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Знаете ли вы, почему Гензель и Гретель оказались в лесу? А что будет, если попросить смерть стать крестным отцом? В этом сборнике собраны пугающие и завораживающие своей мрачностью фольклорные истории. Здесь смрад доносится из запертой комнаты замка Синей Бороды, одним отрубают руки, а других одаривают богатствами, здесь поют косточки и оживают лесные тени. Откройте эти истории... если решитесь.

Тексты сказок адаптированы для уровня А1. Все самые нужные слова вы найдете в словариках, расположенных после каждой главы. В конце книги даны упражнения на проверку понимания прочитанного, закрепление новых слов, работу с текстом и грамматику английского языка. Ключи к упражнениям расположены в последнем разделе пособия.

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## Scary Fairy Tales. A1

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# HANSEL AND GRETEL

A poor **woodcutter** with his wife and his two children lived next to a great forest. The boy's name was Hansel and the girl's name was Gretel. The woodcutter had little to eat, and once, when a great hunger came to the land, he could no longer feed his family.

One evening he was lying in bed and thinking about his problems. Then he said to his wife, "What will happen to us? How can we feed our children when we have nothing to eat?"

"Man, do you know what?" answered the woman. "Tomorrow morning we will take the children into the woods, make a fire for them, and give each of them a little piece of bread, then leave them and go to our work. They will not find their way home, and we will not have to feed them anymore."

"No, woman," said the man. "I will not do that. How could I leave my own children alone in the woods? Wild animals would kill them."

"Oh, you fool," she said, "then all four of us will die from hunger." And she **scolded** him until he agreed.

"But I do feel sorry for the poor children," said the man.

The two children could not sleep because of their hunger, and they heard the conversation between the **stepmother** and the father.

Gretel cried and said to Hansel, "It is over for us!"

"Be calm, Gretel," said Hansel, "and don't worry. I know what to do."



## Scary Fairy Tales



When the adults were sleeping, he got up, put on his jacket and went outside. The moon was shining brightly, and the white little stones in front of the house were sparkling like silver coins. Hansel filled all of his jacket pockets with them.

Then he went back into the house and said, “Don’t worry, Gretel. Sleep well. God will not leave us.” Then he went back to bed.

Early in the morning the woman came and woke the two children. “Get up, you lazy children. We are going into the forest to **gather** wood.” Then she gave each one a little piece of bread, saying, “Here is something for you. Don’t eat it soon, for you’ll not get any more.”

Gretel put the bread under her **apron**, because Hansel’s pockets were full of stones. Then all together they went into the woods. When they were still not far from home, Hansel began stopping again and again and looking back toward the house.

The father said, “Hansel, why are you stopping and looking back? Be careful, and don’t forget your legs.”

“Oh, father,” said Hansel, “I am looking at my white cat that is sitting on the roof and wants to say good-bye to me.”

The woman said, “You fool, that isn’t your cat. That’s the morning sun shining on the roof.”

However, Hansel was not looking at his cat. He was throwing the shiny little stones from his pocket on the road.

When they arrived in the middle of the woods, the father said, “You children gather some wood, and I will make a fire so you won’t freeze.”

Hansel and Gretel gathered together a lot of sticks.



## Hansel and Gretel



When the fire was burning well, the woman said, “Lie down by the fire and rest. We will go into the forest to cut wood. When we are finished, we will come back and get you.”

Hansel and Gretel sat by the fire. When **noon** came each one ate his little piece of bread. They sat there a long time. They were tired, so they closed their eyes, and fell asleep.

When they finally **awoke**, it was dark at night. Gretel began to cry and said, “How will we get out of woods?”

Hansel calmed her, “Wait a little until the moon comes up, and then we’ll find the way.”

When full moon came up, Hansel took his little sister by the hand and followed the little stones that sparkled like new coins, showing them the way. They walked throughout the entire night, and early in the morning they arrived at the father’s house.

They knocked on the door, and when the woman opened it and saw that it was Hansel and Gretel, she said, “You **nasty** children, why did you sleep so long in the woods? We thought that you did not want to come back.”

But the father was happy when he saw his children once more. He did not want to leave them alone.

Not long after there was once again great hunger everywhere. One evening the children heard that mother said to the father, “We have nothing to eat. We have only a half loaf of bread, and then the song will be over. We must **get rid of** the children. We will take them deeper into the woods, so they will not be able to come back. Or we will all die.”

The man was very sad, and he thought, “It would be better to share the last bit with the children.”



## Scary Fairy Tales



But the woman would not listen to him, scolded him, and criticized him. Who says A must also say B, and because he gave up the first time, he had to do so the second time too.

The children were still awake. They heard the conversation. When the adults were sleeping, Hansel got up and wanted again to gather little stones, but this time the door was locked, and Hansel could not go out. But he calmed his little sister and said, “Don’t cry, Gretel. Sleep well. God will help us.”

Early the next morning the woman came and got the children from their beds. They **received** their little pieces of bread, even less than the last time. On the way to the woods, Hansel crumbled his piece in his pocket, then often stood still, and threw **crumbs** onto the ground.

“Hansel, why are you always stopping and looking around?” said his father. “Keep walking.”

“I can see my **pigeon** sitting on the roof. It wants to say good-bye to me.”

“Fool,” said the woman, “that isn’t your pigeon. That’s the morning sun shining on the roof.”

But little by little Hansel dropped all the crumbs onto the path. The woman took them very deep into the woods, so they could not come back.

Once again, the parents made a large fire, and the mother said, “Sit here, children. If you get tired you can sleep a little. We are going into the forest to cut wood. We will come and get you in the evening when we are finished.”

When it was noon Gretel shared her bread with Hansel, who had nothing to eat, because crumbs of his piece now were lying along the road. Then they fell asleep, and evening passed, but no one came to get the poor children.



## Hansel and Gretel



It was dark at night when they awoke, and Hansel calmed Gretel and said, “Wait, when the moon comes up I will be able to see the crumbs of bread that I left on the road, and they will show us the way back home.”

When the moon appeared they got up, but they could not find any crumbs. The crumbs were eaten by the many thousands of birds that flew about in the woods and in the fields.

Hansel said to Gretel, “We will find our way,” but they did not find it.

They walked through the entire night and the next day from morning until evening, but they did not find their way out of the woods. They ate only a few small berries that were growing on the ground. They were terribly hungry.

And because they were so tired that their legs would no longer carry them, they lay down under a tree and fell asleep. They were walking in the woods for three days.

They started walking again, but **managed** only to go deeper and deeper into the woods. If help did not come soon, they would die. At noon they saw a little snow-white bird sitting on a branch. It sang so beautifully that they stopped to listen. When it was finished it flew in front of them. They followed it until they came to a little house. The bird sat on the roof, and when they came closer, they saw that the whole little house was built from bread with a roof made of cake, and the windows were made of clear sugar.

“Let’s have a good meal,” said Hansel. “I’ll eat a piece of the roof, and Gretel, you eat from the window. That will be sweet.”

Hansel **reached** up and broke off a little of the roof to see how it tasted, while Gretel stood next to the window glasses



## Scary Fairy Tales



and was **nibbling** at them. Then a gentle voice called out from inside:

*Nibble, nibble, little mouse,  
Who is nibbling at my house?*

The children answered:

*The wind, the wind,  
The heavenly child.*

They continued to eat. Hansel, who very much liked the taste of the roof, tore down another large piece, and Gretel **pulled out** an entire round window glass. Suddenly the door opened, and an old woman went out. Hansel and Gretel were so **frightened** that they dropped what they were holding in their hands.

But the old woman shook her head and said, “Oh, you dear children, who brought you here? Just come in and stay with me. No harm will come to you.”

She took them by the hand and led them into her house. Then she served them a good meal: milk and pancakes with sugar, apples, and nuts. Afterwards she made two nice beds for them. Hansel and Gretel went to bed, thinking they were in **heaven**. But the old woman **pretended** to be friendly. She was an evil witch who was waiting there for children. She built her house of bread in order to **trap** them. If she caught one, she would kill him, cook him, and eat him.

Witches have red eyes and cannot see very far, but they have a sense of smell like animals, and know when humans are nearby.



## Hansel and Gretel



When Hansel and Gretel came near to her, she thought, “Now I have them. They will not get away from me again.”

Early the next morning, before they awoke, she got up, went to their beds, and looked at the two of them lying there so peacefully, with their full red cheeks. “They will be a good dinner,” she spoke to herself. Then she grabbed Hansel and carried him to a little **stall**, where she locked him behind a cage door. He cried as loudly as he could, but no one came to help him.

Then she shook Gretel and cried, “Get up! Bring water and cook something good for your brother. He is locked outside in the stall. When he will be fat enough, I am going to eat him.”

Gretel began to cry, but it did not help. She had to do what the witch wanted. Now Hansel was given the best things to eat every day, but Gretel received nothing but eggshells.

Every morning the old woman went out to the stall and shouted, “Hansel, stick out your finger, so I can feel if you are fat yet.”

But Hansel stuck out a little bone, and the old woman, who had bad eyesight and could not see the bone, thought it was Hansel’s finger, and she wondered why he didn’t get fat.

After four weeks Hansel was still thin, and she decided not to wait any longer. “Hey, Gretel!” she shouted to the girl, “Hurry up and bring some water. Whether Hansel is fat or thin, tomorrow I am going to kill him and boil him.”

Oh, how the poor little sister cried as she was forced to carry the water, and how the tears streamed down her cheeks! “Dear God, please help us,” she cried. “It would be better if we were torn apart by wild animals. Then we would have died together.”

“Save your crying,” said the old woman. “It doesn’t help you at all.”