

Hansel and Gretel

retold by Rika Lesser

Caldecott Honor Winner (1998). Dark-toned and detailed illustrations help reveal the story of two children and their struggle to return home.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What would you do if you found a house made of candy?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if they will eat the house made of candy?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Hansel and Gretel*

- scarcely: hardly any
- miserable: very unhappy, very unpleasant
- anxious: worried or afraid, especially about something that is going to happen
- reconcile: put people back on friendly terms
- pebbles: small round stones
- glistened: to shine brightly or reflect light from a wet surface
- gleamed: to shine brightly and continuously
- daybreak: the time when light first appears in the sky
- spongy: open-textured, having holes or cavities
- devouring: eat something quickly
- gnaws: chew at something
- gnarled: knotted or twisted
- morsel: small piece of food, small amount
- cauldron: large iron pot used for cooking
- kneading: work dough until smooth, to make bread

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where did the parents lead Hansel and Gretel too? Why did they want to leave them?
- What did Hansel drop on the ground to make a path?
- How did the parents feel when Hansel and Gretel found their way back?
- What kind of house did the kids find when they were lost in the forest?
- Who lived there?
- What did she do with Hansel?
- How did Gretel trick the old woman?
- What did the kids do with all the things inside the old woman's house?
- Where did Hansel and Gretel go after they took the jewels and gems?
- Was the father happy to see Hansel and Gretel?

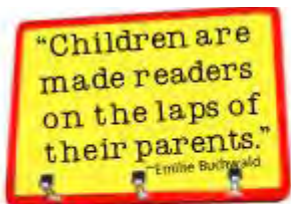
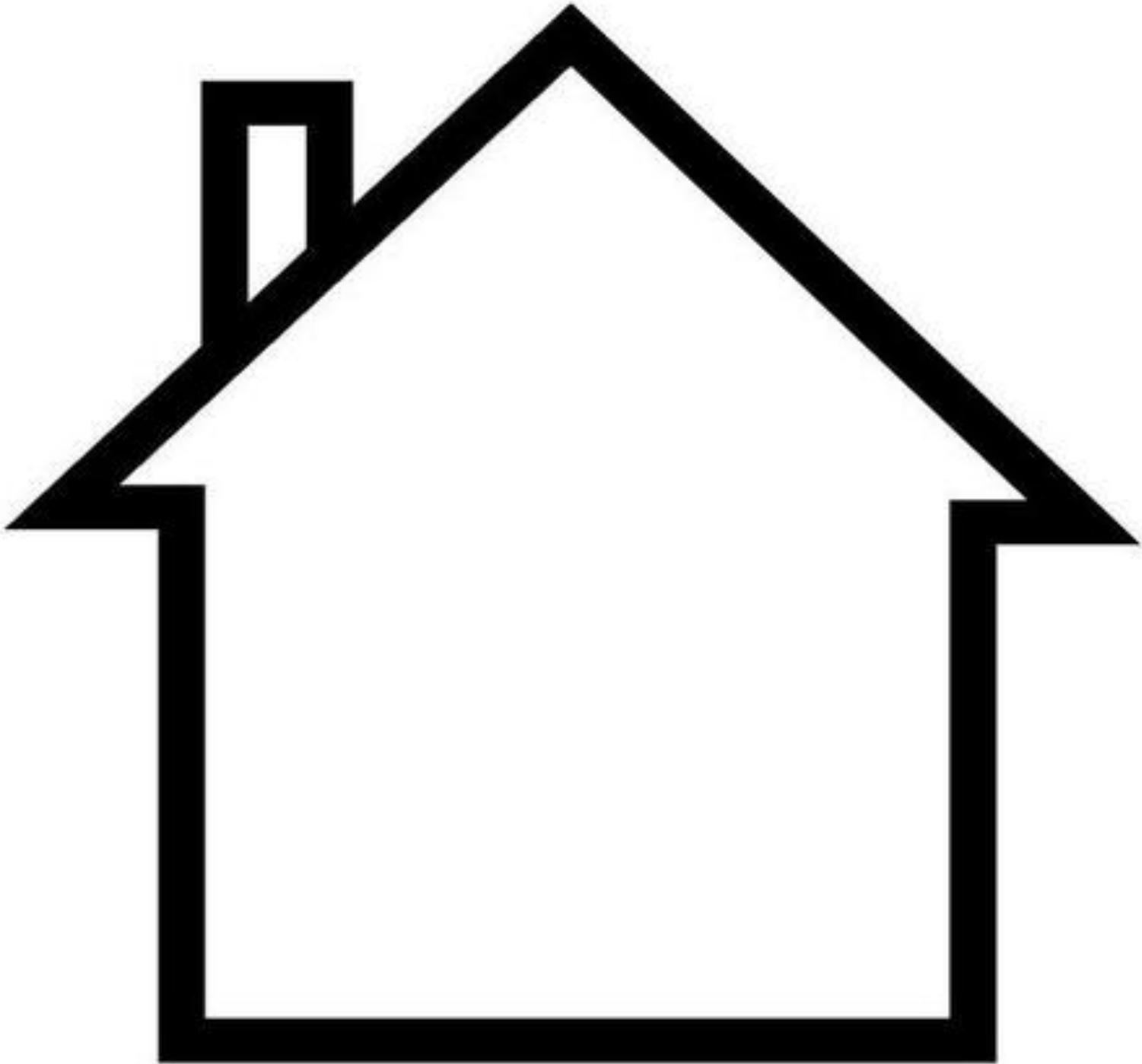
Do

Drawing Time

Give the children a copy of the “My Candy House” sheet and allow them time to draw, to color and to decorate their dream candy house. You can give the children stickers, glitter or other craft supplies to help them illustrate their vision.

My Name: _____

“My Candy House”



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