

Act I

Spoken during intro music:

Father: Once upon a time, there lived a poor woodcutter,

Mother: his wife,

Father: and two children at the edge of a deep, dark forest.

Mother: The man made brooms to sell

Father: and the woman sold a few items of hand-stitched clothing. But times were hard and they earned very little money, so the family was hungry.

Mother: One day, after their mother went off to market, the boy, Hansel, and his sister, Gretel, did chores around the house. They were joined by several youngsters in raggedy clothes who occasionally

Father: and mysteriously

Mother: would wander out of the woods and appear at their door.

Father: Hansel and Gretel didn't ask questions; they were just happy for the company! And, as is often true with children, work soon turned to play.

Scene II

Allegro

Mother

Heav - ens!

Gretel

Here's moth - er!

Hansel

Moth - er, here's moth - er!

Piano

fp *cresc.*

M.

What is go - ing on, — oh tell me!

f *ff*

8va

Tempo primo

G.

It's Han-sel, he want-ed

H.

It's Gre-tel, she

Tempo primo

ff *p*

14 *legato throughout*

M. *Qui - et, naugh - ty and ras - cal-ly*

H. *want-ed*

17

M. *chil - dren! Some fine a - muse-ment,*

H. *chil - dren!*

f *fp*

20

M. *you call it work - ing. Who's going to fin - ish the chores you are shirk - ing,*

H. *you call it work - ing. Who's going to fin - ish the chores you are shirk - ing,*

cresc.

23

M. *and while your par - ents from day's first dawn - ing*

H. *and while your par - ents from day's first dawn - ing*

f *p*

26 *poco rall.* *a tempo*

M. la - bor til dusk both wea - ry and yawn - ing. Take that!

poco rall. *f a tempo* *mf*

29

M. Now come ——— let's see what you've

ff

32

M. done. So Gre - tel, your stock - ing still has a

ff *fp* *fp*

36

M. hole? And Hans, what's all this straw, now what am I find - ing?

f *p* *fp*

39

M. *f*

Where is that broom you were bind - ing? Just wait — and

42

M. *p*

see. You're loaf - ing and la - zy, you'll drive me mad, de - ranged — and

45

M. *fp* *cresc.*

cra - zy!

[knocks over pitcher]

48 *ff* *dim.*

51

M. Oh no! What have I done now, oh heav - en! What else do we

f *dim.*

54

M. [Hansel laughs] have for sup - per? What?

pp *p espr.*

58

M. Han - sel, how dare you laugh. Wait, wait til I

cresc. *ff* *dim.*

61

M. give you a swat. Go,

p

64

M. both of you leave. Pick lots of straw - ber - ries in the woods.

67

M. Be off with you now, get out of my sight! Go

cresc.

70

M. fill _____ this up if it takes _____ you all night!

ff *f* *ff*

Mother (spoken): [deep sigh] What kind of mother am I? Losing my temper like that, punishing the children for my mistake? Oh, if only I weren't so hungry...and tired.

74

dim.

Hansel: No thank you...lady. I'm not going inside.

Gretel: You're a stranger and just a little bit too friendly.

Witch (M): My my my, aren't they just so very clever?

Witch (F): Little smarty pants.

M: Why, my delicious

F: hmhhh

M: darling children. I just want to welcome you to my home. We're going to have a yum, yum, yum

F: ahhh

M: fun, fun, fun time together. Now let's see. First I'll eat

F: (whistles)

M: feed your little brother; he looks even hungrier than you, sweetie pie.

F: and you could use a few gumdrops.

M: Here you are, my puny little dumpling – eat up!

37 *poco rit.*

M.W.

The fire is hot.

dim. *poco rit.* *p* *f*

8va

40

M.W.

See how the flames are burn - ing. Ah, now for baked gin - ger - bread I'm

f *f* *f*

42

M.W.

yearn - ing!

p *fp* *p* *fp* *p* *fp*

45

M.W.

Yes,

f *dim.* *p*

8va

48

M.W.

F.W.

Gre-tel dear, soon you will dis - ap-pear. [ossia: Mother Witch 8^{va}]

See,

espr.

51

M.W.

F.W.

clev - er me, ———

see While in the ov - en she's peep-ing,

p

54

M.W.

F.W.

nim-bly be-hind her I'm creep-ing. Wham! Slam!

One lit - tle shove, close the door.

poco rit. *f* *p* *f*

57

M.W. Then soon will Gre - tel mine be baked so fine!

60

M.W. For when she comes out of the ov - en a

62

M.W. cook - ie she'll be for my cov - en. In toast - y flames so red she turns to gin - ger - bread.

65

M.W. See, clev - er me. he he he he

F.W. [ossia: Mother Witch 8^{va}]

He he he he

69 **M.W.** *L'istesso tempo* (♩=♩)

[*ossia: Mother Witch alone*]

he he he he he he!

F.W. he he he he he he!

più cresc.

f

72 **M.W.**

[*ossia: Mother Witch alone*]

a la beat boxing (think Bobby McFerrin) Pre -

F.W. bah

f

mf

77 **M.W.**

-pare to zoom, oh trust - y broom. Now pay me heed, my wood - en steed.

F.W. doom bah chu etc.

f

81

M.W.

F.W.

At dawn of day I

bah doom bah chu

mf

86

M.W.

F.W.

zip a - way and hold on tight with all my might.

f

91

M.W.

F.W.

At mid-night dark just for a lark we witch-es form a

bah doom bah chu

fp

96

M.W.

F.W.

ghast-ly swarm.

cresc.

f

101

M.W.

F.W.

With three and four come five and more, add sev - en friends, it
bah doom bah chu

p

106

M.W.

F.W.

nev - er ends, and nine plus one makes ten for fun. I'll make my date, I won't be late.

cresc.

111

M.W.

F.W.

My com-rades ride close by my side.
bah doom bah chu

mf *p cresc.*

115

ff

121

ff

126

M.W.

F.W.

Brr! broom-stick hi!
Brr! broom-stick hi!

ff *f* *ff*

Witch (M): Now, time to check on the groceries...come, my little appetizer, show me your finger. [twig bit] Jumpin' Jiminy! Skinny as a skeleton!

Witch (F): Yech, blech.

Witch (M): We'll have to fatten you up

Witch (F): beanpole.

Witch (M): Gretel! [she enters unseen by witch] Fetch more nuts and berries for your hungry little broth--

Gretel: Here you are.

Witch (M): EEEEEK! You're quick. [Gretel steals wand as Witch feeds Hansel]

Gretel

Ho- cus po- cus,

p *dim.* *pp*

G.

locked up boy, You are free now, jump for joy.

Mother Witch

What were you

pp *mf*