

Girls: 6 - 8 years

Suggestion One

The Magic Mirror
A Fairy Play for Children (Snow-White)
E. C. Brereton

In this scene SNOW-WHITE has arrived at the house of the Seven Dwarfs set deep in the forest. She knocks at the door and getting no reply, opens it and steps inside. There she sees a table laid for seven very small people.

SNOW-WHITE

I've knocked and knocked and nobody will answer the door! I wonder if this really is an empty house? (*She sees the table*) No, it can't be; here's a table laid for one, two, three, four, five, six, seven people. What a tiny table! and what tiny plates and dishes! (*She holds one up*) It's like a dolls' dinner set! This must be a children's house! Oh dear! I wish they'd come home! I'm so hungry! Is there anything to eat on the table? (*She looks round*) Yes, bread and butter and milk. Then I must have some now, and when the people of the house come home I'm sure they'll forgive me when I tell them I've been two days and nights wandering in the forest with nothing to eat but nuts and blackberries! (*She pours some water into a glass and holds it up*) I don't call this glass very clean! It's all sticky finger-marks outside! (*She drinks and makes a face*) And the water tastes of stale tea-leaves and lime-juice mixed. And just look at the plates. They're grimed. (*She eats and puts the plate down*) And the dust on the table! I can write my name on it with my finger! Oh dear! (*She yawns*) I'm dreadfully tired! I think I'll just sit down and wait till the people of the house come home - and then - I'll explain - to them (*more and more drowsily till she falls asleep in the chair*).

Suggestion Two

The Wild Swans
Hans Christian Anderson
(adapted by Rona Laurie)

In this scene Princess Elise has found her eleven 'swan' brothers, and lies down to sleep. In a dream a FAIRY appears to her with stinging nettles in her hand, and tells Elise that, despite the pain, she must weave eleven shirts from stinging nettles, and throw one over each of her 'brothers.' All of this must be done in silence; one word and her brother's lives will be forfeit.

FAIRY

Do you remember the old woman who gave you berries in the forest? I was that old woman, in disguise. I have come to tell you how you can free your brothers from the Queen's wicked spell. But it will not be easy. Have you courage and patience enough? Your tender fingers will feel burning pain and your heart will be tormented with grief. Do you see these stinging nettles in my hand? They grow around this place where you are sleeping. But only those which grow here or on the graves in churchyards are of any use. Remember that. You must pluck them though they sting your hand. (*The FAIRY touches Elise's hand with a nettle*) You must trample them with your feet and get yarn from them and with this yarn you must weave eleven shirts with long sleeves. When they are all made, throw them over the eleven wild swans and the spell will be broken. They will become human again. But remember this, Elise, from the moment you begin your work until it is finished you must not speak a word. If you do, the first word that you speak will plunge like a dagger into the hearts of your brothers. Their life depends on your silence. Remember this! (*She drops a nettle by Elise's hand and exits*).