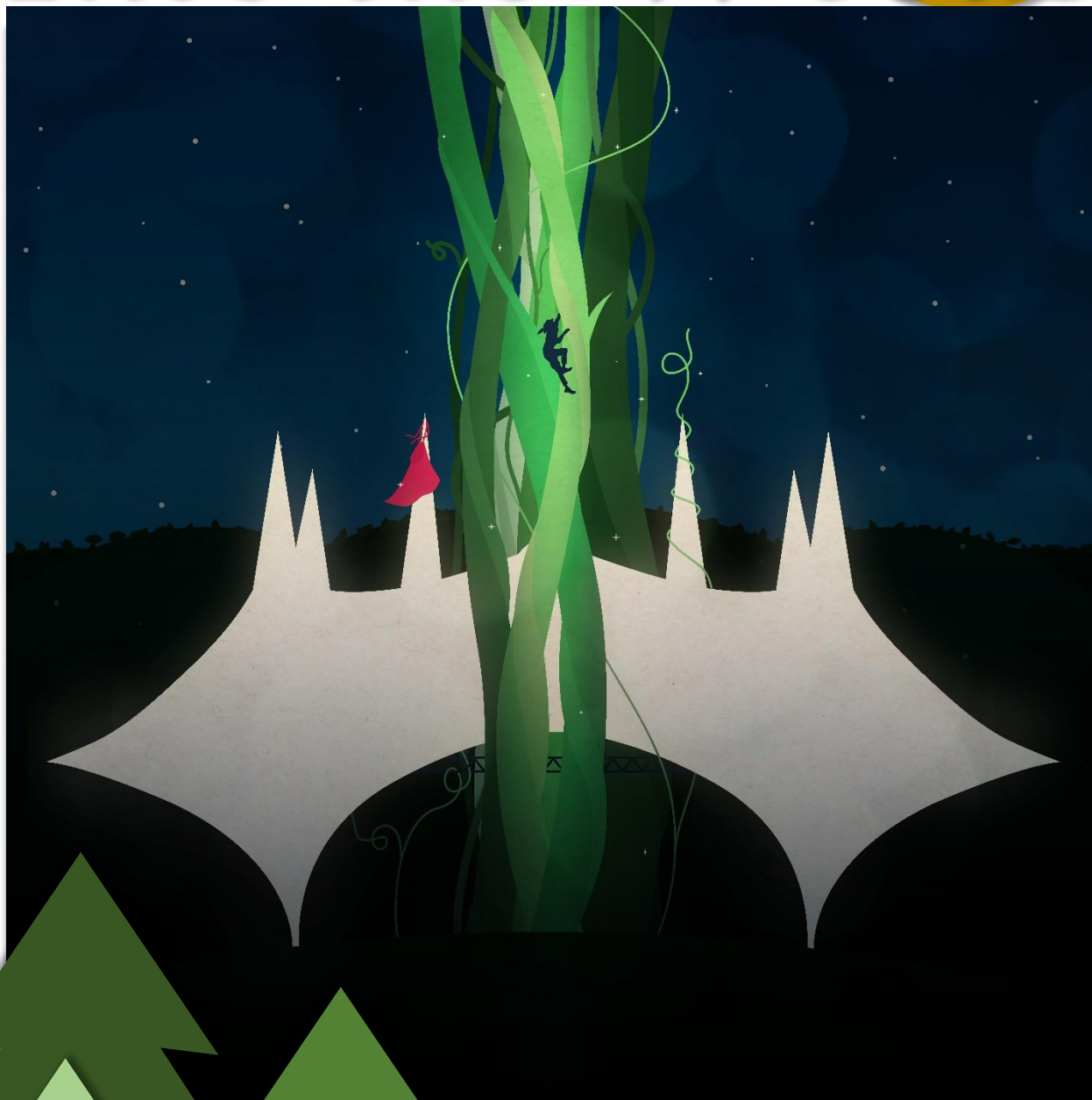




Into the Woods



Family Night Packet

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HUDSON
VALLEY
SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL
NOSDAV

We've changed, we're strangers...

...meet the characters of *Into the Woods*!

The characters of *Into the Woods* may seem like familiar fairy tale figures, but some of their actions may surprise you! Read on to find out why each character goes into the woods.



Baker

goes into the woods to find the potion items.



Baker's Wife

goes into the woods to find the potion items.



Cinderella

goes into the woods to visit her mother's grave.



Cinderella's Prince

goes into the woods to find the maiden with the golden slipper.



Florinda

goes into the woods to go to the festival.



Granny

lives in a cottage in the woods.



Jack

goes into the woods to sell his cow, Milky White.



Jack's Mother

goes into the woods to find Jack.



Little Red

Riding Hood goes into the woods to bring treats to Granny.



Lucinda

goes into the woods to go to the festival.



Mysterious Man

is very mysterious and goes into the woods for mysterious reasons.



Narrator

goes into the woods to follow the story and relay it to the audience.



Rapunzel

went into the woods as a baby to live in a tall tower.



Rapunzel's Prince

goes into the woods to visit Rapunzel.



Sleeping Beauty

is sleeping in a tall tower in the woods.



Snow White

is sleeping in a glass casket in the woods.



Stepmother

goes into the woods to go to the festival.



Steward

goes into the woods to help the Prince find the maiden with the golden slipper.



Witch

goes into the woods to make sure the potion items are being retrieved and to visit Rapunzel.



Wolf

goes into the woods to get some lunch.

Telling the story of how it all happened...

PLOT SUMMARY

“Once upon a time,” the Narrator declares, beginning the story by introducing us to three sets of characters: Cinderella, who wishes to join her wicked stepfamily at the king’s festival; Jack, whose mother is forcing him to sell Milky White, his pet cow and best friend, as the cow doesn’t produce any milk; and the Baker and Baker’s Wife, who long to have a child.

Cinderella’s stepfamily mocks her appearance, telling her that she would embarrass them at the festival. Distraught, Cinderella decides to visit the site of her mother’s grave.

The Baker and Baker’s Wife are visited by Little Red Riding Hood, who tells them she is heading into the woods to bring her grandmother some treats from the bakery. They are then visited by their neighbor, the powerful Witch. The Witch tells them that many years ago she caught the Baker’s father stealing greens from her garden, including her special magic beans. The Witch then reveals she took the family’s newborn daughter (Rapunzel) and put a curse on the Baker’s family as a punishment for taking the beans, preventing anyone in the family from having children. The Witch tells the Baker and Baker’s Wife that, to reverse the curse, they need to provide her with certain potion ingredients: **the cow as white as milk**, **the cape as red as blood**, **the hair as yellow as corn**, and **the slipper as pure as gold**. If they can bring her these items within three days, they may have a child. The Witch leaves, and the Baker’s Wife discovers the six magic beans hidden in the hunting jacket of the Baker’s father. The couple argues over who should go through the woods in search of the items. The Baker believes it is his responsibility alone, while the Baker’s Wife thinks they should go together. The Baker enters the woods by himself.

Cinderella visits the grave of her mother, lamenting over her situation and wishing she could go to the festival. The spirit of Cinderella’s mother grants her wish, providing her with a beautiful dress and **golden slippers**. Cinderella excitedly heads off to the festival.

The Baker’s Wife surprises the Baker by following him into the woods to help him find the potion items. They begin to argue again, stopping only when they see Jack and **Milky White** passing by. The Baker’s Wife convinces Jack to sell **Milky White** to them in exchange for five of the beans. The Baker tells the Baker’s Wife to bring **Milky White** home, leaving in separate directions.

Little Red is making her way through the woods to her grandmother’s house when she encounters the hungry Wolf, who greets her pleasantly but has sinister intentions. The Wolf convinces Little Red to pick some flowers for her grandmother before going to her house, so that he can get to Granny’s first. The Baker encounters Little Red on her way to Granny’s and unsuccessfully attempts to take her **red cape**. When Little Red arrives at the cottage, she is tricked and eaten by the Wolf in Granny’s clothing. The Baker, who followed Little Red to the cottage in hopes of getting the **cape**, discovers a sleeping Wolf with a piece of **red cloth** sticking out of his mouth. He cuts the Wolf open, releasing Little Red and Granny from the Wolf’s stomach. Little Red decides to give the Baker her **cape**.

When Jack returns home with beans instead of money, Jack’s Mother throws the beans to the ground in exasperation, not knowing that an enormous beanstalk would soon begin to grow there.

The Baker’s Wife, on her way back home with **Milky White**, comes across Cinderella, who is hiding from the Prince on her way home from the festival. The Baker’s Wife asks Cinderella about the Prince and the festival. During this conversation, the Baker’s Wife notices Cinderella’s **golden slippers**, but Cinderella runs away before the Baker’s Wife can ask for them. As the first midnight strikes, **Milky White** runs away from the Baker’s Wife, forcing her to give chase to the **cow** instead of going after the **slippers**.

Telling the story of how it all happened...

PLOT SUMMARY (CONT'D)

The next day, Jack descends from a trip up the beanstalk, where he met a friendly giant and her less friendly husband and stole a sack of gold. Jack gives five gold pieces to the Baker, hoping to get **Milky White** back. The Baker says he is hesitant to sell, so Jack runs off, promising to get more money in exchange for the **cow**. A Mysterious Man appears, taking the money from the Baker and disappearing again. The Baker's Wife appears again in the woods, telling the Baker she lost **Milky White**. The Baker goes off in search of the **cow**. The Baker later encounters the Mysterious Man again, who reunites the Baker with **Milky White**.

The Baker's Wife begins to leave the woods but hides instead when she sees Cinderella's Prince and his brother meet in the woods to lament over the unattainable women they love. The Baker's Wife learns from their conversation that there is a maiden living in a tower with **hair as yellow as corn**. When the Princes leave, the Baker's Wife sets off to the maiden's tower, where she tricks Rapunzel into letting down the maiden's long **yellow hair** so that she may pull out a few pieces of **hair** for the potion. After obtaining the hair, the Baker's Wife finds Cinderella running from the festival again. Their conversation soon escalates to a tug-of-war over Cinderella's **slipper** when they hear the Prince approaching. Cinderella, winning the shoe, runs away.

The Baker and Baker's Wife find each other in the woods, learning they have three of the four potion items. They soon come across Jack, returned from a second trip up the beanstalk with a hen that lays golden eggs. They argue over who deserves ownership over **Milky White**. Perhaps due to the stress of this situation, **Milky White** collapses to the ground, dead. The second midnight strikes.

The Witch discovers that a Prince has been visiting Rapunzel and punishes her by cutting off her long **hair** and banishing her to a remote desert. The Witch tricks Rapunzel's Prince, pushing him from the tower and causing him to go blind when he falls on a patch of thorns.

The Mysterious Man gives the Baker a sack of gold with which to buy a new **cow**. Little Red dares Jack to go up the beanstalk for a third time.

Cinderella returns from her final night at the festival, this time missing a **slipper**. The Baker's Wife, seeing Cinderella, offers the final magic bean in exchange for the remaining **slipper**. Cinderella tosses the bean away. The Baker's Wife offers her shoes, so that Cinderella can run away from the Prince. Cinderella gives her the **slipper** in return and runs off.

Jack's third trip up the beanstalk is not as successful: After Jack steals a golden harp, the unfriendly giant gives chase, and Jack is forced to cut down the beanstalk. The giant falls to his death. No one notices a new beanstalk growing in the distance.

The Baker and Baker's Wife present the Witch with the potion items, but something about **the cow as white as milk** seems off...the Baker has covered a regular in flour! The Baker and Baker's Wife explain that they had the right **cow**, but it died. The Witch uses her powers to bring **Milky White** back to life. The Witch instructs them to feed the items to the **cow**, but nothing happens. Replacing Rapunzel's **hair** with the silky **hair** of an ear of corn, **Milky White** finally produces milk. The Witch drinks the potion and transforms into a beautiful woman, but she discovers that she has also lost her powers.

Cinderella's Prince conducts a search for the woman wearing the **golden slipper**, and finds Cinderella. They marry. The Baker's Wife becomes pregnant. Rapunzel and her Prince find each other again, and her tears restore his sight. Jack and Jack's Mother live comfortably with their new wealth. They all live happily ever after...for now.

Once upon a time...later...

MORE PLOT SUMMARY

Sometime later, Cinderella is now a princess, Jack has been reunited with Milky White, and the Baker and Baker's Wife have a baby son. They still have wishes, however: Cinderella hopes to sponsor her own festival, Jack misses the giant's kingdom, and the Baker's family is cramped for space with their new addition. Despite this, they are happy...at least until an enormous crash felt throughout the kingdom.

The Witch returns to the Baker's cottage, claiming her garden was destroyed. The Witch, Baker, and Baker's Wife determine that the sound was caused by a giant. The Baker decides to bring this news to the royal family, but the Witch isn't hopeful. The Baker meets with Cinderella at the castle, telling her that he believes a giant is afoot. Cinderella promises to tell the Prince of this news.

Little Red arrives at the Baker's cottage, as she is on her way to Granny's after Little Red's house collapsed. The Baker and Baker's Wife decide to take her to Granny's. Jack decides to head into the woods to find the giant. Cinderella dresses in her old clothes to return to her mother's grave.

Somewhere else in the woods, the Princes lament again, this time grieving over their *new* loves, Snow White and Sleeping Beauty.

The Baker, Baker's Wife, and Little Red encounter Cinderella's stepfamily and the Prince's steward in the woods. They learn that the stepfamily and steward are leaving the kingdom to wait out the giant's attacks. The giant soon appears, demanding Jack as a sacrifice for killing her husband. The group begins to argue over who to sacrifice to the giant, as Jack is not there. Eventually, they notice the Narrator's presence and sacrifice him to the giant. The giant realizes the Narrator is not Jack and throws the man to the ground, unappeased. The giant leaves in search of Jack, crushing Rapunzel in the process. The stepfamily and steward continue their journey. The remaining group splits up to find Jack.

While looking for Jack, the Baker's Wife finds Cinderella's Prince. The two have a brief rendezvous in the woods before the Prince heads deeper into the woods to find the giant. The Baker's Wife reflects on what happened, but is crushed by the giant before she can be reunited with the Baker.

Meanwhile, the Baker finds Cinderella at the ruined remains of her mother's grave. He convinces her to join him in finding Jack and they return to where Little Red is waiting with the child of the Baker and Baker's Wife.

The Witch returns to the group with Jack, where it is revealed to them what happened to the Baker's Wife. The group begins to argue over who deserves the blame for the giant's presence. The Witch soon tires of the arguing and disappears. The group makes a plan to trap the giant.

Cinderella encounters her Prince and, knowing of his infidelity, asks him to consider her a victim of the giant. They part ways.

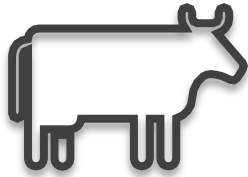
The group manages to kill the giant. The Baker, Cinderella, Little Red, and Jack decide to form a new family and fix up the Baker's house to live in together.

The End.

If you want the curse reversed...

...you'll need to solve this word search first!

The Baker and Baker's Wife need to find the following items in order to reverse the Witch's curse: the **cow** as **white** as **milk**, the **cape** as **red** as **blood**, the **hair** as **yellow** as **corn**, and the **slipper** as **pure** as **gold**. Help them search for these words in the letter scramble below!



COW

WHITE

MILK

CAPE

RED

BLOOD

HAIR

YELLOW

CORN

SLIPPER

PURE

GOLD

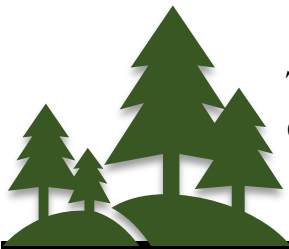


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R	S	O	T	N	A	P	P	L	X	L	Q	H	B	H
E	W	E	O	U	P	Q	P	O	C	O	C	I	H	U
V	P	B	K	P	B	K	G	E	J	W	A	Z	E	S
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P	P	R	Y	P	P	T	M	P	H	D	E	R	F	O
H	U	Q	S	J	F	Y	W	X	Z	V	D	T	O	U
P	D	H	T	F	D	R	T	X	A	G	K	C	M	C
G	P	I	X	D	H	D	O	O	L	B	D	X	C	X
F	J	D	V	P	B	R	J	P	F	Z	I	J	L	A

HINT: Words may be written backwards, upside down, and/or diagonally!

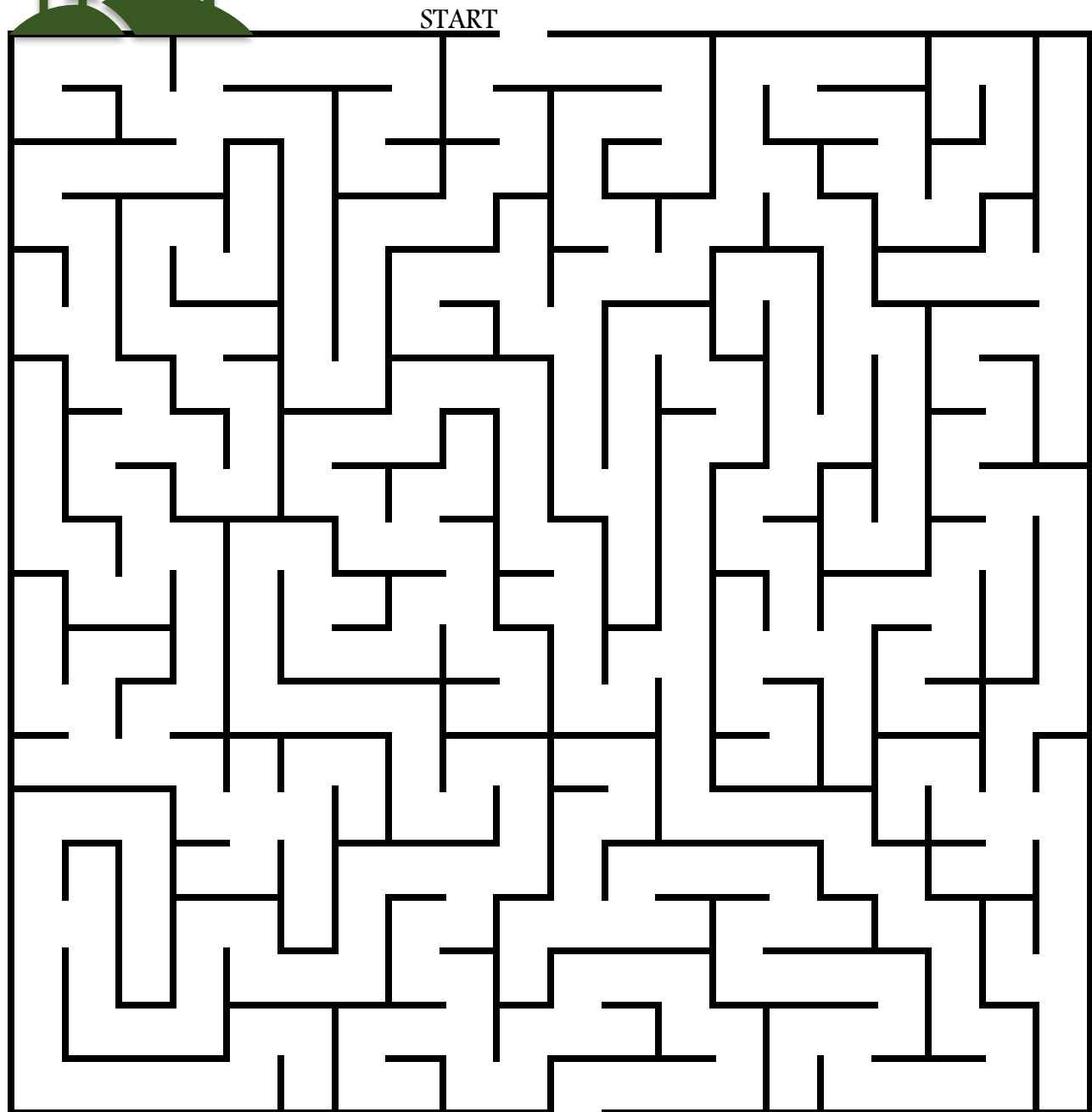
Into the woods and out of the woods...

...and home before dark!



The only way home is through the woods!

Can you make it back before nightfall without straying from the path?



START

FINISH



And perhaps a sticky bun...or four...



Decorate a cake!



While the Baker and Baker's Wife are searching for potion ingredients in the woods, they've asked you to run their bakery! Help them fulfill an order by decorating this cake for a fellow fairy tale figure. Will you make a cheesecake for the three blind mice? A sea salt cake with a seaweed garnish for the Little Mermaid? A honeycomb cake for Goldilocks and the three bears? Or maybe something entirely different!



Into the woods to journey's end...

Questions and Activities for After the Performance

QUESTIONS

1. How are the fairy tale characters in *Into the Woods* different from other versions you may have seen or read? (For example, how is this version of Cinderella different from the Disney version?)
2. Did any of the characters' actions surprise you? If so, how did these characters' decisions change how you felt about them?
3. What were some of the differences between Act I and Act II?
4. How do you think this story would change if it was told from the perspective of the Giant?
5. What was your favorite song? What about it made it your favorite?

ACTIVITIES

• Once upon a time... •

Make up a new fairy tale with a group of friends one word at a time. For example, you can start by saying "One," the next person says "day," and so on.

• Guess that *Woods* tune! •

Pick a song from *Into the Woods* and have a friend try to guess what song you're thinking of. The only rule: No words can be used as clues! Try humming or whistling the melody, or doing a dance to rhythm of the song.

• What comes after "Happily Ever After"? •

Create an "Act II" for your favorite fairy tale, introducing a new conflict for the characters to face in the aftermath of the story's original ending. This "Act II" can be a short story, a poem, a play, a drawing or painting, a sculpture, a song, or anything else creative that you can think of!