



Hansel & Gretel

THE CLASSIC FAIRY TALE
RETOLED IN SPANISH
FOR INPUT AND INTERPRETIVE TASKS



Story Adaptation, Commentary,
and Lessons by Bryce Hedstrom

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Paperback ISBN: 978-1-945235-15-3
eBook ISBN: 978-1-945235-16-0

Published by brycehedstrom.com
Email: contact@brycehedstrom.com
Printed in USA

PREVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

“Comprehension precedes production... by a mile.” –Susan Gross

Students can understand before they can write or speak. This activity provides engaging comprehensible input to give students a way to demonstrate understanding of what they have read without requiring output. Novice level students can read this story and show that they understand it with drawings even if they are not at the level to re-tell or re-write the story in their own words.

It is offered to help teachers that need to be out of the classroom and do not have a substitute that is fluent in the language—as is often the case. In my classroom, I have copies of activities like this ready to go in case I need to be gone at a meeting or due to an emergency. I have also used activities like this while administering oral tests. This story works well for independent study because most students are familiar with it. They will be able to follow the text, but they will need to read the specific details in this version to fulfill the assignment and show that they clearly understand what they have read.

WHY THIS STORY?

Hansel and Gretel is a German story, so why use it in a Spanish class? Arguably the best use of time would be to use an authentic cultural tale for an activity like this one; teaching language and culture together. But there are reasons to use this fairy tale:

- **Familiarity** This story is known throughout the world. It has been translated and told in many different languages and cultures. Over the years, it has become part of the lore in scores of languages and cultures.
- **Relevance** Hansel and Gretel has stayed relevant to generations of readers, hearers and viewers. Over the centuries, the story has had lasting appeal. The theme of lack and the impact of hunger on family life resonate through the years regardless of the culture or the era. Many students can relate to being rejected, abandoned, lost and tempted — and overcoming these challenges. We all hope to find the wits and bravery to overcome the challenges that life brings us.
- **Age Appropriate** Even though it was written by the Brothers Grimm and is often included with other more cheerful fairy tales, this story does not seem to be appropriate for young children in our age. It has never been made into an animated Disney movie because incorporating happy, singing animals into this story would not work with a dark tale like this one. The somber, more mature themes in a story like this work better with adolescents than with children. Adolescents can look back and remember the feelings of helplessness as children without being traumatized by this story.

VOCABULARY

This story was adapted with lower level learners in mind. It shelters the vocabulary, but not the grammar. It is written with the most common Spanish words (*see the glossary on page 19*). The text is in the present tense but uses other tenses as needed for natural language. One vocabulary goal was to make the vocabulary as simple as possible, but no simpler. Vocabulary that is crucial to the story is included. Since many of those words are relatively rare, they will need to be pre-taught before students begin reading (*see page 8*).

It also contains much of the common vocabulary that Novice Level students need to know.

These common vocabulary categories include:

- Nature: **árbol, bosque, camino, día, luna, noche, pájaros, piedras, luz**
- Colors: **amarillo, azul, blanco, rojo, verde**
- Food: **pan, dulces, pollo, hueso, horno, gordo, flaco, preparar, tener hambre, comer**
- Family: **familia, casa, mamá, madrastra, papá, padre, hermano, hermana, hijo, hija, niño, esposa**

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- High Frequency Verbs: **ser, estar, tener, poder, decir, ir, ver, dar, saber, querer, deber, hablar, dejar, encontrar, llamar, volver, vivir, mirar, esperar, buscar**
- Feelings: **estar contento/triste/preocupado; tener miedo, tener hambre; gustar**
- Conjunctions: **que, y, o, pero, porque, como, cuando, mientras, también, todavía, ya**
- Connecting Expressions: **por eso, así que, entonces, por fin**
- Prepositions of Place: **al lado de, entre, enfrente de, en, hacia**
- Time Expressions: **día, cada día, hora, cuando, ahora, ya, toda la noche, al fin**
- Cognates: **especialmente, realmente, normal, adultos, furiosa, etc.**
- Present Subjunctive in Recognizable Forms: **coma, escape, pueda, sea**

USING THIS STORY

Copy and give students pages 9-17 (present tense) or pages 23-29 (past tense), which contains the rubric, the story, and the glossary.

Point out that this is not art class. If they comprehend what they read and show that they get it, they can earn a good grade even if they are not great artists. The point is reading and demonstrating understanding of the text, not creating artistic masterpieces. It is encouraging to students, however, for the teacher to highlight when students give outstanding effort. Displaying exceptional creations in the classroom as a recognition of effort can be motivating.

Optional comprehension questions about the story are provided if the teacher wants ideas for oral questioning or if additional independent work is needed. (*See pages 21-23 and 35-37*)

DIFFERENTIATION

This activity is flexible and you can use one set of materials for different levels within a class or across classes in many different levels. Here are some ideas for differentiation:

- **Novice-Mid to Novice-High Students / Level 1-2:**
Read the **present** and/or **past tense** story and draw it.
(Use the rubric on pages 11 or 25.)
- **Intermediate-Low Students / Level 2-4:**
Read the story and re-write portions of the text in your own words in the **past tense**, adding some more advanced vocabulary.
- **Intermediate-Mid to Intermediate-High Students / Level 3-5:**
Read the story and re-write it using **subjunctive expressions** to give narrative insight and to express some of the thoughts and motivations of the characters. Add more dialogue to include **commands** and **higher-level vocabulary**.

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Nombre _____

Fecha _____

Clase _____

VOCABULARY IN THE STORY

KEY:  = High frequency verbs (Among the top 300 words in Spanish)  = Other verbs

- Total word count, minus cognates and repeated or closely related forms of words: 120 unique words

The list below is organized by the number of times a word appears in the text. Most of the words are high frequency in Spanish, and therefore very good to know. There are some specialized words that are necessary for telling this story.

- Reading Readiness Check:**
- Check to see how many of these words you know.
 - #1 to #43 are the most important words to know for this story. They occur many times.
 - Knowing 90 or more of these words before you start will make the reading easier.

Occur 9-28 times in the story
Many of the words in this first section are special words needed to tell this particular story.

- niño / niña (28)

 - casa (25)

 - pero (22)

 - bruja (21)

 - puede (18)

 - dice (14)

 - madrasta (13)

 - bosque (12)

 - otra vez (12)

 - quiere (11)

 - así que (11)

 - hermano/hermana (9)

 - piedra (9)

- Occur 5-8 times in the story
- cuando (8)

 - le da (8)

 - tienen (8)

 - va (8)

 - ve (8)

 - blanco (7)

 - come/a

 - pan (7)

 - caminan (6)

 - por fin (6)

 - tiene hambre (6)

 - hay (6)

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 26. horno (6)
_____ | 27. noche (6)
_____ | 28. puerta (6)
_____ | 29. jaula (5)
_____ | 58. piensa
_____ | 59. pobre
_____ | 60. trabajar
_____ | 90. deben
_____ | 91. dejaron
_____ | 92. empuja
_____ | 93. entran
_____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Occur 5 times in the story</u> | | | | | <u>Occur 2 times in the story</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30. el camino
_____ | 31. comida
_____ | 32. debemos
_____ | 33. dedo
_____ | 34. deja
_____ | 35. dulces
_____ | 36. esposa
_____ | 37. hueso
_____ | 61. árboles
_____ | 62. buscar
_____ | 63. se despiertan
_____ | 64. después
_____ | 65. dinero
_____ | 66. encuentra
_____ | 94. felices
_____ | 95. le gusta
_____ | 96. habla
_____ | 97. hasta
_____ | 98. hecha
_____ | 99. se levantan
_____ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38. la mañana
_____ | 39. tiene miedo
_____ | 40. pedazo
_____ | 41. pequeño
_____ | 42. todo
_____ | 43. vuelve
_____ | 44. abre
_____ | 45. agarra
_____ | 46. ayudar
_____ | 47. bueno
_____ | 48. cada día
_____ | 49. casi
_____ | 50. comer
_____ | 51. corren
_____ | 52. duermen
_____ | 53. encontrar
_____ | 54. flaco
_____ | 55. gordo
_____ | 56. hombre
_____ | 57. lloran
_____ | 70. horas
_____ | 71. se llama
_____ | 72. luna
_____ | 73. mientras
_____ | 74. mira
_____ | 75. oye
_____ | 76. padre
_____ | 77. pájaros
_____ | 78. pollo
_____ | 79. sale
_____ | 80. siempre
_____ | 81. lo siento
_____ | 82. tocar
_____ | 83. vamos
_____ | 84. vive
_____ | 85. amarillo
_____ | 86. aquí
_____ | 87. azul
_____ | 88. cierra
_____ | 89. comieron
_____ | 100. luz
_____ | 101. muerta
_____ | 102. nuestro
_____ | 103. permiso
_____ | 104. pone
_____ | 105. pueda
_____ | 106. rojo
_____ | 107. sabe
_____ | 108. salir
_____ | 109. sea
_____ | 110. seis
_____ | 111. señora
_____ | 112. solo
_____ | 113. somos
_____ | 114. tengo
_____ | 115. tiempo
_____ | 116. todavía
_____ | 117. tonta
_____ | 118. tres
_____ | 119. triste
_____ | 120. verde
_____ | 121. vivieron
_____ | 122. volvió
_____ |
- Occur just 1 time in the story

Nombre _____
 Fecha _____
 Clase _____

EL CUENTO DE HANSEL Y GRETEL

PRESENT TENSE VERSION RUBRIC (100 points total)

Student's Self-Grade according to the rubric → → → _____ ← ← ←

Grade assigned by teacher according to the rubric _____

The point is to **read the story** and **show that you understand it** with your drawings.

Completion of Illustrations	20 <i>Illustrations for each section (14 total)</i>	15 <i>Lacking for 2-3 sections (12-13 total)</i>	10 <i>Lacking for 4 sections (11 total)</i>	0 <i>Lacking for 5 or more sections (10 or fewer)</i>
Quotes in Spanish (See below)	20 <i>Contains all 9 quotations; all accurately written & in the right spot</i>	15 <i>Contains 7-8 quotations; accurately written & in the right spot</i>	10 <i>Contains 6 quotations, or all 9 quotations with 1-3 total inaccuracies</i>	0 <i>Contains 5 or fewer quotations and/or four or more inaccuracies</i>
Accuracy of Illustrations	30 <i>Reflects the wording accurately and thoroughly</i>	20 <i>Reflects most of the wording accurately and thoroughly</i>	10 <i>Does not reflect much of wording accurately or thoroughly</i>	0 <i>Does not accurately reflect wording in illustrations</i>
Quality of Illustrations	30 <i>High quality, effort obviously outstanding</i>	20 <i>Average quality, obvious effort</i>	10 <i>Low quality; minimal effort apparent</i>	0 <i>Sloppy or shoddy; very little to no effort apparent</i>

↓ **QUOTES TO INCLUDE:** *Include **ALL** of these quotes in “bubbles” in your illustrations:*
(Quotes are in order, but they do not appear in the narration. You have to figure out where they fit best in the story.)

- Tengo hambre, papá.
- ¡Mira! ¡Una casa hecha de dulces!
- Lo siento. No hay dinero. Somos pobres.
- Dale el hueso en vez de tu dedo, hermano.
- Debemos dejar a los niños en el bosque.
- Está bien hermano, la bruja ya está muerta.
- ¡Los niños están aquí!
- ¡Mira! ¡Es nuestra casa!
- ¡O no! ¡Los pájaros comieron todo el pan!

↑ Hay un hombre que vive en una pequeña casa blanca en un bosque. El hombre vive con su esposa y con su hija y su hijo. El hijo se llama Hansel, y la hija se llama Gretel. La esposa del hombre no es la mamá de los niños. Es su madrastra.

El papá trabaja en el bosque. Cada día va al bosque para buscar árboles. Pero no puede encontrar muchos árboles buenos, así que la familia es muy pobre. La madrastra no puede ver muy bien, pero puede preparar la comida. Normalmente la madrastra prepara comida muy buena, pero ahora no hay dinero, y por eso no hay mucha comida. Todos tienen hambre, especialmente los niños. Siempre lloran porque tienen hambre. **(DIBUJO #1)**

↑ El padre está triste. Ve que sus hijos son flacos y que tienen mucha hambre. La madrastra es una cocinera muy buena, pero no hay comida. Un día, ella le dice al padre:

— Debemos abandonar a los niños.

— ¿Qué? ¿De qué hablas? ¿Cómo? ¿Por qué? — le dice el padre.

— No hay comida suficiente para todos. Debemos abandonar a los niños en el bosque porque comen mucho, especialmente el niño — ella responde.

El papá no quiere abandonarlos, pero su esposa insiste. La madrastra no deja de hablar de su plan. Habla toda la noche. Al papá no le gusta el plan, y no quiere abandonar a sus hijos, pero por fin acepta el plan de su esposa.

Pero Gretel oye el plan de su madrastra. **(DIBUJO #2)**

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↑ Gretel va y habla con su hermano. Le explica el plan de la madrastra. Los niños tienen miedo y lloran, pero Hansel piensa un momento e inventa un plan diferente. Le dice a Gretel:

—Está bien, hermana. Tengo un plan también. Debemos agarrar muchas pequeñas piedras blancas.

Así que Hansel va y agarra piedras blancas. Le da parte de las piedras a su hermana.

(DIBUJO #3)

↑ En la mañana toda la familia va al bosque. Caminan por cuatro horas. Mientras caminan, Hansel y Gretel dejan piedras blancas en el camino. Por fin la madrastra habla con Hansel y Gretel. La madrastra les dice:

—Niños, su papá y yo vamos a trabajar.

Así que los niños duermen entre dos árboles pequeños. Pero el papá y la madrastra realmente no van a trabajar. Dejan a los niños en el bosque y vuelven a casa. **(DIBUJO #4)**

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GLOSARIO (For Present Tense Version)

KEY: **Underlined Red Print** = Among the 300 most frequently used Spanish words

Yellow Highlighting = Cognates

A	diferente	different	inventa	invents	pueden	they can
abandonar	to abandon	dinero	money	puerta	door	
abre	opens	dónde	where	Q		
abrir	to open	dormir	to sleep	quiere	wants	
acepta	accepts	dulces	sweets, candy	R		
adultos	adults	duermen	they sleep	realmente	really	
agarra	grabs	E		responde	he answers	
agarrar	to grab	empiezan	they start	rojo	red	
al lado de	next to	empuja	pushes	S		
amarillo	yellow	empujar	to push	sabe	knows	
aquí	here	encontrar	to find	saber	to know	
árboles	trees	encuentran	they find	sale de	leaves, goes out	
así que	so	enfrente de	in front of	salir	to leave, go out	
ayudar	to help	entonces	so, then	sea	he might be	
azul	blue	entran	they enter	seis	six	
B		entre	between	segundo	second	
blanco	white	escapa	escapes	señora	mam, Mrs.	
bosque	forest	escape	he might escape	ser	to be	
bruja	witch	por eso	so	lo siento	I'm sorry	
bueno	good	especialmente	especially	siempre	always	
buscar	to look for	esperan	they wait	solos	alone	
C		esposa	wife, spouse	somos	we are	
cada	each, every	está	is	suficiente	enough	
caminan	they walk	esté	may be	T		
el camino	way, road, path	explica	explains	también	also	
casa	house	F		la tarde	the afternoon	
casi	almost	familia	family	temperatura	temperature	
cierra	closes	felices	happy	tengo	I have	
colores	colors	por fin	finally	tiempo	time	
coma	might eat	flaco	skinny	tienden	they have	
come	eats	furiosa	furious	tocar	to touch	
comer	to eat	G		todavía	still	
comida	food	gordo	fat	todo	all	
comido	eaten	grita	yells	tonta	stupid	
comieron	they ate	le gusta	likes it	trabaja	works	
con	with	H		trabajar	to work	
contento	happy	han	they have	tres	three	
corren	they run	hablar	to talk	triste	sad	
cuando	when	hacerlo	to do it	V		
cuento	story	hacia	towards	va	goes	
D		tienen hambre	are hungry	vamos	let's go	
da	gives	hasta	until	ve	sees	
dale	give her	hecha de	made of	ver	to see	
deben	they should	hermana	sister	verde	green	
debemos	we should	hermano	brother	vez	time	
dedo	finger	hija	daughter	en vez de	instead of	
no deja de hablar	doesn't quit talking	hijo	son	otra vez	again	
deja libre	sets him free	hijos	children	vive	lives	
dejan	they leave	hombre	man	vivieron	they lived	
dejar	to leave	hora	hour	volvió	returned	
dejaron	they left	horno	oven	vuelve	returns	
desapareció	disappeared	hueco	bone	Y		
se despiertan	they wake up	I		ya	already	
después	after, then	idea	idea			
dice	says	insiste	insists			
		intenciones	intentions			

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO WHEN THEY READ FOR MEANING

Students that had read and illustrated the Hansel and Gretel reading activity were shown this image from the story and asked to write sentences about it. Activities like this turn students' imaginations loose. Here is what one level 1 class was able to do. They used high-frequency verbs, along with nouns from the story and other simple vocabulary in unique combinations to say a lot about the drawing.

1. Hay una bruja.
2. La bruja es fea.
3. La bruja es flaca.
4. La bruja es vieja.
5. La bruja vive en el bosque.
6. La bruja vive en una casa de dulces.
7. La bruja es mala.
8. La bruja tiene un sombrero negro.
9. La bruja tiene pelo largo.
10. El pelo de la bruja es gris.
11. El pelo de la bruja no es normal.
12. La bruja lleva un vestido negro.
13. El vestido de la bruja es largo.
14. La bruja no tiene pantalones.
15. La bruja solo tiene un diente.
16. La bruja es tonta.
17. La bruja tiene dos ojos malos.

18. Hay un niño.
19. El niño se llama Hansel.
20. Gretel no está.
21. ¿Dónde está Gretel?
22. Hansel está en una jaula.
23. Hansel sienta en la jaula.
24. La jaula es pequeña.
25. Es la jaula de la bruja.
26. Hansel no puede andar en la jaula.
27. Hansel no puede escapar de la jaula.
28. Así que Hansel come todo el día.
29. Hansel come mucho.
30. Hansel es muy gordo.
31. Hansel tiene mejillas gordas.
32. Hansel tiene mucha hambre.
33. Hansel está comiendo dulces.



34. Hansel come mucha comida buena.
35. La bruja va a la jaula.
36. Hansel mira a la bruja.
37. La bruja está hablando con Hansel.
38. Hansel tiene miedo a la bruja.
39. La bruja tiene ojos malos.
40. La bruja no puede ver muy bien.
41. La bruja quiere comerse a Hansel.
42. La bruja quiere comerse a un niño gordo.
43. La bruja quiere saber si Hansel es gordo o no.

44. La bruja le dice, —quiero tocar tu dedo, niño.
45. Hansel tiene un hueso.
46. Hansel no le da su dedo a la bruja.
47. Hansel le da el hueso a la bruja.
48. La bruja toca el hueso.
49. La bruja agarra el hueso.
50. La bruja piensa que el hueso es el dedo de Hansel.
51. La bruja piensa que Hansel todavía es flaco.
52. La bruja no sabe que Hansel es gordo.
53. La bruja no quiere comerse a Hansel todavía.
54. Hansel está contento y come más.