



## **Hansel and Gretel** **Summary**

Leave it to The Children's Theatre to take a fairy tale and blend it with nursery rhyme characters to create a fantasyland adventure. Our story of Hansel and Gretel opens with singing and dancing about a strange food shortage where they live. It doesn't make sense and some think there is magic taking place deep in the nearby forest. Ms. Hood, Mrs. Horner, Mr. Blue, and Mr. Peep are all concerned-their children went into the woods and have never returned!

The forest is considered both enchanted and dangerous. Rumors abound connected with a house made of delicious food that lies in this off-limits territory. One night, Hansel and Gretel decide to take matters into their own hands and they head off into the woods to solve the mystery of the food shortage and their missing friends. All along the way, animals and trees come to life warning them of the danger! A mysteriously cloaked figure appears in the shadows and magically opens the way for the children to proceed to this tasty house.

Uncontrollable hunger overtakes Hansel and Gretel when a delightfully decorated gingerbread house comes into view. There are even gingerbread cookie figures decorating the fence that surrounds the house-one with a red cape, one with a purple thumb, a figure dressed in blue and a figure dressed in pink, holding a shepherd's crook!

Giving in to the hunger pangs, Hansel and Gretel help themselves to a slice of the house. Immediately a witch appears admonishing the children for helping themselves to her creation without permission. The witch realizes that once again, she has not been kind to children and defends herself in song. It seems the witch has never been accepted by other people -- always misunderstood --so she reverts to evil treatment of others.

To rid her of two more children, the witch proceeds to place Hansel in a cage, and tries to coax Gretel into an oven. Leave it to the creative Gretel to trick the witch—she asks the witch to demonstrate how to get into the oven. With the slamming of the oven door, the witch goes up in smoke! Success! (But will she really be gone?) Immediately, Hansel's cage splits open and each gingerbread cookie comes to life! Families are reunited! Problems are solved by the pluck and courage of the two young people, and the magical entertainment of a classic is enjoyed by all!