

# Hansel and Gretel

## By Neil Gaiman

Key theme:

Overriding emotion for the reader: Tense

Story Structure: Overcoming the monster

Tier 2 words: clutched, impelled, compelled

Story to read aloud: Anisha, accidental detective –  
granny trouble by Serena Patel

## Hansel and Gretel

SC:

Punctuate dialogue accurately

Use expanded noun phrases to describe the setting including similes  
Convey character through action and dialogue

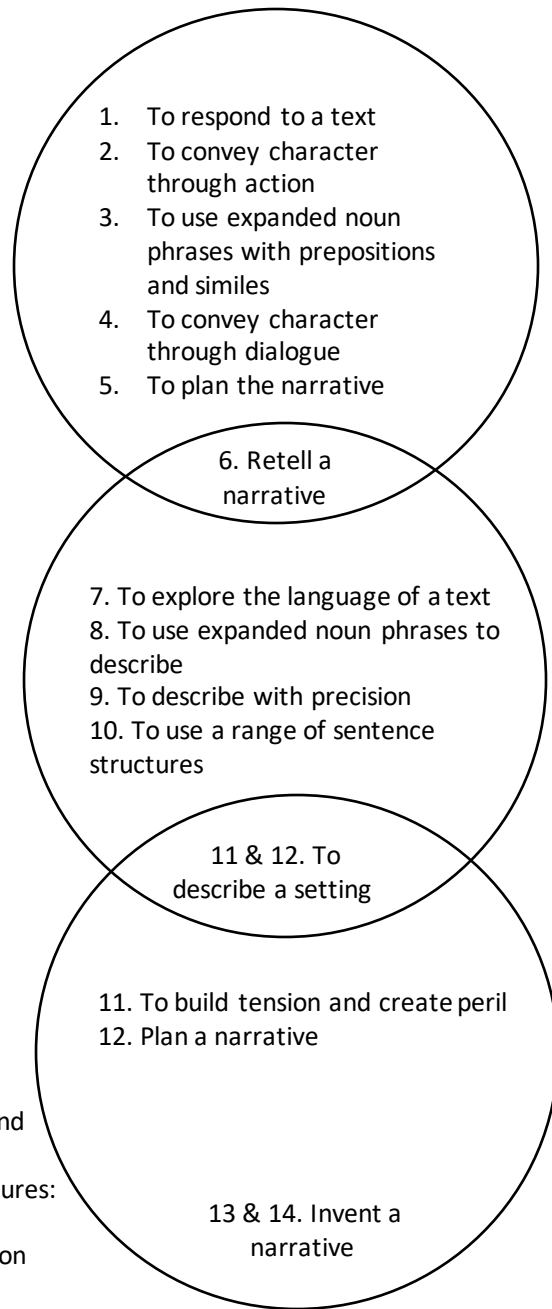
SC:

Use expanded noun phrases and precise vocabulary to describe

Use a range of sentence structures to interest the reader: simple and complex

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Themes lesson taught in Reading lesson at start of term 1

1. Share First Man film clip of moon landing. Label different sections of text to show structure of the story - coming out of space craft, thoughts feelings and emotions, first steps/ setting description, radio silence and tension, resolution
2. Conveying character through action. Show don't tell techniques. Modelled write a description of Buzz stepping onto the moon for the first time showing excitement. Then independent write Neil following him but showing fear and trepidation.
3. Focus on Expanded noun phrases using prepositions (e.g. Explicitly teach use of e.g. of, with, on) and using similes to describe the moonscape)
4. Recap rules for punctuating dialogue. With MAPs & HAPs, exploring differences in astronauts' personalities and how to show this through verb choice around the dialogue (show don't tell).
5. Plan the narrative in third person and past tense.
6. Retell the moon landing story - Structure: coming out of space craft, thoughts feelings and emotions, first steps/ setting description, radio silence and tension, resolution

7. Tier 2 words:

8 & 9. Uplevel sentences using descriptosaurus and magpieing language from text. Use zoom out and zoom in. Try to create mystery and not be too explicit.

10. Explain the difference between simple and complex sentences (which have a main clause and at least one subordinating clause – careful with definitions (complex just means there is a subordinate clause) – no need to mention compound sentences unless children ask (compund just means two independent clauses with coordinating conjunction). Practise manipulating clause structure and moving from long complex sentence to short simple sentence.

11 & 12. Description of Hansel or Gretel walking through the forest and being scared by a creature (paragraph 2) - uncertain what it is

11. Model interspersing short sentences that become shorter and sharper as the tension mounts

12. Plan the narrative

13 & 14. Invent narrative based on discovering the witch's house. Structure: setting, convey character through action (new character), build up to moment of peril,

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Neil felt sick with fear, but the weight of his responsibility kept him going. He wished he could wipe the beads of sweat from dripping into his eyes. As he stepped down the rungs of the ladder, his legs trembled slightly. "Keep it together," he muttered under his breath. Buzz was calmly watching on, taking deep and slow breaths, waiting for his own turn. Testing the Moon's surface beneath his boot, Neil took a deep breath and stepped into the unknown. Although silence enveloped him, his mind was screaming at him to return to the relative safety of the L.A.N. His stomach was churning and his insides felt as though they'd been twisted and knotted. He tried to silence his mind as he took three more steps onto Earth's closest neighbour. Behind him, Buzz followed, the corners of Buzz's mouth turned upwards, baring a great smile.

As Neil carefully planted his feet onto the dusty surface of the moon, he took in the view before him. He had a lump in his throat. In the distance, were vast mountains of rock and deep craters with no visible bottom. Moving his left foot slowly, he revealed his first footprint on the moon. The print was modest and perfect. He couldn't help thinking of his son's sandpit back on Earth. He kicked the sandy substance and watched as it swirled endlessly around his large space suit boot. "Mission control, the ground is solid," Neil said still trembling and concentrating on his footing. Looking up, he could see Earth, hanging like a child's mobile. It lay just above the horizon like a beautiful painting with swirls of green and blue. The contrast between the lush and blue Earth compared to the barren, desolate and empty moonscape made him realise quite how small he was in comparison to the universe, and how vulnerable he was.

Neil paused as the secure connection crackled. "Erm, anyone there?" There was no reply. He shuddered. "Mission control," he repeated, desperate for a response that would indicate they were not as alone as they felt.

A few more seconds passed, which felt like hours. Their hearts were beating like trapped birds in a cage. Were they truly alone? Then finally a voice crackled over the radio. "Mission control here," the man said. Buzz and Neil took a breath at last – it was ok.

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Hansel's heart pounded unnaturally quickly as he tried to retrace his footsteps. The tops of the trees were joined together like a crowd of dark umbrellas. Only a small amount of moonlight shone through the gaps. Gnarled branches loomed over Hansel, casting shadows on the forest floor. He tried to remember the route they had taken but that was not as simple as it sounds because one tree looked very much like another.

Suddenly, to his left, he heard a scraping sound like chalk being dragged across a blackboard. Hansel shivered. What was that? He waited. As his eyes peered through the darkness of the forest, his heart suddenly stopped. A curled nail clawed the peeling bark of the tree. Wirey fur, brown and textured, stood out between gaps in the leaves. He moved slowly to his right, hoping the creature would not bring him any harm. Then he fell. It was a heavy fall and as he put his hands out to save himself, he clutched a branch of thorns. Furious with himself, hurt and lost, he lay for a few moments helpless.

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Twilight was falling. All around her the trees were thick and old, and gnarled into shapes that looked like angry giants frozen in time. The suddenly she smelled something on the evening air. She sniffed again. Freshly baked gingerbread. She was sure of it. Her mouth watered and her stomach began to hurt, as if she had just remembered how empty it was. She walked towards the glorious smell, impelled by hunger, until in a clearing she saw a tiny house. The smell came from the house itself. It was made of gingerbread, decorated with hard sugar candies. Even the windows were clear panes of sugar. Gretel hesitated but the hunger was destroying her. Carefully, she pulled a sherbert from the wall and let the delicious sugar fill her mouth. She was interrupted by a muffled voice from inside.

"Who is there?" it said.

Gretel said nothing in reply, for she was frightened. She took a step backwards and was relieved when a kind-faced woman appeared, leaning on a stick and peering about shortsightedly.

"Why you're just a child," the lady said softly. "Come inside. It is getting dark now and I can feed you."

Gretel tried to shake her head but her hunger was compelling her inside. Where else could she get her next meal? She would never find her way home now. Tentatively, for she had always been shy of strangers, she followed the woman into the house. There was a huge brick oven at one end and a table covered in good things to eat.