

Introduction

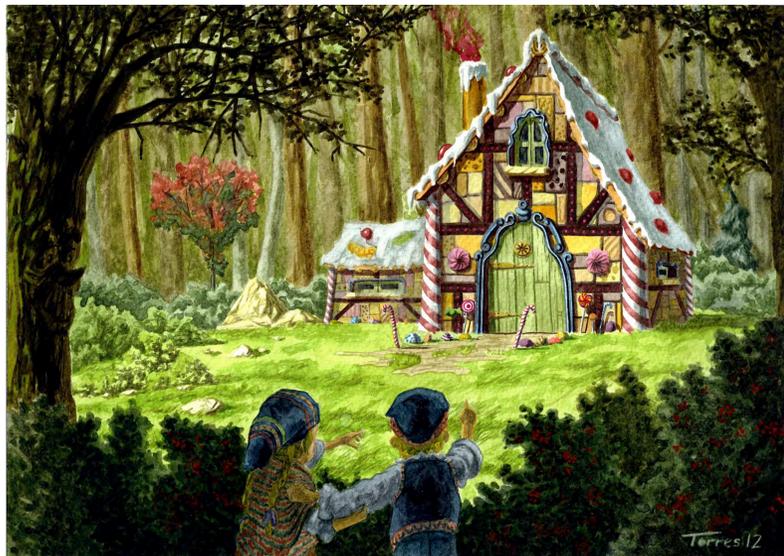
Fairytales have been told and re-told for hundreds of years, all across the world. This poster observes and studies the cultural influences that shape the well-known tale “Hansel and Gretel”.

Methodology

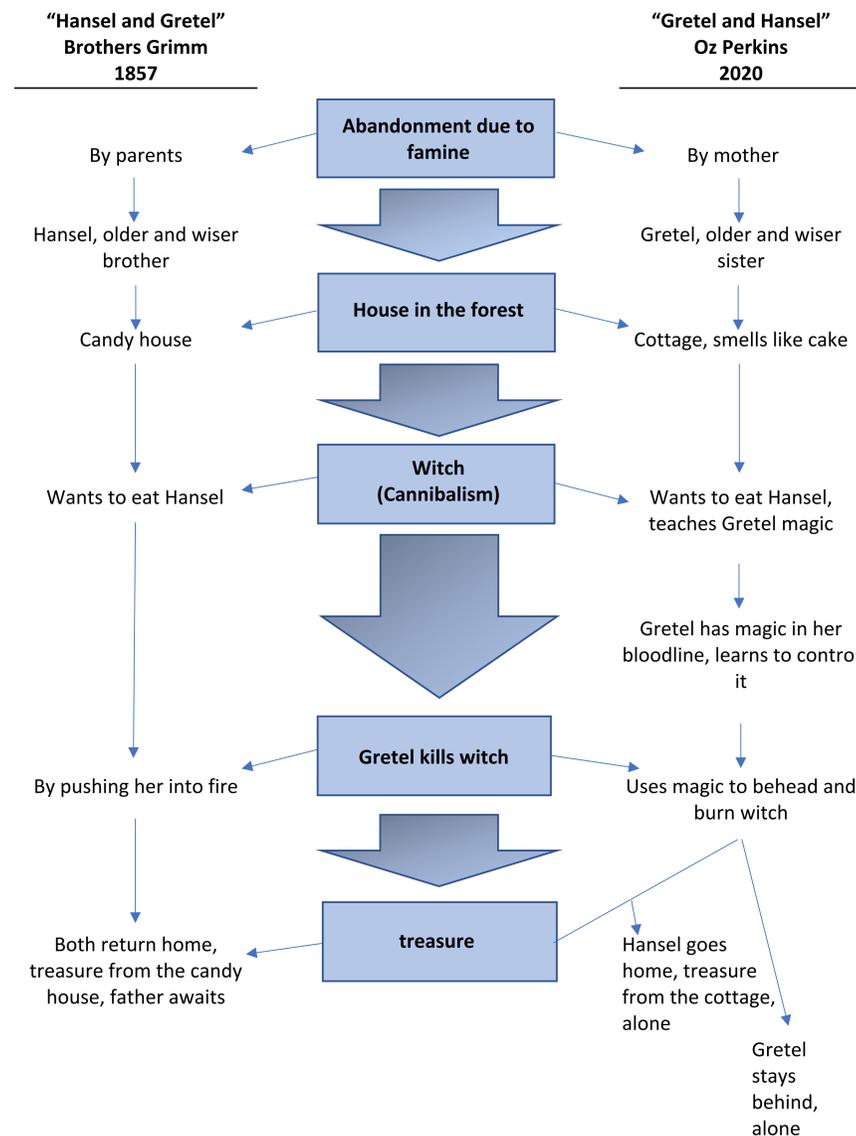
Two versions of “Hansel and Gretel”, 200 years apart, will be examined. The characters of each will be studied and details of the plot will be recognized.

The first fairytale is “Hansel and Gretel” by the brothers Grimm in 1857.

The second tale is the movie “Gretel and Hansel” by Oz Perkins in 2020.



Results



Cultural Influences

Famine: 1300’s Great Famine struck Europe

Abandonment: mothers abandoned their children, in some cases even ate them

Forest: threatening place for European societies. It was a source of food and shelter, but seen as a harbinger of magic and danger

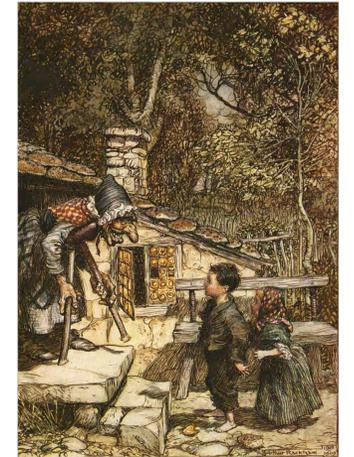
Witch: 1400’s, belief in witches was commonplace

Feminism: feminist movement that began around 2012 and is characterized by a focus on the empowerment of women

Conclusion

In both versions the main plot points of the narrative remain the same and both relate to the basic aspect of survival, but the focus is decidedly different.

The brothers Grimm published this tale to preserve their own cultural identity at a time when Napoleon was taking over Europe. They wrote a more ‘child friendly’ version of the tale to be appealing to children in their society. The moral of the tale is to never give up hope. (Hansel and Gretel’s goal was to get back home)



While both tales are a story about coming of age, Perkins tale is only Gretel’s coming-of-age story, and she actually learns a thing or two from the witch who becomes their captor, which is not something that happened in the original fairy tale. The witch instills feminist ideas into Gretel’s mind, foreshadowing the evolution of toxic masculinity, which also shows in the plot as Gretel being the protagonist. The message is about a girl coming into her own and learning to take charge of her own destiny and that no gift is really free..

Fairytales get told and re-told through many years, but ultimately they stay the same. Culture may influence the way its told and gives wisdom along the way, but at heart- these fairytales stay the same

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