***Grimm’s Fairy Tales***

***Chapter 8***

### ***The Wonderful Musician***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Synopsis:***

A musician alone in a forest decides to find a companion for himself. He does this by playing his fiddle. The first three creatures the musician meets are not the companions he wants so he tricks them and leaves them. The wolf sets all these companions free and they go looking for the musician. A wood cutter is fascinated by the musician's playing, and with ax in hand, goes closer to hear the music. As the wood cutter is listening, the wolf, fox, and hare approach the musician and the wood cutter feels they plan to do the musician harm. The wood cutter jumps between the animals and musician, and tells the animals if they hurt the musician they will have to deal with him. The animals run away into the woods. The musician plays the wood cutter one more song of gratitude, and then goes on his way.

It is hard to understand the moral of this story. It seems the musician is the bad guy in the story as he tricks several animals into being captive simply because they were not the companions he desired. In the end, however, the musician is protected and freed from the animals' revenge. It does not seem right this cruel man was not punished for his wrongdoing.

***Summary:***

* A minstrel is walking alone in the woods and wants someone to hang with.
* He plays a tune and a wolf, fox, and rabbit all show up, but he tricks each of them into getting stuck somewhere so they quit bothering him. We guess they're not cool enough.
* The animals all free themselves, then go to exact revenge on the minstrel.
* Luckily, the minstrel attracts with his music a human buddy—a woodcutter with an ax—who drives off the animals.
* The minstrel is pleased with himself, plays another tune for the woodcutter, and wanders off again. Minstrels gonna minst.