

### **Book title**

Hansel and Gretel

### **Author**

Brothers Grimm



### **Bibliographic information**

Jacob e Wilhelm Grimm - Fiabe- Edizioni Mondadori- 2016

### **Links (adaptations, reviews, full texts etc.)**

[http://www.grimmstories.com/it/grimm\\_fiabe/hansel\\_e\\_grethel](http://www.grimmstories.com/it/grimm_fiabe/hansel_e_grethel)

<http://leggimiancora.altervista.org/hansel-e-gretel/>

### **Theme**

Fantasy- short stories

### **Short summary**

A poor woodcutter and his wife had two children named Hansel and Gretel. Their mother died when they were young. Hansel and Gretel were very sad. Soon their father remarried but their stepmother was very cruel. One day, she took the children deep into the forest and left them there. Clever Hansel had some breadcrumbs in his pocket and had dropped them on the way so that they could find their way back home. Alas! The birds ate all the crumbs and they couldn't find the path that led back home.

Hansel and Gretel went deeper and deeper into the forest. They were hungry and tired. Finally, after walking for a long time, they saw a cottage made of chocolate, candies, and cake. "Look, Hansel! A chocolate brick!" shouted Gretel in delight and both ate it hungrily. Now, a wicked witch lived there. When she saw Hansel and Gretel, she wanted to eat them. She grabbed the children and locked them in a cage. The witch decided to make a soup out of Hansel and eat him first. She began boiling a huge pot of water for the soup. Just then, Gretel crept out of her cage. She gave the wicked witch a mighty



push from behind and the witch fell into the boiling water. She howled in pain and died instantly. Hansel and Gretel found treasure lying around the cottage. They carried it home with them. Their stepmother had died and their father welcomed them back with tears of joy. They never went hungry again!

**Why is the story appropriate for the targeted groups of RSP readers?**

It is a fairy tale, well known to teenagers. The language is very simple and easy to understand.

**What are the distinguished readers interests reflected by this book/story?**

The protagonists are two resourceful children and, of course, identification of the readers is very easy.

**Why is this story motivational for the pupils?**

Because it encourages self-confidence and helps to imagine to be able to face dangers and difficulties.

**Is there a historical, political, multi/inter cultural, migrant or similar context recognized in this book/story?**

No, there isn't.

**Is there a principle of inclusion reflected in this book/story and does it promotes understanding of cultural diversities and heritage?**

No, there isn't

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## **METHODOLOGY**

**Title of Activity**

Reading for fun

**Description of educational activity**

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Pupils' age:** 15-16

**Organization of the class of pupils:** group work

**Pupils' tasks:** studying the texts thoroughly in order to be able to answer questions on them.

**Support materials:**

- Italian TV programme "Per un pugno di libri" on which this activity is based.

**Evaluation and assessment method:** This work will be assessed by teachers through questions similar to those asked in the TV programme. This game-activity greatly appealed to students because they carefully read the fairy tale and learnt about its

authors and literary genre in order to win the contest. They really had fun and highly appreciated reading as it was experienced as something funny and rewarding.

**Effect of the activity on RSP reading:** having fun while reading, exchanging information contribute to considering reading no longer as a boring and lonely activity, but pleasant and sociable.

### Connection to curriculum

**Grade:** 3<sup>rd</sup> year

**Related objectives:** text analysis always starts in the 3rd year and is suggested in this activity since it helps "dismantle" the text in order to better understand it.

**Knowledge:** learning to read fluently, organise information in an appropriate way.

**Skills:** work in groups, sum up and single out the main information in a text.

**Competences:** analyse a text and make links.

### Bibliographic reference to be used during the activity

#### Italian version

Fratelli Grimm

Fiabe, ed. Mondadori, 2016

pp.663

ISBN978-8804-67205-0



### Digital sources

There are countless simplified versions of Brothers Grimm's tales. Students have seen the latest filmed version of the Beauty and the Beast ; moreover there's a highly appreciated Tv series entitled "Grimm" broadcast by Netflix, where there are a lot of references to Brothers Grimm's fairy tales, including "Hansel and Gretel".

### Results

Making appropriate links between different topics, considering, reflecting and learning how to ask oneself questions and find answers



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### **Recommendations**

This game helps increase students' interest in reading, since it arouses their curiosity; moreover, while having fun, the teacher can also get immediate feedback of students' knowledge.