

Essay #1

I would like you to do a little research into a famous fairy tale called "Hansel and Gretel." You may rely on the version of the folk story that is published by the Brothers Grimm in 1812. The source of this story may date back to a terrible famine five hundred years earlier. We know that the story evolved within an oral tradition much like the literature we have been reading in our class.

After learning about "Hansel and Gretel," I would like you to write a paper that traces elements within "Hansel and Gretel" back to the storytelling of the Greeks. Think about the story elements of *The Odyssey*, *Oedipus the King*, and *Medea*. Set your focus on a subject area where you think you can provide some insight into what humans are doing when they tell stories. For example, you might want to consider the role of food within human storytelling. What story patterns emphasize eating, and why do you think these patterns occur? Or you might want to consider the role of family relationships within human storytelling. What story patterns emphasize family relationships, and why do you think these patterns occur? Or you might want to consider the role of cleverness within human storytelling. What story patterns emphasize cleverness, and why do you think these patterns occur? Or you may have another connection that you think is more interesting that you would like to develop. Your paper will be better if you focus on a specific subject area rather than jumping around from one to another and, therefore, not really developing any of them.

You can draw your inspiration for your comparison from all three Greek texts or any combination of them. In other words, if you just want to stay with *The Odyssey's* connection to "Hansel and Gretel" that's okay. Your essay should be at least 1000 words, double-spaced. That will probably be close to three pages of material. If your paper ends up a good deal longer than that, it is not a problem. You should have a "Works Cited" page at the end of your paper that is in the MLA format. In the body of your paper, quotations should be followed by page number in parenthesis (again MLA). Proofread your paper carefully.