

HANSEL AND GRETEL



Introduction

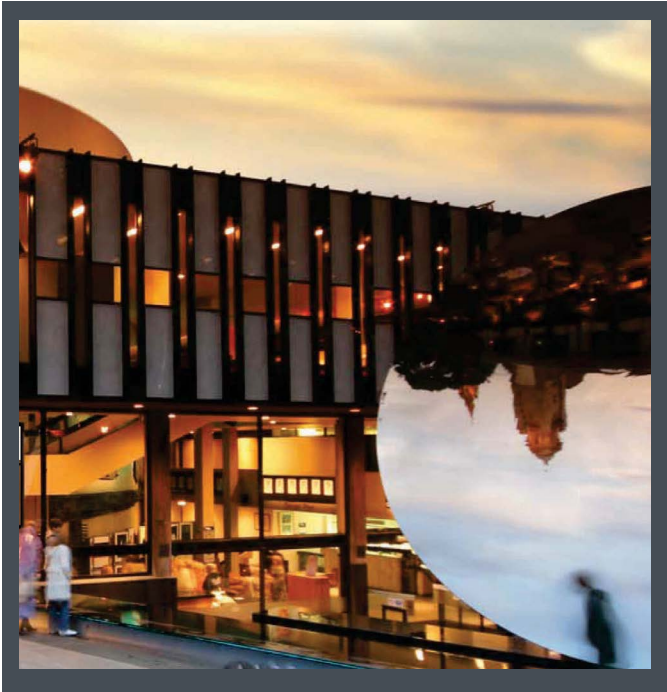


Photo: Drew Baumohl

We create theatre that's bold, thrilling and proudly made in Nottingham.

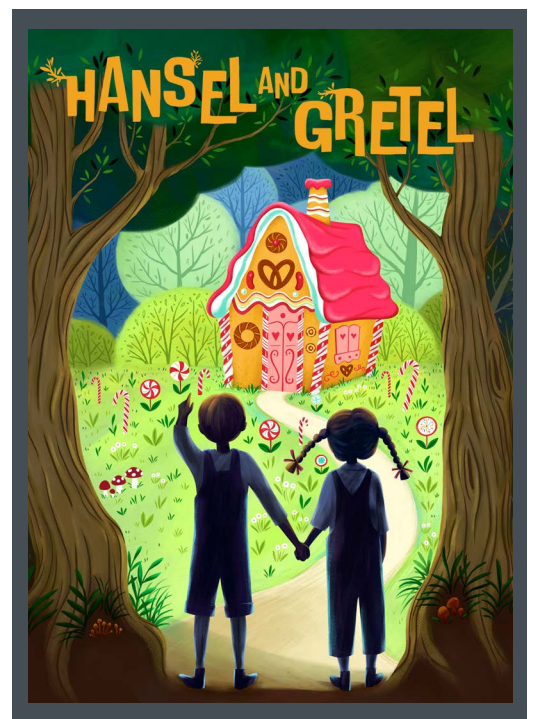
Awarded Regional Theatre of the Year 2019 by The Stage, Nottingham Playhouse is one of the country's leading producing theatres and creates a range of productions throughout the year, from timeless classics to innovative family shows and adventurous new commissions.

We want our theatre to be a space where everyone feels they belong, and we use our stage to tell diverse stories that reflect our city. Our wide-reaching participation programmes create life-changing experiences for our community and we also support the next generation of theatre-makers in the East Midlands through our extensive Amplify programme.

Nottingham Playhouse is also a registered charity (no. 1109342). All of the funds we raise help to ensure we're reaching as many people as possible to give them new opportunities and create lasting memories.

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Wilhelm Grimm (left) and Jacob Grimm (right), portrayed by Elisabeth Jerichau-Baumann (1855). Image: Wikipedia

Origins of the Story

There are many old fairy tales in which children thwart the plans of their foes. And Hansel and Gretel is one of them!

The original story was probably not written down. During the Medieval ages, it would have been told by one person to another person. The person listening would then remember this as best as possible and tell it to someone else. The story may have changed a bit as people misheard or misremembered parts of it, but telling the story again and again meant it could be shared with everybody!

About 5 centuries later, the story was officially published by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm in Germany. It was published as a part of a collection of fairytales the two brothers had collected together. They did this because they did not want the old spoken fairytales passed down for generations to be forgotten. And it is because of them that we still remember the tale today!

But writing the story down doesn't mean the story stays the same forever! Our production of Hansel and Gretel has been adapted into a script by Monika Johnson. Her writing focuses on theatre for children. She even runs her own 'Super Sparkle' children's theatre company, as well as doing work with Derby Theatre and, of course, Nottingham Playhouse.

Her adaptation of Hansel and Gretel has song and dance, audience participation and talking animals and talking trees to engage a young audience. There will be many an opportunity for the audience to join in and have some fun!

Cast and Creatives

Cast

Hansel / Witchtastic / Squirrel / Mouse:

Megan Vaughan-Thomas

Gretel / Duck / Frog / Mouse:

Maya Thompson

Creatives

Writer: **Monika Johnson**

Director: **Beth Shouler**

Composer and Musical Director: **David Gibb**

Designer: **Samuel Fransch**

Lighting Designer: **Laura Wolczyk**

Puppetry Director: **Mathew Forbes**

Creative Captions Designer: **Raphael Achache**

Creative Captions Consultant: **Emily Howlett**

Costume Supervisor: **Louise Smith**

Props Supervisor: **Alex Hatton**

Video Programmer: **Sam Osborne**

Stage Manager: **Louise Pearson**

BSL Interpreter: **Max Marchewicz**

(BSL interpreted performances are taking place
Friday 15th December 10:30am and Friday 29th
December 10:30am)

**NOTTINGHAM
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Story & Plot

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Hansel and a girl named Gretel who lived with their dad near a forest. Their father had often told them many a tale about his own journeys into the woods and stories of the children's grandfather adventuring into the unknown. The two explorers had put together a scrapbook survival tips for the forest, including a map of safe paths.

The children were amazed by their father's fables and fairytales from his youth and wanted to see the forest for themselves, so their dad handed them the scrap book and a pack lunch each. He asked them to be careful and arrive back in time for tea. But Hansel and Gretel were too eager to prove they were the better explorer and fought over the book. They each grabbed a corner of the book and pulled until the map split in two! Both of them were too stubborn to take turns at being the explorer, so they stomped off away from each other.

Gretel was determined to impress her dad, so she wandered and wandered until she found a new part of the forest.

There, she met a talking squirrel, who was knitting scarves for the trees. The trees lost all their and needed jumpers

had happened and the squirrel told her of a wicked witch called Witchtastic who had turned all the trees' leaves into sweets!

Hansel, on the other hand, was busy feeding his grumbling stomach. When he started unwrapping the lunch his dad had packed for him, a duck waddled up beside him. As Hansel was just about to take a bite, the duck waddled closer and tried to steal his sandwich! Hansel ran and ran until the duck could no longer follow him and he found himself in front of a pond made of jelly. A hungry frog jumped near Hansel and stretched out his tongue. He had mistaken Hansel for a huge fly!

After Hansel telling the frog he was not a fly for the frog to eat, Hansel asked the frog if it could help him get across the lake. The frog shook his head and explained he could not swim across the pond because a wicked witch had turned it to jelly! She had given him no place to sleep and no place to catch bugs to eat. When Hansel heard about the witch, he was worried that Gretel may fall into one of her traps. He was desperate to get across the lake so he could warn her! He searched the lake for answers and found some lily pads. Hansel placed the lily pads down on the jelly lake and walked across to the other side.

When Hansel cleared the jelly river, he saw his sister exploring on the other side of the river. They ran towards each other, relieved that to see their sibling was alright. They started scanning their surroundings and found a gingerbread house decorated with toffee, marshmallows, smarties, cookies and marzipan. Their stomachs were empty and they couldn't help but drool at the sight of caramel, jelly beans, bon bons and jam. They tried to be considerate and resist nibbling someone else's home, but their stomachs growled louder and they

started chewing the walls. Little did the children realise that the wicked witch they'd both heard about lived inside the house and had heard them munching. It was Witchtastic's birthday and she was angry with Hansel and Gretel for eating all her celebratory treats! She asked them if they would like to make cookies to trick them into entering the house. Excited, the children accepted her offer. Once they had made it all the way inside, she zapped Hansel with her wand and turned him into a gingerbread man!

Witchtastic was eager to devour Hansel's gingerbread body, so Gretel played games of musical biscuits with the witch to stop her from eating Hansel! But the witch was clever and could tell that Gretel was trying to stop her, so she distracted Gretel so she could creep up on Hansel without Gretel noticing. Witchtastic leaped forwards and trapped Hansel in a baking tin! She yelled at Gretel for ruining her party and Gretel yelled back at the witch for taking her brother. Witchtastic was upset because the children had nibbled her doormat on the way in, which belonged to Kitkat, her old cat. Kitkat was now gone, and was her only friend, the only one who did not judge her for being a witch. Gretel realised the witch was just very lonely and took pity on her.

Gretel wanted to help the witch make some friends. Luckily, she had some cheese leftover from her sandwich and placed it in the witch's hand. The mouse who had been nibbling the house, smelt the cheese and scurried towards the witch's hand. The witch quickly became attached. The witch thanked Gretel gratefully by turning Hansel back into a human boy. Realising they are going to be late for tea if they don't get a move on, Hansel and Gretel used their new explorer skills to find their way back home. Once they had downed their dinners, they headed back to the gingerbread house to help the witch celebrate her birthday! The mouse insisted he was going to be the DJ for the party, so Witchtastic sang along to the tunes with Hansel and Gretel as they all boogied into the evening!



Main Characters

The Playhouse show makes some changes and introduces interesting modern twists on the characters, but here are the traditional characters in the tale:



Hansel:

Hansel is a young boy, who loves his sister Gretel. They may compete against each other to prove they are better at adventuring and quarrel over their dad's scrap book, but Hansel will do anything to make sure his sister is safe. He will face his fears to warn Gretel of incoming danger, even if he doesn't believe in himself. When afraid and alone, he thinks of what Gretel would do if she was there and this helps him conquer his greatest obstacles.

Gretel:

Gretel is Hansel's younger sister who prides herself on being able to climb trees and build sturdy forest dens. She loves the wilderness and will help protect it. When she meets Witchtastic, she is angry at her for turning the trees' leaves into candy, but must remain calm and concentrate if she wishes to save her brother. She learns she has to be clever and devious to stop Witchtastic from eating Hansel, who has turned Hansel into a gingerbread man. Eventually though, she takes pity on Witchtastic's loneliness and uses her kind heart and cunning brain to help the witch make some friends.



Wichtastic:

Wichtastic lives in a gingerbread house iced with candy in the middle of the forest. She is skilled with magic and loves to bake. She believes herself to be a kind person at heart, but is bound by the witchy rule book to be cruel to others. Because of these guidelines, she hides herself in her house away from others, believing they will judge her if she is nice to them. She has no one to celebrate her birthday with until Gretel helps her invite a house nibbler she would have once shunned away into her house.

Meet The Team

Monika Johnson, the writer of Hansel and Gretel:

How many plays have you written?

I have written around 25 plays and most of them have been written and performed for young audiences or young performers. Some of them have been performed on a stage and some of them in schools and at festivals. One was even performed on a doorstep!

What is your favourite fairytale?

The Ugly Duckling! I love this story and the journey duckling takes; exploring the world and meeting new friends. Duckling doesn't stop just because they are different and I love that! I also really enjoy European folk tales and although it's not a fairy tale, one of my favourite stories when I was little was 'The Wind in the Willows'.

What is your favourite word?

Willow. It was my dog's name! Can you guess why I called him that..!?

What is your favourite book genre?

Funny fairytales with a twist! I also like legend stories like Robin Hood and the Dragon of Wawel (a Polish legend).

Who is your favourite character in Hansel and Gretel?

Witchtastic! I like that Witchtastic is a little bit of a trouble maker but also a bit misunderstood. The fact that house nibbler (mouse) is also cheeky makes them a perfect pair of best friends!

Where is your favourite scene location in Hansel and Gretel?

Magical Sherbet forest-I like how it changes before our eyes as the story goes on...

Is it harder to write for adults or for children?

That is a very good question! I have only ever wanted to write for children-whether they are the audience or the performers. I have written for adults before and I would say that it has its own challenges but adults can sometimes mask what they really feel when watching a show.

Writing for children is a very special job-you have to keep your young audience engaged right from the start. You have to make them laugh and even feel empathy for a character and you should always create a story that matters to them otherwise they will just call out that they are bored and want to go home! And you definitely don't want that!

What is the best part about being a writer?

Having the freedom to create a new world and then inviting your audience in to explore the story! You might start with one idea but it ends up being something completely different and that's very exciting!

What is the hardest part about being a writer?

Writing the first scene-For me anyway! I have always found the opening scene the most difficult. It's almost like I can't write the rest of the play or story if I don't have the first scene. Of course, this isn't always true-but for me, I feel I need to get the set up right! I'd say the other thing is accepting that sometimes a scene works and sometimes it doesn't and you have to be able to discard what doesn't work at the end of the day.

Which character would you be from Hansel and Gretel?

The cheeky house nibbler! So I could go around nibbling all of the biscuits without getting caught!

Meet The Team

Samuel Fransch, the Designer of Hansel and Gretel

How many plays have you been the designer for?

After just recently graduating this year, Hansel and Gretel is only the third show I've had the opportunity to design and bring to life for- of course at university we create many speculative designs for shows and I've involved myself with the create side of theatre for many years.

What is your favourite colour?

Hunter green

Who was favourite character to design the outfit for?

Favourite character to design for would have to be Gretel, she has an exuberant, mischievous, and fizzy personality and I wanted to reflect this through some of the pattern and colour choices!

What was your favourite scene location to design from Hansel and Gretel?

Favourite location has to be the candy forest, it's been a brilliant and challenging task to create a world that feels invitingly edible- Whilst trying to sneak in some surprises that the audience will not expect!

What was your favourite prop to design for Hansel and Gretel?

My favourite props to design for have to be the puppets! It's was so fun imaging the animals in the script on stage and how they be manipulated and moved, whilst keeping them friendly and somewhat cute.

How do you make costume, set and props both functional and stunning?

Designing a balance between functionality and aesthetic is the whole challenge a theatre designer has to face- it mainly comes down to practice and knowledge in the craft. However, if a designer is ever unsure on the practicality of something, there's usually people they can turn to, such as set construction or prop makers, and ask -'How can we make this happen'- and in theatre, everyone is usually incredibly kind and helpful.

Which costume from Hansel and Gretel would you like to wear?

It's had to be Hansel because I'm sure my own style has influenced my design choices for Hansel a fair bit- that I would quite happily wear his costume day to day!

What is your favourite part about being a designer?

My favourite part about being a designer is the pre-design bit- when I start a design I love researching, flipping through old photography and arts books i have, thinking about previous shows I've seen and worked on and what elements of them i enjoyed, and experimenting ideas with colours and textures and expression. It's the point of the design where I can just bash any idea that I have in my brain in to something worth keeping or moving on from.

What is the hardest part about being a designer?

Confidence- designing for something 100s or more people are going to build, paint, act on, watch is incredibly daunting! You have to make something that you're proud of, that you can sit back and not feel unstable about.

Which character would you be from Hansel and Gretel?

Which character would I be? Although I'm probably more of a stick in the mud like Hansel- Gretel is such a fun and bubbly character, that I think it's hard to not just admire that side of her and chose to be that fun side of Gretel!

Themes and Morals

Caring Is Sharing:

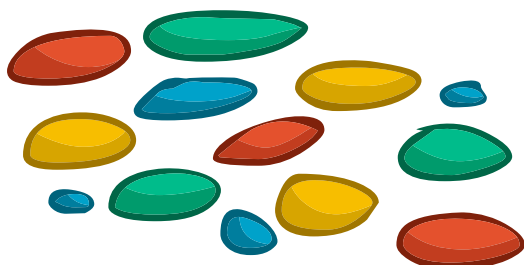
Hansel and Gretel are hasty to be the explorer and both try to hog the book all to themselves. Because of this, their dad's expedition scrap book gets torn in two! If Hansel and Gretel had taken it in turns to read map directions, they would both be able to enjoy adventuring and would not have got separated from each other.

Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover!:

Because of the witchy rule book, Witchtastic feels pressure to be nasty to the forest animals and destroy their homes. The animals all make the assumption that she is evil, but when the mouse sees the piece of cheese on her hand, he warms right up to her. Similarly, Witchtastic thinks the mouse is too hairy, but when she sees him up close, she finds his fur quite adorable. Friends can come from the most unlikely of places in the most unlikely of forms.

Treat Those As You Wish To Be Treated:

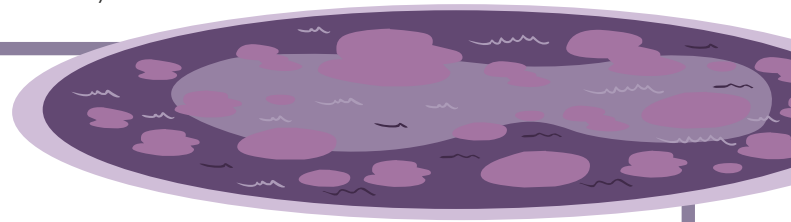
Witchtastic really wants friends so she has someone to celebrate her birthday with, but has no one to share it with. When she stops turning house nibblers into cookies and instead invites them into the house, they treat her as a friend and come to her party. The lesson learned is to be kind to one another. If you are kind to someone, they are likely to return you the same kindness.



Hansel's Journey

Imagine you are Hansel. You have been given your dad's expedition scrap book to share with your sister Gretel as you both venture into the forest. But you get jealous of Gretel when she's the one reading the maps and try to prize the book from her hands. And she won't let go either, so the book tears in two! This has annoys you and you storm off in a different direction to Gretel.

Draw Hansel's journey to the jelly lake on this page and draw any obstacles Hansel sees along the way. Are there any tree stumps that you have to be careful not to trip on? Is there any moss, slippery from the rain? Are there any hungry animals who want to make a meal out of you?



The Woodland Animals

Hansel and Gretel meet a squirrel, duck, frog and mouse, but other critters lurk in the woodlands too! You can find out all about them in this fact file below:



Wood Ant

Scientific name: *Formica rufa*

Related to: Bees and Wasps

Habitat / Resting Place: Mounds made of soil, twigs, leaves and pine needles

Communication Methods: Wood ants touch their antennae with other wood ants to identify each other! They also leave a trail of chemicals called pheromones when they have found some food to let other ants know where to collect it from!

Diet: honeydew, caterpillars, beetles, and other types of ant.



Wild Boar

Scientific name: *Sus scrofa*

Related to: Pigs and Hogs

Habitat / Resting Place: Dens made of cut grass and tall plants that it burrows itself under

Communication Methods: Growls, grunts and squeals

Diet: Roots, bulbs, seeds, nuts and green plants

Mallard

Scientific name: *Anas platyrhynchos*

Related to: Geese and Swans

Habitat / Resting Place: Nests built out of feathers and straw that are made close to water

Communication

Methods: Quacking! The pattern and amount of quacking can mean different things.

Diet: acorns, berries, plants, insects and shellfish.



Roe Deer

Scientific name:

Capreolus capreolus

Related to: Red Deer

Habitat / Resting Place: Roe Deers do not build a nest or den. They choose open spaces to sleep on so that other animals have nowhere to hide!

Communication Methods:

Grunts, barks and whistles.

Diet: buds, leaves, ferns, grass and heather.





Common Cuckoo:

Scientific name: Cuculus canorus

Related to: Other types of cuckoos and roadrunners

Habitat / Resting Place: Cuckoos do not make their own nests. Instead, they will steal the nests of other birds to lay their eggs in. They do not raise their own babies.

Communication Methods: The reason why cuckoos are called cuckoos is because 'cuckoo' is the noise the bird makes!

Diet: Insects. Hairy caterpillars are their favourite!



Marbled White Butterfly:

Scientific name: Melanargia galathea

Related to: Moths

Habitat / Resting Place: Butterflies when young are caterpillars! When they are ready to become a butterfly, they wrap themselves in a silk thread called a chrysalis and stay in there for 5-21 days! They often lay their eggs on the underside of leaves so when they hatch they both have food to eat and are hidden from predators!

Communication Methods: In order to attract a mate, butterflies will give off a scent to allure their partner in. Some are so powerful other butterflies can smell these from 10 miles away!

Diet: the nectar from purple flowers, such as field scabious, common knapweed and wild marjoram.



Grass Snake:

Scientific name: Natrix natrix

Related to: Lizards

Habitat / Resting Place: Small nests made of rotting plants. In winter, they will burrow underground to keep warm

Communication Methods: To deter predators, grass snakes will hiss, use their glands to make a foul smell, or will play dead!

Diet: Frogs, toads, newts, fish, small mammals and birds.



Natterjack Toad:

Scientific name: Epidaleia calamita

Related to: Common Toad

Habitat / Resting Place: Usually resides around sand dunes and salt marshes. They lay their eggs in water!

Communication Methods: A loud and raspy croak.

Diet: Woodlice, worms, spiders and beetles. When they are tadpoles, they eat aquatic plants.

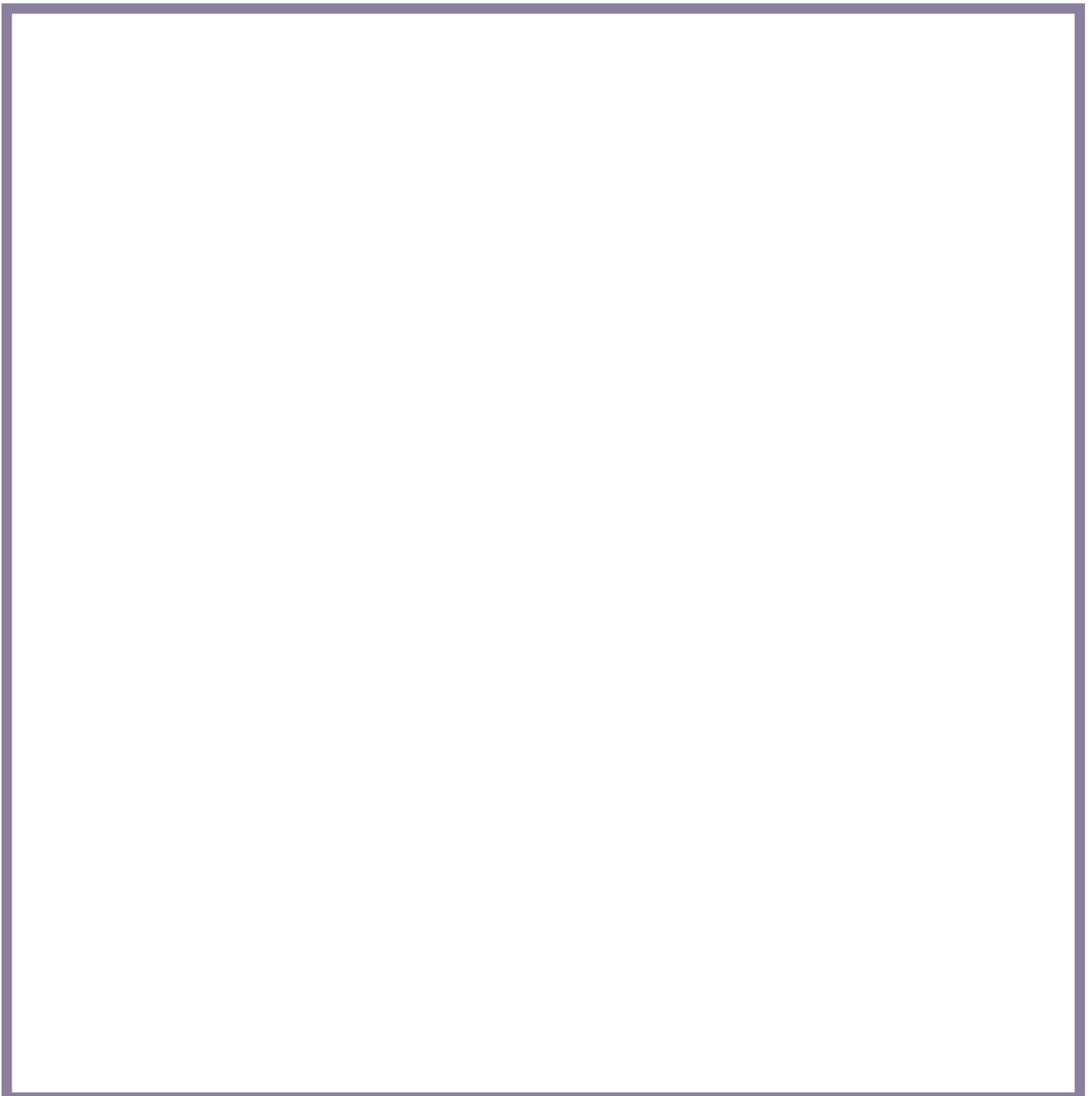
The Food Chain

This is an activity to do with your entire class! Imagine you are one of the animals on the last page. Remember who your predators and prey are. How would you react to the other animals around you? Would you chase them down or would you run away from them? How do you signal to the rest of your class what type of animal you are? Is there some sort of gesture or pose you can make to change your body language? Think back to how your animal communicates. What noises does your animal make?

The Candy House

Imagine you are Hansel and Gretel. You have been wondering around the forest for quite a while now and it's getting close to tea time! Your stomachs are empty and you are craving a delicious snack. Then suddenly, an aroma of caramel, butterscotch and fudge wafts towards you. You pick up the pace as you follow the delicious scent and it leads you to a gingerbread house covered in candy and sweets! Your eyes glaze over as you see thickly piped icing sugar on all joints of the house, gluing it together.

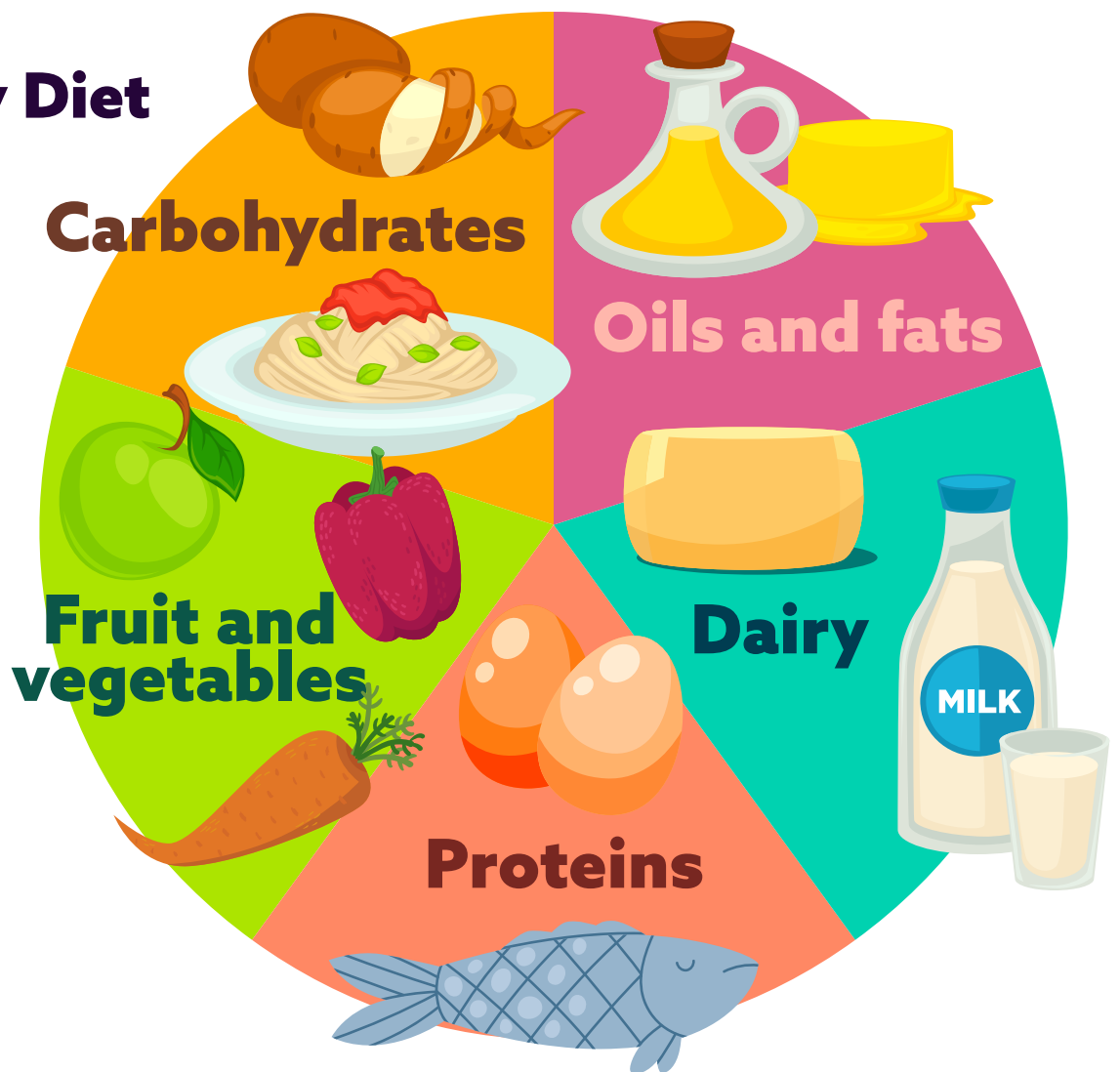
Draw the house in the space below. What sort of scrumptious treats have caught Hansel and Gretel's attention? Is it the swirly lollipops? Is it the jelly beans lining each roofing tile? You decide!



A Healthy Diet

Uh-oh! All Witchtastic has left to eat are the house nibblers she has turned into biscuits! It's her birthday, so she should be allowed a treat every now and again, but eating too much of one food can be bad for the body.

Here is a pie chart that shows how much of each food you should eat to be healthy. What food groups is Witchtastic missing from her diet? Are there any benefits of eating biscuits? What could eating too many biscuits do to her body? What does Witchtastic need to include more of in her diet?



Fruit and vegetables:

Examples: Apples, pears, carrots, peppers
Quantity: 5+ portions a day
Purpose: To give the body fibre that will keep the stomach healthy. Stops indigestion and constipation.
Side Effects: Too little fruit could lead to scurvy, too much fruit could lead to diarrhoea.

Carbohydrates:

Examples: Bread, potatoes, pasta, cereal
Quantity: 3-4 portions a day
Purpose: To give the body glucose. This is a sugar that will give your body the energy to do exercise.
Side Effects: Not enough carbohydrates could lead to low blood sugar levels, too much carbohydrates could lead to weight gain and heart disease.

Proteins:

Examples: meat, fish, nuts, eggs
Quantity: 2-3 portions a day
Purpose: To build and repair pulled or strained muscles. Proteins also control the chemicals in the body!
Side Effects: Not enough protein can cause weight loss and balance issues. Too many proteins stops the body from being able to store energy

Dairy:

Examples: milk, cheese, cream, yoghurt
Quantity: 2-3 portions a day
Purpose: To give the body vitamins and minerals that will strengthen bones and teeth
Side Effects: Too little dairy causes weaker bones and the body is more likely to catch illnesses or diseases. Too much dairy can cause sickness and stomach pains.

Oils and fats:

Examples: butter, margarine, lard, cooking oil,
Quantity: Less than 1 portion per day
Purpose: To store energy in the body for later when a lot of energy is needed
Side Effects: Not enough oils and fats can cause dry skin and hair loss, too much oils and fats can cause a high blood pressure

Back in Time for Tea

This is a group activity for three people. Imagine the three of you are Hansel, Gretel and their dad sitting at a dining table eating tea. Give each person a number from one to three.



Person number 1:

You are Hansel. You have just returned back home after your adventure, and are excited to tell your dad all about your trip into the woodlands. You are proud that you have conquered your fears to find Gretel, but are also scared of how he will react when he finds out you have torn his expedition scrap book. Do you show him the scrap book or not? Would you try to hide the scrap book under the dining table? Would you hand it to him and place all the blame on Gretel?

Person number 2:

You are Gretel. You have just returned back home after your adventure, and are excited to tell your dad all about your trip into the woods. You are proud that you have saved Hansel from being eaten and helped Witchtastic make some friends, but you are also worried that your dad will be upset because you have torn his expedition scrap book. Has Hansel shown your dad the scrap book or not? If he has revealed it, do you help tell him how it happened, or do you remain silent as he shows your dad the scrap book? If Hansel doesn't show your dad the scrap book or tries to hide it, do you tell him the truth? Is a meal time a bad time to tell you dad about the book, or would not telling the truth hurt later if your dad was to find the torn scrap book?

Person Number 3:

You are Hansel and Gretel's dad. You have just cooked tea and are happy that your children have just arrived back in time. A meal is always best served when warm, and makes for the best conversation. You are really excited to hear all about their adventure into the woods! Listen to what each of them have to say. Are you surprised by what they have to tell you? Are you amazed? Are you shocked? Are you disappointed? Are there any questions you can ask them that will prompt them to talk more about their journey?

Make your own Sweets and Treats!

Blackcurrant Lollipops (Serving: 8 people)

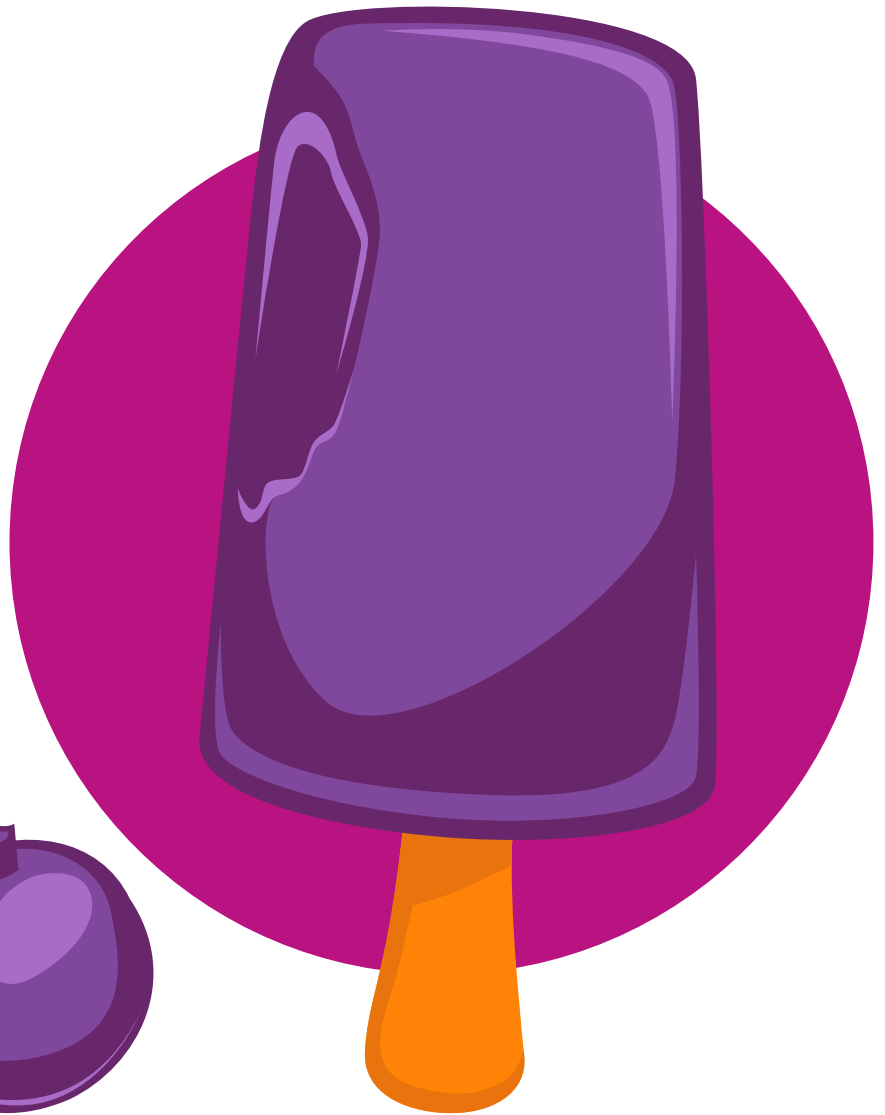
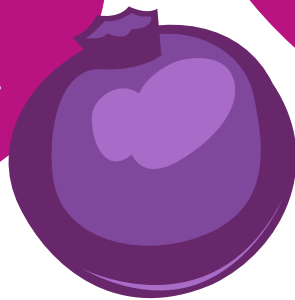
Ingredients:

- 400ml of water
- 1 bottle of blackcurrant squash

Equipment:

- 1 measuring jug
- 1 table spoon
- 8 small, empty, cleaned yoghurt pots
- 8 wooden lollipop sticks
- 1 freezer (ask an adult for help with this!)

Want to make some of the snacks Hansel and Gretel found at Witchtastic's birthday party? Then check out the recipes you can make at home here...

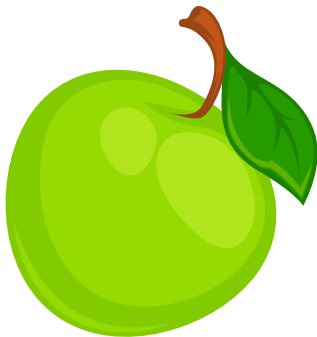


Method:

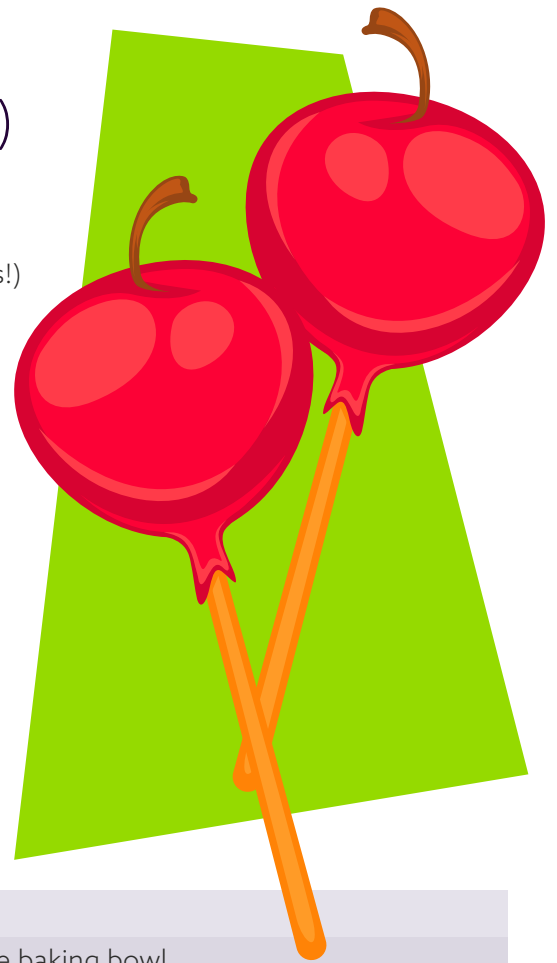
1. Fill the measuring jug with 400ml of water
2. Add 10ml of blackcurrant squash to the water
3. Using the table spoon, stir the liquid until the squash is fully mixed in with the water
4. Pour the liquid into the empty yoghurt pots.
5. Place a lollipop stick in each yoghurt pop
6. Put the yogurt pots in the freezer. Ask an adult to help you put them in so you don't spill the liquid!
7. Wait for the liquid to freeze overnight
8. Take the lollipops out of the freezer in the morning and wait for them to cool down for 10 minutes
9. Push the bottom of the yoghurt pots to make the ice lollies slide out
10. Serve and enjoy!

Make your own Sweets and Treats!**Candy Apples** (Serving: 6 people)**Ingredients:**

6 Apples
 1700ml of water
 300g of caster sugar
 3 tablespoons of golden syrup
 1 bottle of blackcurrant squash

**Equipment:**

1 kettle (ask an adult for help with this!)
 1 large baking bowl
 1 weighing scale
 1 measuring jug
 1 large saucepan
 1 hob (ask an adult for help with this!)
 1 wooden spoon
 1 collider
 1 sink
 1 small bowl
 1 teaspoon
 6 lollipop sticks
 1 roll of baking parchment

**Method:**

1. Boil 1500 ml of water in the kettle.
2. Remove the stem of each apple and put the 6 apples in the large baking bowl.
3. When the kettle has boiled, pour the hot water over the apples and set aside. But be careful! Hot water can burn! Ask an adult for help.
4. Use the weighing scales to pour out 300g of caster sugar into the saucepan.
5. Use the measuring jug to pour 100ml of water into the saucepan
6. Put the saucepan pan on the hob and bring the pan to a simmer. Stir the mixture with the wooden spoon until the sugar has dissolved. Ask an adult to help with this!
7. Grab the collider and place it in the sink. Take the large baking bowl and pour the contents into the collider. Ask an adult to help with this! Hot water can scald! Wait for the apples to cool down.
8. Add 3 tablespoons of golden syrup to the pan and continue stirring for 10 minutes. Ask an adult for help with this too!
9. Add 100ml of water to a small bowl. Take a small amount of mixture from the pan and drop it into the bowl. Ask an adult for help with this! If the mixture turns hard in the bowl, then the mixture is ready!
10. Quickly shove a lollipop stick into the centre of each of the apples. With a bit of force, the lollipops sticks should slide right through. If you need help with this, ask an adult.
11. Holding an apple by its lollipop stick, dip each apple into the pan, making sure the apple is covered in the mixture. Ask an adult for help!
12. Hold the apple above the pan to let the mixture drip off, then place the apple on some baking parchment and leave it to harden
13. Repeat step 11 and 12 for the remaining 5 apples.
14. Serve and Enjoy!

Make your own Sweets and Treats!

Strawberry and Marshmallow Gate Post

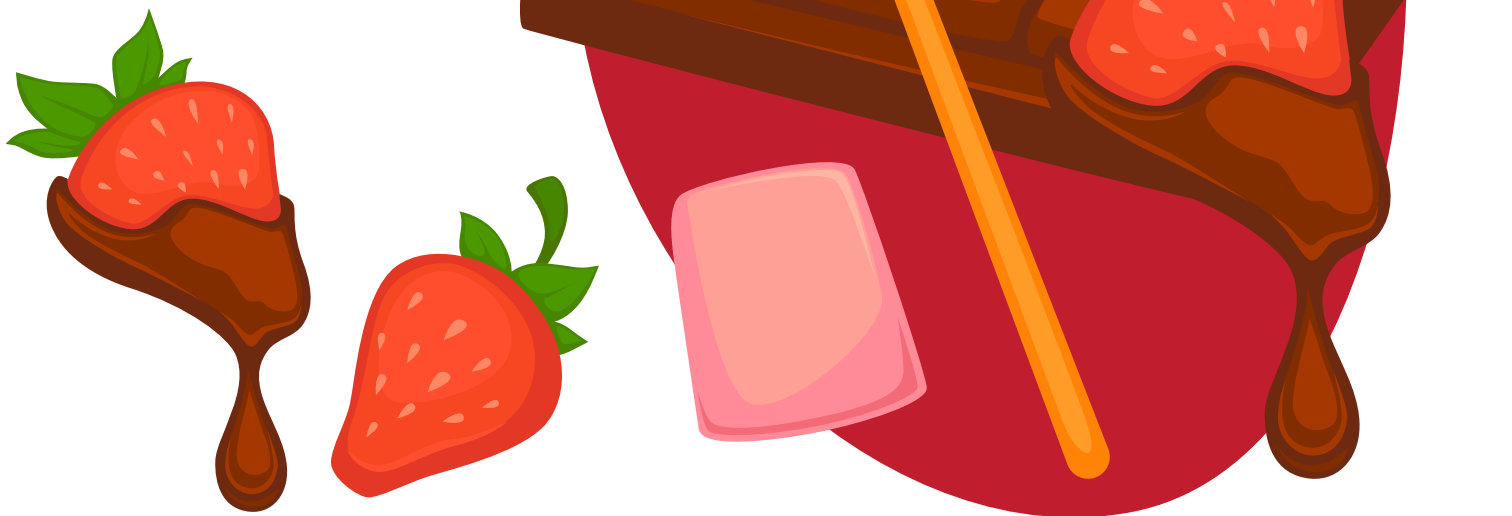
(Serving: 8 people)

Ingredients:

1 packet of marshmallows
1 packet of strawberries
450g chocolate bar
30g butter

Equipment:

8 wooden skewers
1 saucepan
1 measuring scale
1 wooden spoon
1 hob (Ask an adult for help with this!)



Method:

1. Open the packet of marshmallows and open the packet of strawberries. Take the leaves off the top of the strawberries
2. Using the sharp end of the wooden skewers, poke the strawberries and marshmallows through the skewers. Make sure you don't give yourself a splinter!
3. Using your hands, break up the 450g chocolate bar into chunks and place in the saucepan
4. Measure 30g of butter and place this in the saucepan as well
5. Put the pan on the hob, turn the hob up to a medium heat and stir until melted. Ask an adult for help with this!
6. Cover the strawberry and marshmallow skewers in the chocolate
7. Serve and Enjoy!

Make your own Sweets and Treats!:

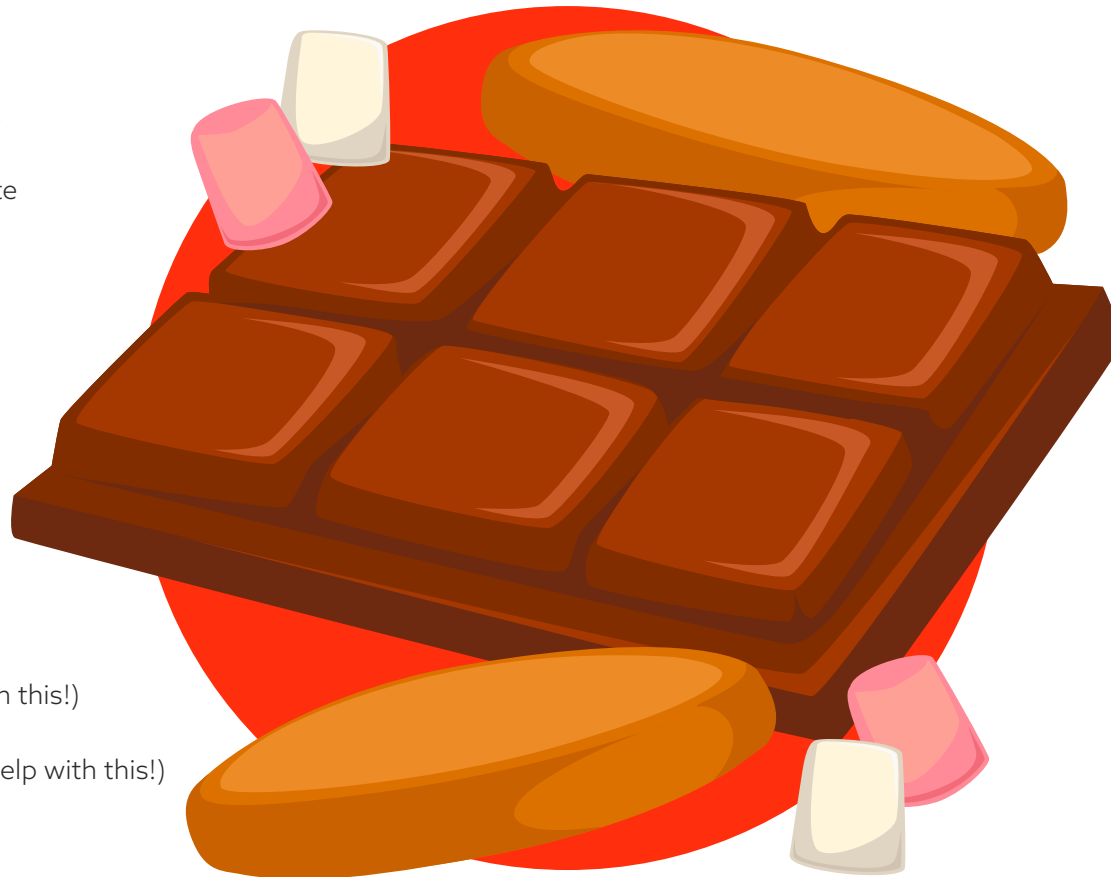
Rocky Road Path (Serving: 12 people)

Ingredients:

A light spread of butter
½ a packet of digestive biscuits
1 packet of mini marshmallows
1 medium-sized bar of chocolate
A few knobs of butter
2 tablespoons of golden syrup
A sprinkling of icing sugar
30g butter

Equipment:

1 large baking tin
1 roll of baking parchment
1 food bag
1 rolling pin
1 saucepan
1 wooden spoon
1 hob (Ask an adult for help with this!)
1 fridge
1 sharp knife (Ask an adult for help with this!)



Method:

1. Grease the baking tin with butter and cut out a piece of baking paper to stick in the bottom of it.
2. Place the digestives in a food bag and tie a knot in the top of it.
3. Using a rolling pin, crush the digestives into small chunks
4. Break the chocolate into the saucepan and add the knobs of butter
5. Place the pan on the hob and place it on a low heat. Stir the mixture with the wooden spoon until no lumps can be seen and the mixture is smooth and creamy. Ask an adult for help with this!
6. Leave the mixture in the pan to cool.
7. Add the digestive chunks and marshmallows to the mixture and stir
8. Pour the mixture into the baking tin.
9. Use the wooden spoon to even the mixture out and spread it to all four corners of the tin.
10. Leave the baking tin in the fridge overnight.
11. Take the baking tin out of the oven and using the sharp knife, cut the rocky road into chunks. Be careful not to cut your fingers off! Ask an adult for help!
12. Sprinkle the icing sugar over the rocky road.
13. Serve and Enjoy!

A Glimpse Into Theatre Careers

A chat with Beth Shaw

LIGHTING, SOUND AND VIDEO TECHNICIAN

Tell us about your role as Lighting, Sound and Video Technician.

As a lighting, sound and video technician it's my job to make sure that all the lights are pointing the right way, everyone on stage can be heard, and that pieces of video blend seamlessly into a production. It's very varied, as we work on all manner of shows, from big shows that we produce in-house, to touring dance shows, and events with some of the best comics in the country. No two days look the same; one day you're sat at a desk plotting lights for a theatre show, the next you're hanging out of the ceiling in a harness to make sure that the lighting designer gets "that shot". It's physically taxing and stressful at times, but the first time the audience clap on opening night? That somehow makes it worth it.

What does a day in the life of a Lighting, Sound and Video Technician look like?

It depends on what we're working on! If a show is up and running, or it's a simple one man and a mic event, I might not start work until 5pm, in which case, I'll spend my daytime catching up on everything people usually use their evening for - food shopping, hobbies, and batch cooking food so that I have healthy things to eat for tech weeks. In that case:

5pm: arrive at work. Read events checklist/show checklist.

Switch on LX and sound equipment and do a rig check.

5:30pm: cast/talent arrives.

If it's a one-night show, we work together to create some lighting states, run through how the show works, and do a sound check.

6:30pm: cast/talent warm up on stage. Usually I use this time to check my show file and tidy things up a bit.

6:55pm: the half an hour call for a 7:30pm show! We do a blackout check, show the iron to the duty manager, and then open the house.

7:30pm-10pm: Showtime!

10-10:30pm: shut down equipment, tidy up, and go home!

Tech week is a bit different.

Typically our week looks like so:

Sunday (10am-10pm): Fit up LX, sound, video and set.

Monday (10am-10pm): Finish fitting up, install cue lights and working light, and focus

lighting. Quiet time for sound, and prep actors' mics.

Tuesday-Thursday (10am-10pm): Tech time! We go through the show slowly, and plot in lighting and sound cues, as well as running through actors' movements on the stage.

Friday-Tuesday (1pm-10pm): shows! Friday, Saturday and Monday's shows are all previews, which means that we come in early before the next show to work on the show, so we can iron out any issues before Tuesday, which is press night!

How does your work interact with the shows being put on at Nottingham Playhouse?

During production week (as outlined above), my job is key to putting a show on. My job on each production varies, but it's vital that I am there, otherwise, none of the actors can be seen or heard! It's great to be so involved with our productions, I feel really connected to each show that we create! Everyone here really takes pride in their work, and I think that is reflected in the quality of the shows that we produce!

What do you enjoy most about working in theatre?

There's so many things! I love the people - not just those that I can name-drop in conversations (thanks, Sir Ian McKellen!), but also the people I work with on a day-to-day basis (the Playhouse has the best staff, and I'm biased, but also it's true). I love the combination of practical skills and creativity and artistry that my job calls for, which is something that I didn't think I'd ever find in a career. But, the thing I love most of all? The fact that sometimes, the way that a bit of light hitting a piece of set, or just the right angle of an actor's face, can make you feel something. It makes you teary-eyed, or happy, and it's literally just a light pointed in the right direction, possibly with a bit of colour to it. We make magic, good old-fashioned theatre magic.

A Glimpse Into Theatre Careers

A chat with Adam Collins

PARTICIPATION PROJECT COORDINATOR

Tell us about your role as a Participation Project Coordinator.

I work in Nottingham Playhouse's Participation Department, and we run over 30 programmes to bring drama to the community. I coordinate the work we do with schools, which includes the provision for our five 'Primary Partner' schools who we are partnered with to integrate drama at all levels of the primary school curriculum.

What does a day in the life of a Participation Project Coordinator look like?

My average day involves

speaking to a wide range of people, including school staff, freelancers, and other departments in Nottingham Playhouse, to make sure that everything comes together on our Participation projects. Our projects are varied, so on any given day I might be planning an inset day for teachers, organising filming with industry experts, or delivering drama workshops to young people.

How does your work interact with the shows being put on at Nottingham Playhouse?

As part of our 'Primary Partners' programme, I arrange backstage tours and show

tickets for our partner schools so that their students can come and see live theatre at Nottingham Playhouse. The practitioners I send into schools often deliver workshops on the themes of our shows, especially with texts such as 'Private Peaceful' which are taught in schools.

What do you enjoy most about working in theatre?

I enjoy how theatre brings people from all walks of life together, and I enjoy seeing our participants develop confidence and self-advocacy through theatre and performance.



Adam Collins