

# HANSEL and GRETEL: THE NEXT GENERATION

by Kim Esop Wylie  
Music and Lyrics by Neal Richardson  
Directed by Kat Singleton

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and  
GRETEL:  
THE NEXT GENERATION**

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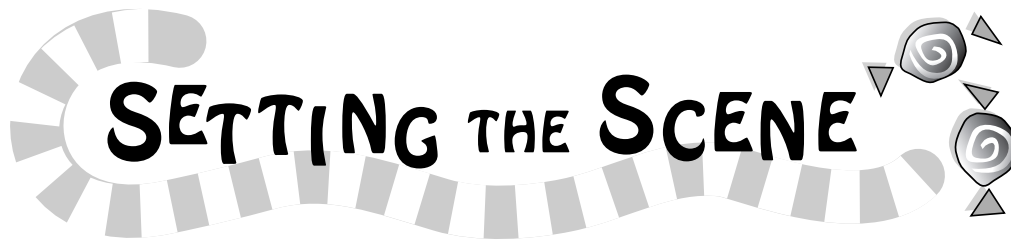
**Musical Director**  
Neal Richardson  
**Scenic & Costume Design**  
Dottie Marshall Englis  
**Stage Manager**  
Brian Peters  
**Director of Education**  
Marsha Coplon  
**Artistic Supervisor**  
Jeffery Matthews

The Company  
(in order of appearance)

Gretel / **Christena Doggrell**  
Mom / **Meghan Brown**  
Hansel / **Jason Contini**  
Uncle / **Alan Knoll**

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# SETTING THE SCENE

In everyone's life, there are scary moments and there are happy times. In *Hansel and Gretel: The Next Generation*, playwright Kim Esop Wylie gives us different places that show us what both of those times can be like. At home, with their mom and uncle, Hansel and Gretel are safe and comfortable. Mom and Uncle Hansel spend their time trying to help others in need, and the kids can join in. When Hansel and Gretel get themselves lost in the forest, however, they find a very different situation. Spooky noises, unfamiliar sights and even cranky witches show us a place that is very scary. But Hansel and Gretel discover—just like we do—that scary places don't have to be so bad. Everyone has the ability to find the strength to get through life's scary times, and back to a happy place.



# WHO'S WHO?

## HANSEL

has dreams of being a superhero with his trusty tadpole sidekick, but sometimes he gets a little distracted by imaginary adventures.

Hansel and Gretel's

## MOM

has been through some scary stuff, and sometimes scary stuff is hard to forget.

Little

## GRETEL

hears about a lot of great adventures, but she thinks that she might not be strong enough to actually live that way.

## UNCLE HANSEL

seems like a grouch, but he cares about his niece and nephew, and he just may have a little something up his sleeve.

The children's pet,

## BIRDBIRD,

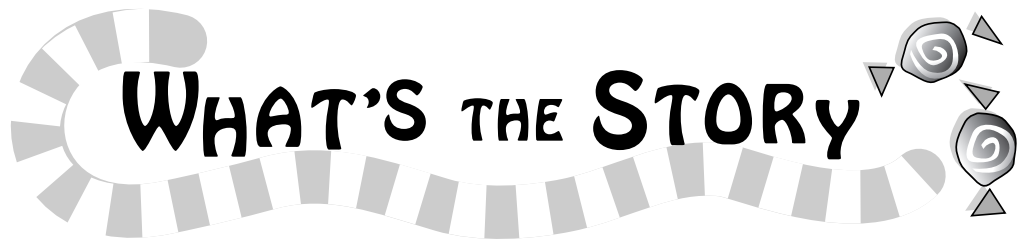
seems silly but just might be smarter than anyone thought she could be.

Everyone is afraid of the evil

## WITCH

who lives in the woods.

# WHAT'S THE STORY



In *Hansel and Gretel: The Next Generation* playwright Kim Esop Wylie takes us into the next chapter of the original Hansel and Gretel story. Our play shows us Hansel and Gretel, who now work for the Fairy Tale Crisis Hotline, trying to save other fairy tale characters from having a scary experience like they did when they were small. In addition to her job at the hotline, Gretel is a mother with two children. These children also happen to be named Hansel and Gretel, but they are a little different than their namesakes.

As the play begins we see a call come in to the Fairy Tale Crisis Hotline. It seems that a child is trapped in multiple fairy tales and needs rescuing. Mom and Uncle Hansel try to tell young Hansel and Gretel how important it is to be strong and find a way through scary situations like this. The kids, however, are more interested in other things. Hansel would rather climb into his imaginary super turbo rocket car or play with his new tadpole than listen to Mom. Gretel listens, but with all the scary things she knows about the world, along with her weak leg, she's just not sure she has the ability to be strong.

Mom knows that her children can be much stronger than they are acting, so along with the help of the family pet Birdbird, she comes up with a plan. Birdbird swipes Hansel's tadpole, and when the boy looks for his pet, Mom tells him that it went into the forest. Hansel runs off to find the tadpole, and Mom sends Gretel in after her reckless brother.

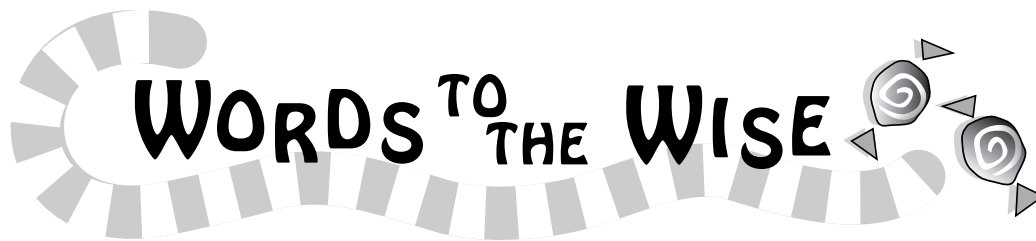
In the forest, Gretel urges her brother to return home, but Hansel is eager to find his

pet. The longer the children wander in the forest, the more nervous Gretel becomes, noticing all of the strange noises, dark corners and gummy plants. She gets a good scare but is then relieved when she backs into Birdbird, who has been looking for them. The three turn to start home but realize they're lost! Gretel starts getting more and more frightened, while Hansel complains of his hungry stomach when suddenly the three come face to face with a house made of gingerbread and candy. Happy to see anything resembling food, Hansel rushes toward the house, despite his cautious sister's warnings. Gretel remembers her mother's story about a witch who lives in a gingerbread house, but Hansel is too busy eating peppermint siding to notice. Before the two realize what has happened, the witch has locked the children inside to fatten them up and eat them!

The witch is very mean—she locks Hansel in a cage and forces Gretel to clean her house. As the witch leaves the room to watch TV with Birdbird, Hansel suggests that Gretel run for help. Gretel tries, but she is too scared and is worried that she isn't strong enough to save them on her own. Alone, neither of the children can escape, but when they work together, they are able to come up with a plan. When the witch returns, the two distract her by throwing food. Birdbird even tries to help, fighting the witch so Gretel has a chance to knock her into a garbage can. With the witch stuck in the can, Birdbird gives Hansel the keys to escape from his cage and the three return home to tell their mother of their adventure.



# WORDS TO THE WISE



**Crisis:** At the Fairy Tale Crisis Hotline, Mom solves these big, major problems.

**Socket wrench:** Birdbird carries lots of stuff with her, even a tool like a socket wrench.

**Counselor:** A counselor is someone who listens and helps other people solve their problems.

**Telethon:** This kind of long television special is used to raise money for a specific charity.

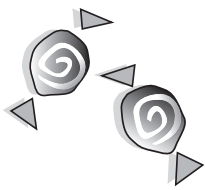
**Hand Sanitizer:** Gretel uses this germ-killing gel when she thinks she may have dirty hands.

**Curds and whey:** These are the two parts of milk that separate from each other in the process of making cheese.

**Compass:** When lost in the forest, Hansel and Gretel could have used this device to find the direction home.

**Obtuse:** The witch tells the children they are being obtuse, or not using their brains.

**Valor:** The children find out that this word means strength or bravery, which is exactly what they need to escape.



## Read More About It



We encourage you to examine these topics in-depth by exploring the following books, Web sites and videos.

Grimm, Wilhelm and Jacob Grimm. *Brothers Grimm: The Complete Fairy Tales*, Contemporary Publishing Company, 1998.

[www.grimmfairytales.com](http://www.grimmfairytales.com)

Aesop and Jack Zipes, (Editor). *Aesop's Fables*, Signet Classics, 1992.

Perrault, Charles and Sally Holmes. *The Complete Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault*. Clarion Books, 1993.

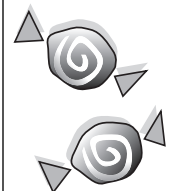
Andersen, Hans Christian and Lily Owens. *The Complete Hans Christian Andersen Fairy Tales*. Gramercy, 1993.

Scieszka, Jon and Lane Smith. *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. Viking Juvenile, 1992.

*Shrek*, 93 minutes, Dreamworks Video, 2001, DVD.

*Hookwinked*, 80 minutes, Weinstein Company, 2006, DVD.

For a quick and easy version of the original Hansel and Gretel story visit The Rep's website at <http://www.repstl.org/itc/>.





## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

“Must be nice to save people. To be a hero.” These are the words of our young heroine, Gretel, in Kim Esop Wylie’s latest romp for ITC. A hero exists in all of us, somewhere inside, waiting to be accessed and to soar above the ordinary; ready to overcome our insecurities, shyness or infirmities. Most of us are unlikely to run into a witch or giant birds in order to find our inner hero but, oh what fun occurs when we do! I have often heard that bravery is doing what we need to,

in spite of our fears. These characters are just like us even though they live in a fractured fairy tale world. They too have fears and foibles, but they learn to be brave and strong when necessary just as we do. I hope you enjoy Ms. Wylie’s wacky world, Neal Richardson’s fabulous songs, and the delightful designs by Dottie Marshall Englis.

**Kat Singleton**  
Director



## FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

The story of Hansel and Gretel is not pretty. All of the adults want to harm the children, either by neglect or cannibalism, but the story has endured because the children survive against all odds. They never give up. Their survival is heroic.

For many of us in the United States today, survival is an ordinary thing. We don’t have to battle witches. Government agencies are supposed to protect us even from neglect. So the world seems safer by comparison. Survival is no longer heroic.

But life still poses heroic opportunities—small, everyday situations that offer us the chance to be heroes in small, everyday ways. Finding strength within ourselves to speak up, to do what’s right, to be kind. The characters in *Hansel and Gretel: The Next Generation* discover that helping someone else be stronger is heroic.

Everyone can be a hero. Every day.

**Kim Esop Wylie**  
Playwright

# BUILD A BOOK

The original story of Hansel and Gretel is told by The Brothers Grimm, who are also responsible for many other famous fairy tales. Our version of this tale, *Hansel and Gretel: The Next Generation*, shows us what might have happened after the end of the original. Have you ever wondered what might have happened after the end of your favorite story? Read another Brothers Grimm fairy tale, or choose a story that you already know and think about what might happen after the story's end.

In a good story, many pieces need to be put together before you can create a finished whole. In the puzzle pieces, write down as many ideas as you can about what would be included in your story.

## 1. Characters

Stories must have characters. The best characters are ones that your readers will like and want to hear more about.

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## 2. Plot

The plot is what will happen in your story. Will your characters get lost in the woods? Confront a witch? Win a contest? In what order will your events happen?

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## 3. Setting

The setting is very important to your story. Choosing a place and time that pairs well with your characters and plot makes your story more interesting. Where will your story take place?

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## 4. Climax

Think about the moment in your story when something big and important will happen. This is the climax. The climax should be the moment the beginning and middle of your story is leading up to.

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## 5. Resolution

The resolution is another word for the ending of your story. The end should wrap up all the things that have been happening. Will your ending be happy?

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Now put it all together! Write your story from beginning to end, including all of the pieces you need. If you want, you can write your story on different pages and include illustrations to make your very own book.

# A HEALTHY YOU

Favorite foods like pizza, cheeseburgers and candy bars are definitely yummy, but eating too much of these kinds of foods is not always good for your health. Below is the food pyramid created by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. As you can see, we all need a well balanced diet of lots of different foods to be as healthy as we can be.

Using the daily menu below, write in everything you had to eat yesterday. Did you get everything the food pyramid says you should have? Are you missing fruits? Vegetables? Dairy? Now, in the second column create another daily menu, this time making sure you follow the food pyramid guidelines. Can you fit in your favorite foods?

**Breakfast:**

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**Lunch:**

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**Snacks:**

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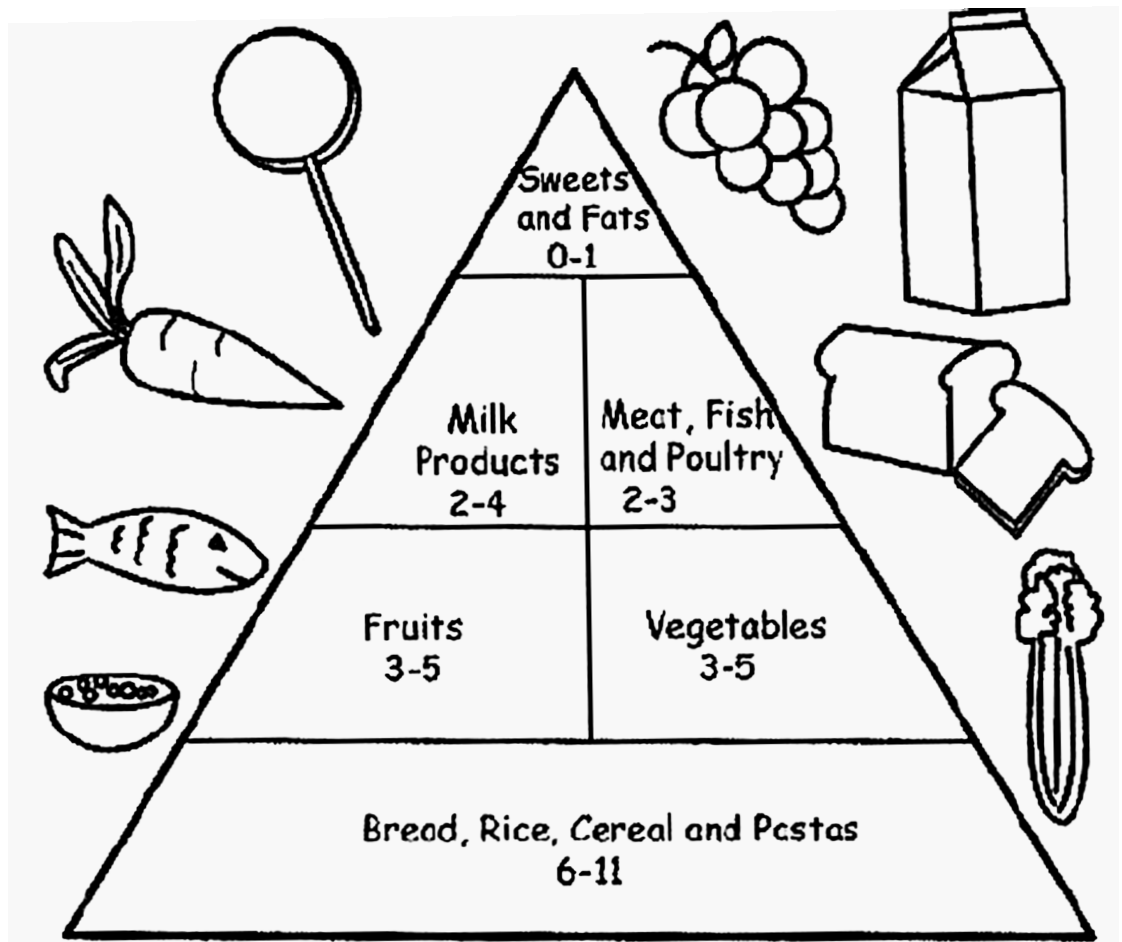
**Dinner:**

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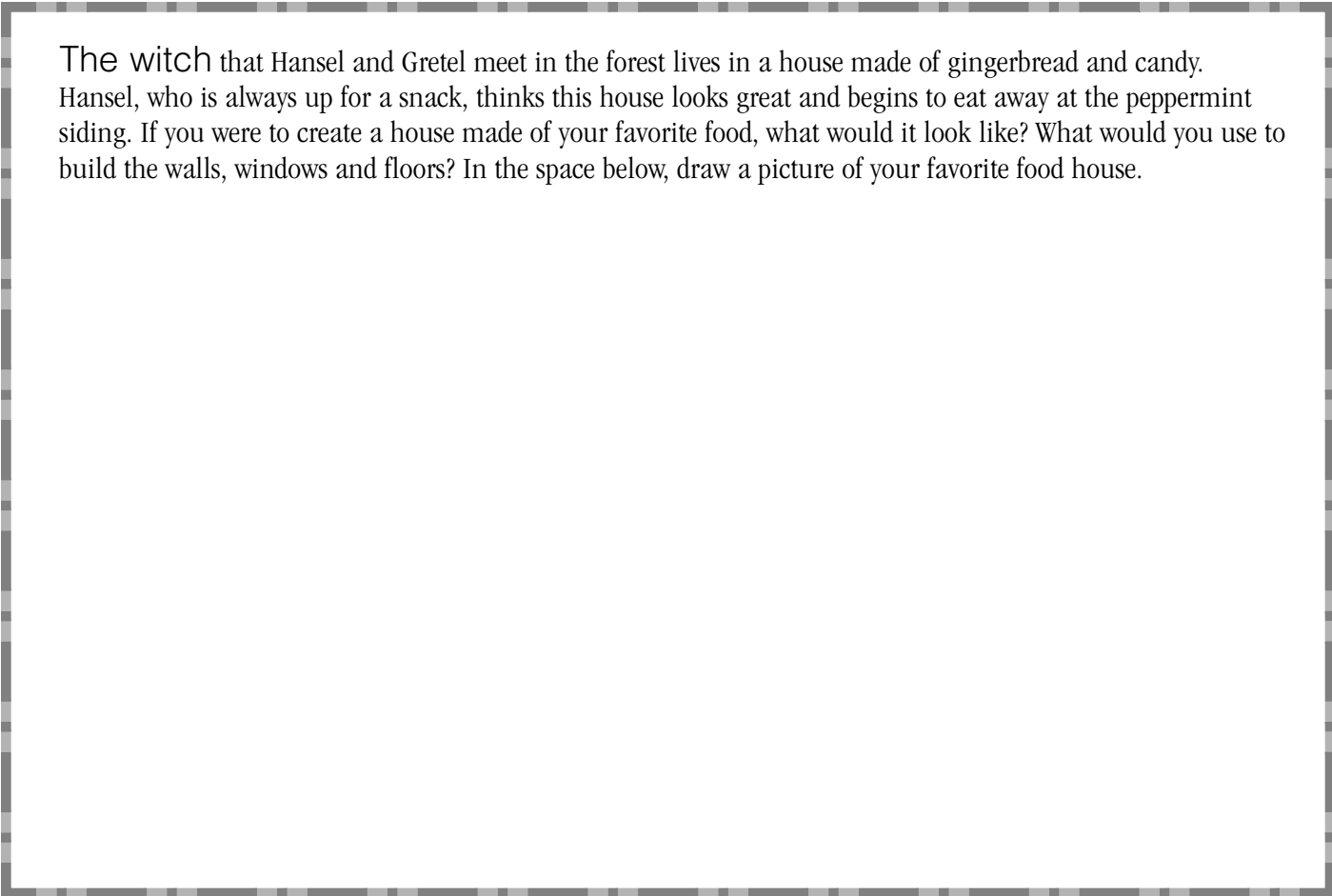
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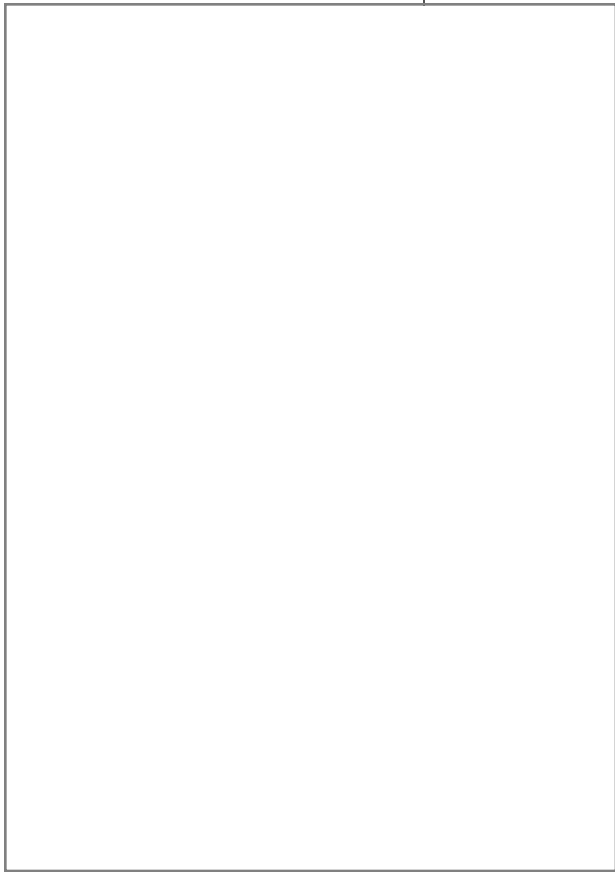


The witch that Hansel and Gretel meet in the forest lives in a house made of gingerbread and candy. Hansel, who is always up for a snack, thinks this house looks great and begins to eat away at the peppermint siding. If you were to create a house made of your favorite food, what would it look like? What would you use to build the walls, windows and floors? In the space below, draw a picture of your favorite food house.



In addition to healthy eating, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service also tells us that a good amount of exercise is also important for a healthy body. A little physical activity each day keeps our muscles fit and every part of our bodies healthy and strong. Below, write three examples of exercises you can do every day. Maybe you like jogging through your neighborhood, playing soccer with your friends or walking your dog. Choose your favorite physical activity and draw a picture of what you look like when you are participating in this exercise.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# TALE TROUBLE

The phone at the Fairy Tale Crisis Hotline has been ringing off the hook today! It seems several children have gotten lost in different fairy tales.

From the descriptions the children gave hotline workers, can you tell which tale each child is stuck in?



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**1.** A pretty lady is running down the stairs with only one shoe, and her carriage just turned into a pumpkin.

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**2.** A girl with very long hair is trapped inside a very tall tower.

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**3.** A young boy is flying around with a little fairy, and they're sword fighting a one-handed pirate.

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**4.** Several little bearded men are trying to wake up a beautiful girl who's just eaten a poison apple.

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**5.** A wolf has dressed himself as an old lady and is waiting to catch a little girl in a red cape.

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**6.** A girl is trapped in an enchanted castle with a monster and dancing plates, clocks and candles.

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**7.** A little wooden puppet's nose keeps growing longer and longer.

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**8.** Even though she's sleeping on dozens of mattresses, a princess keeps complaining that there's a lump in her bed.

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**9.** A young lady just pricked her finger and fell asleep, and now no one can wake her up.

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**10.** A little girl with long blonde ringlets is stealing food and other things from a little house in the woods.

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**11.** A white rabbit just jumped into a hole in the ground, and a little girl jumped in after him and disappeared.

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**12.** A mean wolf keeps blowing down little houses made of different materials.

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**13.** A little turtle is about to cross the finish line in a race against a much faster animal.

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**14.** Two children are going up a steep hill after water, but one takes a terrible fall and hurts himself badly.

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**15.** A mean witch in a house made of food has locked a boy in a cage and is going to eat him.

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# FEAR FACTOR

In this play, we see that everyone—even adults—gets scared sometimes. Maybe thunder and lightning make your heart race or running into a cobweb gives your stomach a lurch. No matter how big or brave we pretend to be there is always going to be something that creeps us out a bit, but sometimes that's okay. Talk to your parents, teachers or friends about what you're afraid of. Sometimes just talking about it can make you feel better, or maybe someone will give you a good idea about how to beat your fears.

## What are you afraid of?

In the space below write three things that you are most afraid of.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Why are you afraid?

Think about what it is about these things that scares you. Is it the creepy crawly legs of the spider that freaks you out? Sometimes identifying your fear can make it easier to deal with. Write exactly what scares you about the three things you listed above.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Everyone gets scared.

Even Superman's afraid of kryptonite, so you can bet you're not the only one who is afraid of these things. Ask three other people, friends, family or classmates what they're afraid of. Does anyone share your fear?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## CRACK THE CODE

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			

Fill in the blanks by matching the letters to the numbers below to find out what Hansel and Gretel discovered on their adventure.

$\frac{\quad}{0+1}$	$\frac{\quad}{14}$	$\frac{\quad}{24}$	$\frac{\quad}{7+8}$	$\frac{\quad}{14}$	$\frac{\quad}{2+3}$	$\frac{\quad}{4-1}$	$\frac{\quad}{3-2}$	$\frac{\quad}{14}$
$\frac{\quad}{4-2}$	$\frac{\quad}{4+1}$	$\frac{\quad}{5-4}$	$\frac{\quad}{5+3}$	$\frac{\quad}{5}$	$\frac{\quad}{9+9}$	$\frac{\quad}{15}$	!	

# WHO'S THIS?

Finish the color-by-letter picture to see one of Hansel and Gretel's fun friends.

B= Blue I=Orange R=Red D=Yellow

