#### **Sample Fairy Tale News Story**

As you read: 1) identify the 5Ws & H (use color, underline, or label) and 2)

WITCHFOREST, Germany -- Hans L. Woodcutter, 12, and Gret L. Woodcutter, 10, of 3 Dirt Path Way, were declared missing after forest rangers combed the forest outside their home for 14 hours. Forest ranger Robin Green confirmed that the disappearance of the Woodcutter siblings marks the fourth such disappearance this September.

According to their mother, Hilda M. Woodcutter, 35, the children disappeared while Woodcutter and her husband were gathering herbs in the forest. Woodcutter said she lit a fire for the children, gave them their dinner and told them to stay put. When the Woodcutters returned to the campsite two hours later their children were gone.

“I fear the worst. Hans and Gret wouldn’t wander off. I’m afraid they’ve been eaten by wild beasts,” said Woodcutter.

Although Green understands Woodcutter’s fears, he feels they are unfounded.

“Contrary to public belief, the wildest animals in this forest are foxes. However, we’ve heard rumors of a cannibalistic witch,” said Green.

Green assured the press that every effort is being taken to discover the whereabouts of the missing children.

This article could be the first of a series of articles about the Hans and Gret case.

Consider the following possible story ideas (note that these are the same story *topic*, but they are being told from different *angles*):

1. A feature piece about the children who have disappeared in Witchforest over the years.

2. An investigation into the rumors of the cannibalistic witch.

3. An expose of the conspiracy of the parents to leave their children in the forest to die.

4. An obituary covering the mother’s death.

5. A news story covering the return of the children and their experiences in the woods.

6. An anniversary piece written 10 years after the children return. The article would consider their new-found prosperity. Did they really live happily ever after?

**Your challenge:** Write a 150-200 word news story related to the fairy tale/fable/folk tale of your choice. Use a similar style and follow

**Drafting Your Fairy Tale News Story**

If you do not have a fairy tale yet, or are looking for additional information about the fairy tale you were assigned to, check out this website of famous European tales:

<https://www.rd.com/culture/most-popular-fairy-tale-stories/>

Or, check out some original and creepy Grimm’s fairy tales:

<https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~spok/grimmtmp/>

Also, keep in mind your own cultural background and tales. Are there any stories you grew up hearing about? They don’t have to be Disney movies to be a fairy tale!

**Step One:** Read your fairy tale. Mark moments in the timeline of the story that would make good news stories. Mark each possible source and invent names as necessary. Mark lines of dialogue and jot down what you think characters might say at key moments.

**Step Two:** Find an angle for your story. Remember, your news story could be written for any moment in the timeline of the fairy tale. For example, if you were writing about Jack and the Beanstalk, you could write a news story focusing on the growth of the beanstalk, Jack’s sudden and startling wealth, or a lawsuit involving damage done by the beanstalk when it fell to the ground.

**Step Three:** Answer these questions (and feel free to invent details in keeping with your angle):

Who:

What:

Where:

When:

Why:

How:

**Step Four:** Craft a lead that focuses on the most important of the above questions. Keep in mind, Who and When leads are rarely a good idea.

**Step Five:** Write the story, following an LQTQTQ format. Make sure your transitions include facts and/or paraphrased quotes. Remember that for the purposes of this assignment (and only this assignment) you may invent facts/quotes/sources.