

LOST IN THE WOODS

(HANSEL AND GRETEL)

©Magic Parrot Productions <http://www.magicparrot.com>



A Musical Play for Young Actors for Any time of Year. Duration 50 mins.

This script is supplied on the CD so you can adapt it. NB We retain the copyright on altered texts.

A shorter 15 minute of this show is also available.

Scripts/ lyrics may be amended to suit your pupils but we retain the copyright.

A Performance Licence is needed before any rehearsals take place.

On purchase, this play is normally licensed to be used by one purchaser on one specific site, for broadly non-commercial use (up to 3 performances) For commercial use, audio-visual recordings or public performances please contact us.

You are encouraged to make a backup tape or CD in case of unexpected failure.

No materials are to be lent, hired, sold or otherwise distributed to third parties without permission.

Lost in The Woods (Hansel and Gretel)

Cast List:

Hansel..... Gretel
Narrator 1.....Narrator 2
Stepmother Father
Witch..... Elves
Fairy 1..... Fairy 2
Other Fairies and Elves (optional)
Hunter

Woodland Creatures:

Rabbit Hare.....
Hedgehog Mouse.....
Birds.....

Barn Creatures:

Spider Bat.....
Cat..... Barn owl.....
Mouse

Wild Creatures:

Crocodile Wolf
Bear Bug.....
Snake

CD LISTING

01 and 12 Welcome Song 08 and 19 The Water is Wide
02 and 13 Don't Go Into the Woods 09 and 20 Yum! Yum! Yum!
03 and 14 Sad Music 10 and 21 I'm a Mean Old Witch!
04 and 15 Fairy Jig 11 and 22 Amazing Day
05 and 16 Who Can it Be?
06 and 17 Bread Trail Music **Tracks 12 to 22 are backing tracks**
07 and 18 Deep in the Lonely woods Script, Lyrics for OHP and Sheet Music are
also on the CD

Suggested Props and Scenery

Axe for woodcutter, pebbles, loaf of bread, fairy lanterns, rifle for hunter, oven made from a cardboard box, bag of gold

Scenery can be as elaborate or as simple as you wish.

The action takes place in the following locations, which can be suggested by simple free standing props or backdrops:

- 1) Hansel and Gretel's House
- 2) The Forest
- 3) The Barn
- 4) The Forest
- 5) The Gingerbread House
- 6) The Forest

Lost in the Woods

*******CD TRACK 1: WELCOME SONG** *****Backing Track 12

(Hint: The cast are all sitting on benches in the hall and join in all the songs.)

*Welcome to our musical show. It's a tale from long ago!
Two poor children were left to roam abandoned all alone!
Welcome to our musical play. You will see strange things today!
Two poor children were left to stray abandoned far away!*

*Oh, it's so nice to see you! Oh it's so nice to greet you!
So welcome is what we say! Welcome to our play!*

(Repeat)

Narrator 1: *(Enter Hansel and Gretel, playing leapfrog)* Once upon a time, near a dark dark forest, there lived two children. The boy was called Hansel. The girl was called Gretel. *(Enter father, joining in game of leapfrog)* They lived with their father who was a woodcutter. When the children were smaller, their father had plenty of work and there was always food on the table. Sadly, their mother had died, and they had a new stepmother who was cruel, greedy and spiteful. *(Enter stepmother)*

Stepmother: *(shrieking)* What are you doing? Playing silly games again? *(To father)* You worthless idle man! I didn't marry you to play silly games! Go and make yourself useful! Go and cut some wood! *(to Hansel and Gretel)* And you two! Go to bed! You are just a nuisance!

Hansel: But we haven't had our supper yet!

Stepmother: *(irritably)* Supper? Supper? There's no food in the house! Do as I said- GO TO BED! NOW! If you know what's good for you! *(Exit Hansel and Gretel)*

Stepmother: You haven't sold any wood for weeks! We will starve. Your horrible children are eating us out of house and home!

Father: But my dear, they don't eat much! Tomorrow, we can go and pick wild mushrooms and berries. We won't starve!

Stepmother: Mushrooms and berries? How repulsive! Take the brats into the thickest part of the forest and leave them there! Perhaps some kind person will come along and feed them. *(aside to audience)* Or better still, the wild animals in the woods will eat them up! *(laughs horribly. Audience boos!)*

Narrator 2: Hansel and Gretel's father pleaded and pleaded with his wife but she was very persuasive. Her mind was made up. She ranted and raved so much, he gave in, and he agreed to her wishes.

Stepmother: If they stay with us, we will starve for sure. Take them into the woods tomorrow and make sure you come back alone. *(Exit father and stepmother)*

Narrator 1: Hansel and Gretel overheard what was being said. Hansel had a clever plan. **(Hansel enters)** He opened his bedroom window and climbed out into the moonlight. He filled his pockets with small white pebbles and then crept back to his room **(Hansel exits)** The next morning, with a heavy heart, their father took Hansel and Gretel to the edge of the woods. **(Enter father, Hansel and Gretel. Rabbit and woodland creatures also enter.)**

Rabbit: (to other creatures) I wonder where those three humans are going?

Hare: They must be going into the woods for a picnic.

Hedgehog: I don't think that's a good idea!

Mouse: There's wild animals in there!

Rabbit: That boy keeps dropping litter.

Mouse: That's typical. Don't they know the country code?

***** **CD TRACK 2: SONG: Don't Go into the Woods!** ***** Backing Track 13
(Sung by woodland creatures. Optional- The wolf, bear and snake pop up to call "Yeah!")

*Don't go into the woods! There's animals in there!
There's wolves and snakes and bugs! Even grizzly bears!
Oh, don't go into the woods today!
It is certain you will lose your way!*

*Don't go into the woods! There's animals in there!
There's wolves and snakes and bugs! Even grizzly bears!
Oh, don't go into the woods today!
It is certain you will lose your way!*

*Oh, my dear! Do take care! Oh, my dear! Do take care!
There's danger everywhere! YEAH!*

(Instrumental Break - Creatures Dance)

*Don't go into the woods! There's animals in there!
There's wolves and snakes and bugs! Even grizzly bears!
Oh, don't go into the woods today!
It is certain you will lose your way!*

*Oh, my dear! Do take care! Oh, my dear! Do take care!
There's danger everywhere! YEAH!*

(EXIT CREATURES)

Narrator 2: Deeper and deeper into the forest they went. Every so often, Hansel dropped one of his pebbles on to the ground, to leave a trail. Eventually, they sat down to rest. Hansel and Gretel were so tired, they fell fast asleep. **(Children sleep)** Their father crept silently away. **(Exit father)** As a woodcutter, he knew the woods like the back of his hand. **(Father looks at his hand and says "Oh, that's what my hand looks like!")** He soon reached home safely. Meanwhile, the children woke up, and Gretel was upset.

Gretel: (Yawns, stretches) We're all alone! We'll never find our way home.

Hansel: Don't worry, Gretel. Follow me!

Narrator 1: They followed the trail of white pebbles until at last they reached home safely. Their father was so happy to see them again, but the wicked stepmother was furious! **(Enter Father and Stepmother)**

Stepmother: What are you two doing back here! I have already rented out your room! You will have to sleep in the barn, and in the morning you will go back into the forest to seek your fortune. **(Aside to audience)** And let's hope a wolf or a bear has you for his dinner this time. Wretched children! Stay in there! **(Audience boos. Exit father and stepmother)**

*** **CD TRACK 3: SAD MUSIC/ SOUND FX AS NARRATOR SPEAKS** ***Backing Track 14

Narrator 1: (Animals enter –Spider, farm cat, mouse, bat, owl) The wicked stepmother locked Hansel and Gretel in the barn. It was very dark and eerie. Owls hooted in the distance. There was no moonlight. Insects chirped in the rafters. Lonesome spiders spun their webs in the dark corners. The wind whistled sadly in the trees. A barn owl hooted on his perch nearby. Hansel and Gretel were cold and hungry and they couldn't sleep. Suddenly, in the darkness, Hansel and Gretel heard a strange tinkling sound and saw a tiny light. Then another. And another. It was some fairies carrying tiny lanterns. **(Fairies enter with lanterns)**

Fairy 1: What have we here? Two human children? What are you doing in our barn?

Hansel: Is this your barn?

Fairy 2: Yes! Of course it's our barn!

Gretel: Sorry! I thought it was our barn!

Cat: No it's not! It's my barn! It's where I catch mice to eat!

Rat: No! It's my barn! I have a warm nest in that corner.

Spider: No! It's my barn! It's a great place to build my web to catch flies.

Mouse: No! It's my barn. It's nice and comfy for me and my 52 children.

Owl: No! It's my barn. I sleep high up in those rafters!

Bat: No! It's my barn! I hang around in here all day!

Fairy 1: Let's not argue! After all, it's my birthday, and I came here for a party!

Fairy 2: (to audience) This is Mary the Fairy! It's her birthday! Shall we sing her "Happy Birthday"? **(Audience agrees- All sing "Happy Birthday Dear Mary")**

Fairy 1: Ah, My other guests are arriving! **(Optional: Enter more fairies and elves)** Time to dance!

*******CD TRACK 4: FAIRY JIG** ***** Backing Track 15

Fairy 2: Shh! Listen! There's somebody outside! Shhh! Quiet! Someone's hiding in the trees! Someone else wants to join the party!

***** **CD TRACK 5: Song: Who Can it Be?** ***** Backing Track 16

Repeat 6 times- various groups of animals join the song one by one with movements and dancing

*Someone's hiding in the forest! Someone's hiding in the trees!
Someone wants to join the party! I wonder who can it be?
(Who can it be? Who can it be?)*

Narrator 2: (All except Hansel and Gretel exit.) After the party, Hansel and Gretel fell fast asleep, and in the morning their father and their wicked stepmother woke them up. **(Enter father and stepmother. Father has a piece of bread.)**

Stepmother: Wake up you lazy loafers. We are all going into the woods for a nice picnic my dears! **(Aside to audience:)** I'll make sure they get well and truly lost this time! **(Audience boos)**

Father (aside to Hansel, giving him the bread) Shhh! Take this piece of bread. Leave a trail and you can follow it back home again. Then she'll know you are too clever to lose your way in the woods - and we will all live happily ever after!

***** **CD TRACK 6: MUSIC: Trail of Bread (As Narrator 2 Speaks) ****** Backing Track 17
(Hansel drops a trail of bread. Birds dance gracefully on stage - and eat the bread. Fade music when you wish!)

Narrator 2: They went deep into the woods. Every so often, Hansel dropped a crumb of bread. What a clever plan! They would follow the trail back home again. No problem! But.....they didn't notice that some birds were following them.

(Exit father and stepmother stealthily, exit birds)

Gretel: Father! Father! Where are you?

Hansel: They've gone! But don't worry, Gretel. We can follow the trail of bread back home.

Gretel: What trail of bread?

Hansel: (searching): Oh no! The birds must have eaten all the bread! Looks like we're lost after all! **(Both sit, glumly.)**

(Enter Rabbit)

Rabbit: Why are you looking so sad?

Hansel / Gretel: We're lost! And nobody cares about us!

Rabbit (to audience): We care about you, don't we? **(Audience: Yes!)** But you must be careful, children. There are many animals in this wood who would love to gobble you up!

***** **CD TRACK 7: SONG: Deep in the Lonely Woods ******* Backing Track 18
(Crocodile, bug, wolf, bear, snake and witch appear, one by one during the song)

*Deep in the lonely woods! Lost and gone astray! If you see a crocodile Don't forget to pray!
Deep in the lonely woods! Lost and gone astray! If you see a nasty bug Swish it clean away!
Deep in the lonely woods! Lost and gone astray! If you see a hungry wolf don't ask him to stay!
Deep in the lonely woods! Lost and gone astray! If you see a grizzly bear don't ask him to play!
Deep in the lonely woods! Lost and gone astray! If you see a hissing snake quickly run away!
Deep in the lonely woods! Lost and gone astray! If you see an ugly witch hide without delay!*

(All except the witch exit briefly!)

Witch: (to audience, horribly) Aha! I can smell children! Have you seen any children around here? I want to invite them to dinner! MY DINNER! Have you seen those two children? Oh yes, you have! (etc) When I catch them I will bake them in my oven! Heee Heee Heee! **(Exit)**

(Hansel, Gretel, Crocodile, Bug, wolf, bear and snake emerge)

Bug: What a horrible witch! **END OF SCRIPT PREVIEW**