



Hansel and Gretel

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Hansel and a girl named Gretel. They were both very naughty. They never did what their parents told them.

One day, their family ran out of food. Their mother took them into the forest to hunt for mushrooms. When they were far away from home, she turned and ran away. She knew that there wasn't enough food for the children at home, but there might be in the forest.

The two children were annoyed by their mother. Hansel thought he knew the way home, but Gretel wasn't sure. They tried their best but they were soon lost.

Just before the sun set, they stumbled upon a rather unusual house. The walls were made of chocolate and delicious sweets. The roof was made of icing and toffee. They were very hungry by this point and so they both ran straight to the house. It all tasted delicious and soon they were full of sugar.

Suddenly, they heard a cackling laugh from the doorway. "Two more children for my pot!" It was a horrible old woman. "There are even more sweets inside," she said.

Hansel had always been greedier than Gretel, and he sped into the house. Gretel followed him slowly. She didn't like the look of the woman. By the time she was in the cottage, Hansel was already trapped in a cage. He was hanging above a boiling pot of

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What did the children never do?
2. What did they go looking for in the forest?
3. What were the walls of the house made of?
4. What did the old woman promise them was inside the house?
5. What did Gretel say they had seen in the woods?

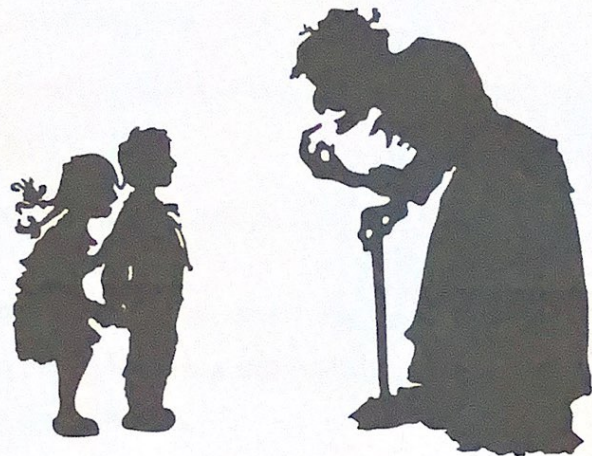
water. The old woman was planning to eat him!

Gretel had a plan. She told the old woman that they had seen a dragon in the woods, and he might burn down the cottage. The old woman looked worried and fled outside. Quickly, Gretel reached up and released Hansel from his cage.

There was an oven on the other side of the cottage, facing the door. The oven was very hot and now Hansel had an idea. He opened the oven wide and they both hid behind the cottage door.

A few minutes later, the old lady burst into the cottage. Hansel and Gretel jumped out from behind the door and pushed her into the open oven. They slammed the door shut and quickly fled into the forest.

After a while, they found their way home. They told their mother and father about the gingerbread cottage and they never went hungry again.



VIPERS QUESTIONS

- I** Why did Gretel enter the house slowly?
- V** Which word tells you that Hansel always wanted more food?
- V** Which word tells you that the woman came back into the house quickly?
- S** What did Hansel do for the first part of his plan?
- P** What do you think the family did so that they never went hungry again?