVES fall down in the tidal wave.*)

READER: The dwarves cheered!

ALL ELVES: Yay! 1, 2, 3 --
Go Fairy Frog! Kribbit Kribbit Kribbit!
Go Fairy Dog! Woof Woof Woof!

READER: The Wicked Witch ran off to jump in the river to drown her fleas....

WITCH: Oh, I'm so itchy itchy itchy... (*EXIT*)

(*DOG and FROG chase her, EXITING.*)

DOG: Fleazus-Sneezus! Woof! Woof!

FROG: Wartus Schmortus! Kribbit! Kribbit!

READER: and Hansel and Gretel recovered from their soup induced heat stroke. They introduced themselves to the dwarves.

HANSEL: Hi! I'm Hansel.

GRETEL: Hi! I'm Gretel!

HANSEL & GRETEL: We're Hansel and Gretel!

ELF 1: Hi! We're the 7 minus 4 dwarves.

HANSEL: Minus 4?

GRETEL: What happened to the other 4 Dwarves?

ELF 1: They are interning at Hogwarts!

ELF 2 & 3: I wanted to go!

ELF 1: But forget about them --

ELF 2: We are in the story of Snow White.

ELF 3: Once upon a time a long time ago...

HANSEL: I'm Hansel.

GRETEL: I'm Gretel!

HANSEL & GRETEL: We're Hansel and Gretel!

ELF 1, 2 & 3: Enough!

READER: The Elves showed Hansel and Gretel the way home.

(Travel into audience or around stage.)

HANSEL: I'm Hansel.

GRETEL: I'm Gretel!

HANSEL & GRETEL: We're Hansel and Gretel!
(on and on and on)

(ELVES have hands over ears and moaning.)

READER: The Dwarves couldn't get rid of Hansel and Gretel fast enough.

(Go to Home area. Each Elf pauses to speak.)

ELF 1: OK! Here is your house! Good bye!

ELF 2: What an ordeal!

ELF 3: I thought they would never stop yakking!

ELF 1: They never did!

ELF 2: My ears are killing me!

ELF 1: My ears are bigger than yours so mine are killing me more!

SNEEZY: Aaachoo! *(can't find hanky so blows raspberry on back of ELF 2's shirt.)*

ELF 2: Hey! What's going on back there!
(ELVES EXIT or sit at front of audience.)

READER: Hansel was sad to see them go:

HANSEL: Bye, Sneezzy! You are my favorite!

READER: When their father came out the door, he was very happy to see them *(ALL hug.)* and very sorry he had left them in the forest. He called to his wife:

FATHER: Honey, the kids are home!

STEPMOM *(ENTERING)*: Oh, no!

HANSEL: Remember us? I'm Hansel!

GRETEL: I'm Gretel!

HANSEL & GRETEL: We're Hansel and Gretel!

HANSEL: I'm Hansel!

GRETEL: I'm Gretel!

HANSEL & GRETEL: We're Hansel--

FATHER: Enough! Stop saying the same thing over and over. You are driving us crazy! *(to audience)* I didn't realize it until they came back!

GRETEL: Ok, Daddy! Would you like to talk about biology, instead?

HANSEL: Or architecture?

STEPMOM: Oh, I love biology and architecture! Let's go down to the pond and catch frogs and build sandcastles!

(STEPMOM, HANSEL & GRETEL, go to side, pantomime.)

GRETEL: I'm making a princess castle.

STEPMOM: The archway is very graceful.

HANSEL: I'm digging the moat first.

STEPMOM: It is very deep. You are doing a good job.

READER: And then a magical thing happened. When the yammering stopped, their stepmother magically turned into a loving caring person. It was magic.

FATHER: No.... I don't think that was magic.

READER (*lifts arm*): It was parenting!!! And they all lived...

(*ACTORS run onstage. Reader cues them when they are ready by dropping arm.*)

ALL: ..Happily ever after!

HANSEL: I'm Hansel!

GRETEL: I'm Gretel!

HANSEL & GRETEL: We're Hansel and Gretel!

ALL: Enough!!!! The End!

Author's Notes

Hansel and Gretel say "I'm Hansel. I'm Gretel.... on and on until someone says "Enough!"

If actors forget lines, Reader can prompt them by saying, for example: "Hansel said,

"Remember us?.." Reader prompts them as if it was written in the story – just the beginning of the line is usually enough -- and as soon as the actor catches on and says their line, the Reader is quiet.

When Father takes Hansel and Gretel into the Woods, he can take them out into the audience.

Big Pot need not be a pot.

A large black storage tub spritzed with silver spray paint looks like a big black pot.

Or you can make a cardboard pot and make a stand to hold it up, or attach it to a big storage tub that the kids get into.

Use a REAL potato and carrot. The potato will serve day after day, but you must refrigerate the carrot up until show time.

Make sure Hansel and Gretel use the carrot and vegetable to wash under arm and clean ear for big laughs.

If using Music from FunAntics:

Please credit:

Creatures Song to the music of:
"Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies"

by Tchiakovsky

performed by Kevin MacLeod

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