

# HEIDI

*Children's Illustrated Edition*

**Volume 1**

Original Story by Johanna Spyri  
Adapted by R.A. Sheats, Joshua Schwisow,  
and Kevin Swanson

Illustrated by Alina Tahir Zaidi



**Generations**  
PASSING ON THE FAITH

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Original Story by Johanna Spyri.

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The original edition of *Heidi* was published in 1880 and 1881  
in two parts in German by Johanna Spyri.

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## Introduction

*Heidi* is one of the most popular children's books ever published, second only to *Pinnocchio*—with some 50 million copies in print around the world.

*Heidi* is a delightful read. It is one the most heart-warming Christian story of all time for children. It is filled with joy, gratefulness, and praise to God. There are references to “the Lord” as well as references to God throughout. There are the vivid descriptions of sin, rebellion, mercy, forgiveness, reconciliation, and God's sovereignty. Faith in God and prayer are encouraged. The church plays a role in the life of *Heidi* and her grandfather, especially when grandfather is restored to the fellowship.

Don't miss the major theme of the book as *Heidi* learns that God's plan is better than her own. Her prayers are not answered at first, but she comes to realize that God's ways are higher than her ways, and better in the long run.

The original *Heidi*, written by Johanna Spyri, was written from a solid Christian worldview perspective, and we would include it on the list of essential Christian classics. In 2019, Generations published its own edition of *Heidi*. The goal of our republication was to restore all the original Christian content, often edited out of modern translations. In our research, we discovered that the lost condition of the grandfather was removed in later editions, as was the extended explanation of the story of the prodigal son and the hymn which explained God's sovereign grace. These essential parts of the Christian faith and the power of the Gospel were removed in editions released after 1920.

In our edition of *Heidi*, we relied mostly on the Elizabeth Stork translation of 1919, with some excerpts taken from the Helen B. Dole translation of 1880. The Stork translation attempted to best reflect the original German idiom contained in this children's classic. However, our editing team adapted this translation by providing a few modernized, anglicized expressions where the meaning of the text would have been too obscured.

Now, we are pleased to present this abridged, simplified, and illustrated version of *Heidi*. Because we believe *Heidi* is such a great book, we want to provide a children's edition that will serve as an introduction to the complete and original version. Though the book is simplified and abridged, our goal has been to retain the most essential content from the complete book and to faithfully communicate the message of the book to younger readers.

This Children's Illustrated edition is presented in two volumes, divided in a similar way to the original book (which contained Part 1 and Part 2).

*Kevin Swanson and Joshua Schwisow*     *May, AD 2026*


# CHAPTER 1

## Heidi Meets Her Grandfather on the Mountain

**A** long time ago, in a country called Switzerland, a little girl and her aunt were climbing up a mountain. The little one's name was Heidi, and she had just turned five years old.

It was a warm summer day in the Alps, but Heidi was wearing two dresses and a coat. These were all the clothes she owned. She was wearing all of them because she was moving to a new home.







As they passed through a village halfway up the mountain, Heidi sat down on the ground. "I'm so hot!" she exclaimed.

A few of the villagers came out to greet Heidi's Aunt Deta. They asked her, "Where are you going with the little girl?"

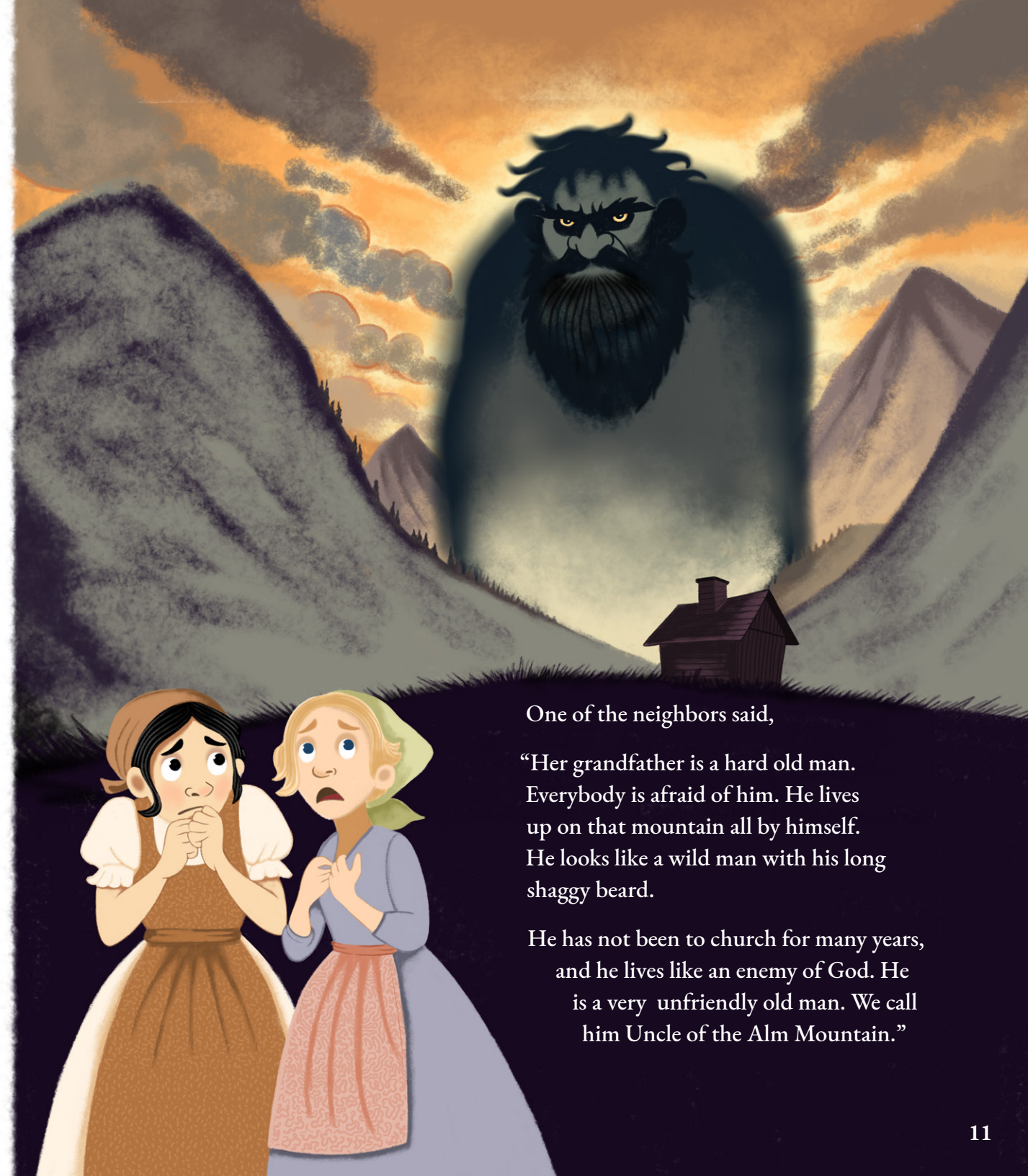
"I am taking her to stay with her grandfather away up on the Alm Mountain," Aunt Deta said.



“Heidi was just a baby when her papa died,” she explained to the curious neighbors. “He was building a house when a heavy piece of wood fell on him. Heidi’s mama died too. I’ve been taking care of the child myself for these four years.”



Aunt Deta shook her head. “I cannot care for her anymore. Now I must take her to her grandfather.”



One of the neighbors said,

“Her grandfather is a hard old man. Everybody is afraid of him. He lives up on that mountain all by himself. He looks like a wild man with his long shaggy beard.

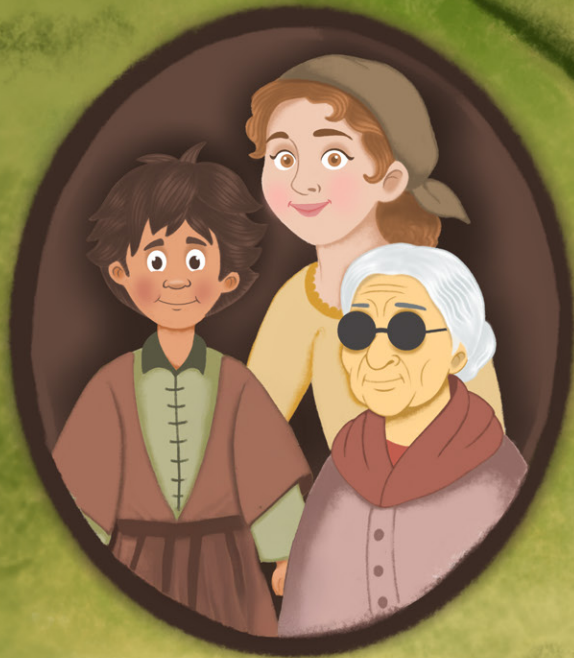
He has not been to church for many years, and he lives like an enemy of God. He is a very unfriendly old man. We call him Uncle of the Alm Mountain.”

Aunt Deta sighed.

“Yes. After his son died, he went up into the mountain and never speaks to anyone. He is angry with God.”


Heidi and her aunt climbed up the mountain until they reached a cottage.

In the cottage lived Peter, the goat herder. His mother and his blind grandmother lived there too. Peter was eleven years old. Every day he took care of the neighbors' goats.



Heidi ran ahead to meet Peter and the goats. Once she reached Peter, she hopped and skipped merrily up the mountain trail with the goats.



An illustration of an elderly man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a brown patterned coat, sitting on a wooden bench. He is holding a pipe in his mouth, and a wisp of smoke is rising from it. He is looking towards a young girl with dark hair tied in a bun with a pink hair tie, wearing a brown patterned dress. She is standing on a dirt path and looking at him with a curious expression, her hands held out. The background shows a wooden building on the left, green hills, and snow-capped mountains under a blue sky. There are some small white flowers in the grass near the girl.

Finally they reached the grandfather's cottage. The old man was sitting on a bench. He had a pipe in his mouth, and he quietly watched them as they came closer.

Heidi bounded ahead to greet him. Holding out her hand, she exclaimed brightly, "Good evening, grandfather!"

The Grandfather frowned.

"Why are you here?" he asked. He took the little child's hand while Heidi stared at him curiously.

Aunt Deta explained: "This is your son's child, Heidi. She has come to stay with you."

"I can't keep her here," the old man said angrily. "What will I do with her when she cries for you? She would rather be with you."

Aunt Deta shook her head. "I've already taken care of her for four years. Now it's your turn."

The grandfather stood up and pointed at Deta.

"Get out of here!" he cried. "And don't ever come back!"

Quickly Aunt Deta bid the child farewell and hurried back down the mountain. She wanted to get away from the grandfather as fast as she could.



“I have left Heidi with her grandfather!”  
she called back to them.

The villagers said sadly, “Oh, the poor little one.  
You should never have done this terrible thing.”

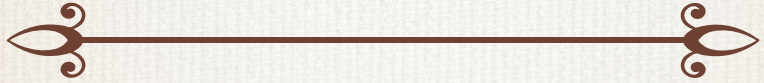
But Aunt Deta hurried on her way to the  
train station at the bottom of the mountain.  
She was going to Frankfurt in Germany  
where she would take care of a large house  
for a very rich family. She didn’t have time  
to worry about Heidi anymore.

On her way home Aunt Deta  
passed through the village.

“Where have you left the little girl?”  
the villagers asked.



## Chapter 1 Review

1. For four years, Deta cared for the orphan Heidi. The Bible says this is pure religion in James 1:27. God wants us to take care of the orphans like Heidi.
  2. After losing his son and his son's wife, the grandfather (Uncle of the Alm Mountain) went up to the mountain and lived alone. He was mad at God because of the hard things that had happened to him. Grandfather needs to repent of his anger against God.
- 



# CHAPTER 2

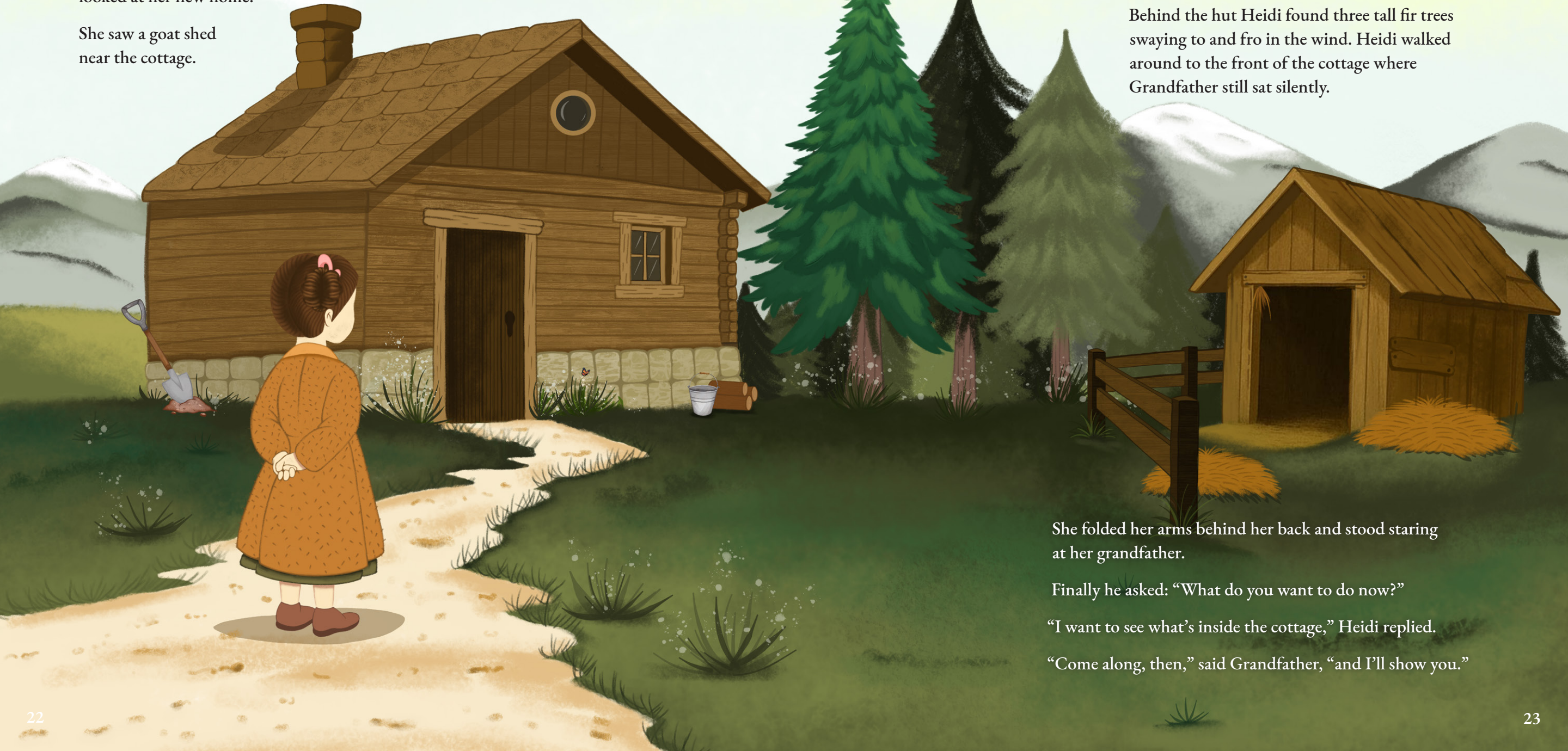
## With the Grandfather

Heidi watched her Aunt Deta disappear down the mountain. Then she turned around and looked at her new home.

She saw a goat shed near the cottage.

There weren't any goats inside, and everything was dark and quiet.

Behind the hut Heidi found three tall fir trees swaying to and fro in the wind. Heidi walked around to the front of the cottage where Grandfather still sat silently.

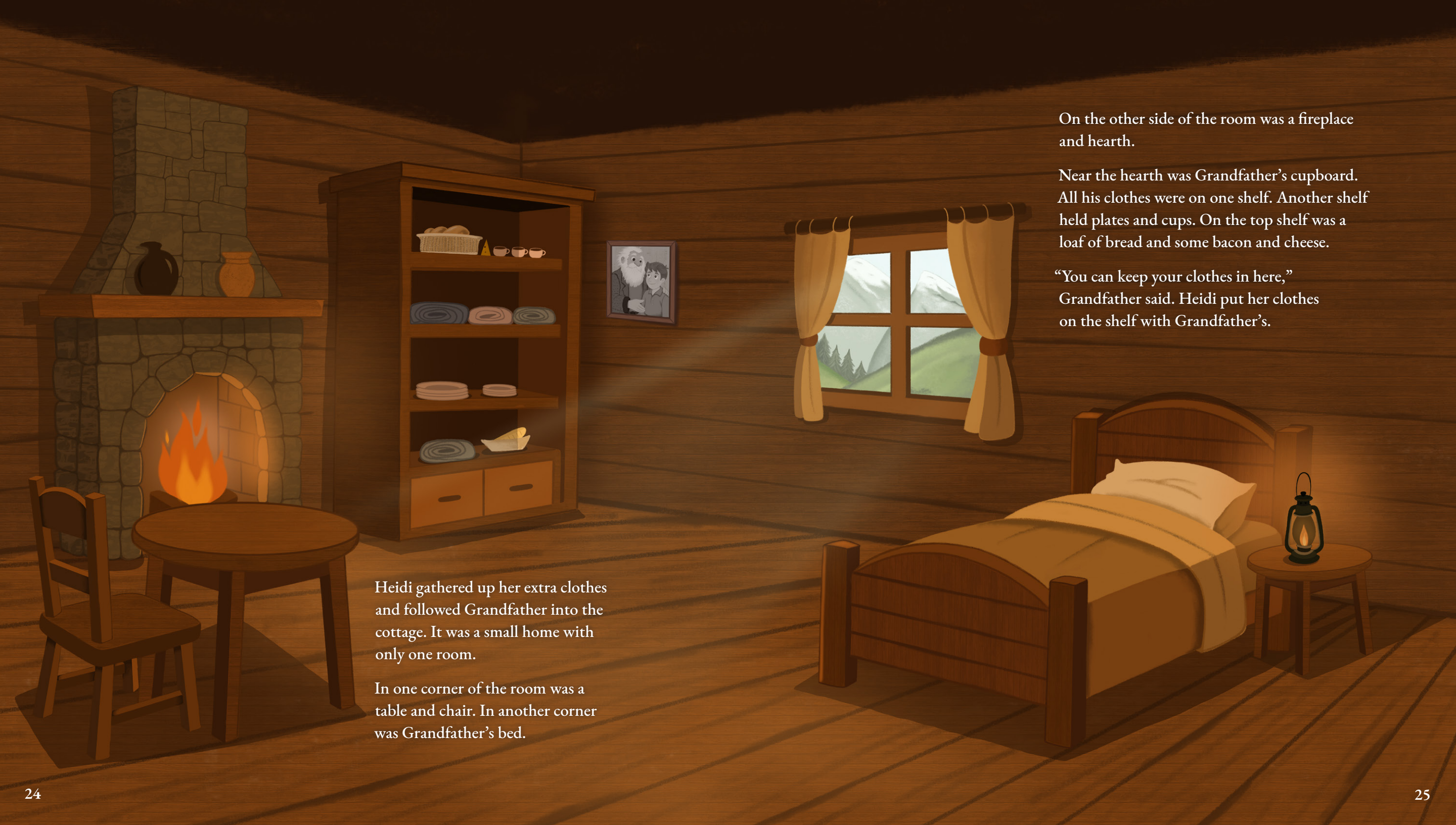


She folded her arms behind her back and stood staring at her grandfather.

Finally he asked: "What do you want to do now?"

"I want to see what's inside the cottage," Heidi replied.

"Come along, then," said Grandfather, "and I'll show you."



On the other side of the room was a fireplace and hearth.

Near the hearth was Grandfather's cupboard. All his clothes were on one shelf. Another shelf held plates and cups. On the top shelf was a loaf of bread and some bacon and cheese.

"You can keep your clothes in here," Grandfather said. Heidi put her clothes on the shelf with Grandfather's.

Heidi gathered up her extra clothes and followed Grandfather into the cottage. It was a small home with only one room.

In one corner of the room was a table and chair. In another corner was Grandfather's bed.

“Where am I going to sleep, Grandfather?” she asked.

“Wherever you want to,” he replied.

Heidi excitedly peeped into all the corners of the room.  
She wanted to find a nice, cozy place to sleep.



Beside Grandfather’s bed she found a ladder. Heidi climbed the ladder and found herself in the hayloft where Grandfather stored his hay.

“This is lovely!” she cried.  
“I want to sleep right here!”



Heidi made a bed out of the hay. Grandfather didn’t have an extra blanket, but he carried a heavy linen sack up the ladder. This would be Heidi’s blanket.

In the hayloft was a small round window. Through the window Heidi could see far down into the valley below.

At lunchtime Grandfather lit a fire. Then he put a piece of cheese on a long iron fork and held it over the fire.

Heidi ran to the cupboard and took out two plates and two knives. She set them on the table and put the loaf of bread between them.



Grandfather brought over the warm cheese and put it on the bread. He sat down at the table and poured some milk for Heidi.

There was only one chair at the table, so Heidi sat on a little stool.

“How do you like the milk?” Grandfather asked.

“It’s the best I’ve ever tasted!” Heidi exclaimed.



After lunch was over, Grandfather walked to the goat shed. Heidi watched him sweep out the stalls and lay down fresh straw for the goats to sleep on.

Then Grandfather went into his little workshop and began making something out of wood. Heidi watched in amazement.



“Do you know what I am making?”  
Grandfather asked her.

“Yes,” Heidi said joyfully.

“You’re making a chair for me!”

Grandfather made the chair tall so  
Heidi could sit in it and reach the table.

Heidi watched in wonder as  
Grandfather made the chair.  
He worked quickly, and soon  
the new chair was done.

All afternoon Heidi followed Grandfather and watched what he did. When evening came she heard a shrill whistle. As she watched, she saw one goat after another come trotting toward her. Soon the whole herd was in sight, with Peter in the midst of them.

Heidi clapped her hands with joy and ran to welcome the goats. Two beautiful animals separated from the herd and walked up to the cottage. Grandfather held out salt for the goats to lick.

“Are these our goats?” Heidi asked excitedly.

“Yes, they are,” Grandfather replied.

He milked the goats and brought the milk inside for Heidi to drink with her supper.

After supper, Grandfather said,  
“Heidi, it’s time for you to go to bed.”

“Oh, please tell me the names of the goats  
first!” Heidi pleaded.

“The white one is Schwänli, and the brown  
one I call Bärli,” said Grandfather.

“Good night, Schwänli! Good night,  
Bärli!” Heidi called as Grandfather  
put the goats in the shed.



Then Heidi climbed up to her bed and lay on the soft,  
sweet-smelling hay. Out her little window she could see  
the stars beginning to appear in the night sky.

With a contented sigh Heidi smiled and closed her eyes.  
She loved her new home, and she loved her new bed.  
Soon she was fast asleep.

Grandfather went to bed too. As he lay in bed, he heard the wind begin to blow outside. It was a wild and stormy night on the mountain.

Grandfather listened to the wind. It blew against the cottage, and the walls creaked. It howled through the chimney, and the trees around the cottage shook.

“Will Heidi be afraid of the wind?” Grandfather wondered. “She is a young child, and she may be frightened.”

Grandfather quietly climbed the ladder to the hayloft. Heidi was snuggled up in her bed of hay. She wasn't scared. She was sound asleep.

Grandfather smiled at the sleeping child. Then he silently climbed back down the ladder and went to bed.