

HANSEL, GRETEL AND NANCY

SCENE: Hansel and Gretel are lost in the woods. They are very hungry and have come across a house that is made from sweet treats.

ROLES (4): Narrator, Hansel (young boy), Gretel (young girl), Nancy (old woman)

READER AGES: 10 years and over

NARRATOR: Once upon a time, there lived an old woman named Nancy. She had spent years building her dream house in the woods. It was made from gingerbread, chocolate cake, candy and barley sugar. Nancy lived alone in her house and she was very happy there.

NANCY: *(to the audience)* I love my dream house! It has taken me such a long time to build, but the effort and hard work has been worth it. I will be happy here in my beautiful house for the rest of my life.

NARRATOR: Meanwhile, a boy called Hansel and a girl called Gretel were lost in the woods. Their father was a woodcutter and they had wandered off. They were very tired and very hungry.

HANSEL: I am so tired! I feel like we have been walking aimlessly around these woods for weeks.

GRETEL: I know. I would give anything for something to eat! Why did we have to wander so far away from where Father was working?

NARRATOR: Just as Hansel and Gretel were losing all hope, they stumbled across a clearing in the woods. There before them stood the most beautiful house they had ever seen.

HANSEL: *(excitedly)* Wow! That house is incredible! Is it made of... no, that can't possibly be what I'm seeing. Maybe if I walk a little closer and have another look?

NARRATOR: As Hansel walked closer to the house, he could hardly believe what his eyes were seeing.

HANSEL: I think I can see... yes, I was right! *(calling)* Gretel, come over here! This house is made of delicious sweet treats!

GRETEL: Oh my goodness, Hansel, I think you're right! The bricks are made from gingerbread, the windows are made from barely sugar and the scrumptious roof is made of cake - chocolate cake!

NARRATOR: Hansel and Gretel started recklessly pulling gingerbread bricks off the wall of Nancy's dream house. When they grew tired of gingerbread, they thoughtlessly began ripping chocolate cake tiles off the roof. They were frantic with joy. While they were slowly destroying Nancy's house, she was sitting happily inside, reading a book. Finally, at the end of the chapter, she looked out the window.

NANCY: (*distraught*) Oh my! Who are these rude little children, selfishly destroying my precious house? Have they no manners at all? I don't understand why they would do such an awful, horrible thing!

NARRATOR: Nancy ran outside to kindly ask the children to stop eating her dream house. She was terribly upset, but she also wanted to help the children to find their way home.

NANCY: Nibble, nibble mouse! Who is nibbling at my little house?

HANSEL: (*shocked*) Oh... hello. My name is Hansel. This is my sister, Gretel. I'm sorry, but we can't really talk to you right now. We are too busy eating!

GRETEL: (*with a mouthful of cake*) Yes. Can't stop... eating!

NANCY: I don't think you understand, Hansel and Gretel. This is my house. It makes me very upset to see you destroying it. This house is my pride and joy and I am asking you kindly to please stop eating it!

GRETEL: (*rudely*) Go away! We'll eat whatever we like!

HANSEL: Yes, this has nothing to do with you, old lady.

NANCY: (*shocked and upset*) Well, I have never met such rude children in my whole life. Where is your father? I would like a word with him, please. I think he needs to know that his children are vandals!

HANSEL: We don't know where he is. We are lost. But we don't care anymore, because we have this delicious house to munch on.

GRETEL: Yes, I'll be happy to stay here forever!

NARRATOR: Although Nancy was very upset with the children, she had a kind and gentle heart. She decided to invite Hansel and Gretel into her home so that she could cook them a proper meal. She also thought that this might be the only way to stop the children from eating her house.

NANCY: How about you both come inside and have a rest for a little while? I will cook you a beef and vegetable stew with some fresh, crusty bread.

HANSEL: Good. I'm still hungry.

GRETTEL: *(thinking)* Well... can you make it quick? My tummy is still rumbling.

NARRATOR: Hansel and Gretel came into Nancy's house. They greedily ate the stew and fresh bread, but they were still not satisfied... nor did they say 'thank you' for the delicious meal they had been given.

NANCY: I think it is time for us to go and find your father. He must be very worried about you. I will go and get my coat and we will be on our way.

HANSEL: *(whispering to Gretel)* I don't want to go home. I want to stay here. Let's get rid of this old lady so that we can stay and keep eating the house!

GRETTEL: *(whispering to Hansel)* That's a great idea. I want to stay here, too.

NARRATOR: So, the two rude children agreed to go with Nancy to look for their father. As Nancy stepped outside, Hansel and Gretel slammed the door behind her and locked it. Nancy could hear the children sniggering and giggling at her from behind the door.

NANCY: *(yelling)* Let me back in this instant!

GRETTEL: *(defiantly)* No. This is our house now. Go away!

HANSEL: Yes, we own this house and we are going to eat the whole thing!

NARRATOR: Poor Nancy was distraught. How was she going to force two nasty children out of her beautiful home? Suddenly, she had an idea!

NANCY: *(to herself)* Cuddles, my Doberman watchdog, is sleeping in the living room by the fire. Those horrible children are going to get a terrible shock when they go in there!

NARRATOR: Nancy sat down and waited patiently. She knew exactly what was going to happen. A short while later, Nancy could hear a commotion inside. Cuddles was growling. To her amusement, she then heard Hansel and Gretel screaming, followed by the sound of footsteps heading towards the front door. Hansel and Gretel yanked open the door and ran past Nancy, with Cuddles in hot pursuit. Nancy chuckled to herself.

NANCY: *(with satisfaction)* Bye bye, Hansel. Bye bye, Gretel. Please don't visit again. I have a funny feeling that you won't be back.

THE END

