

Level
1

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Teacher's Notes

Summary of the story

Three billy goats are trying to get from one side of the river to the other to eat some delicious-looking grass. Under the bridge is a troll. The baby billy goat crosses the bridge first and the troll asks him who he is and says he would like to eat him, but the baby says he is too small to eat and the troll lets him go. The same thing happens to the next billy goat who says he is too thin, and the troll lets him go too. But when the daddy billy goat crosses the bridge and the troll says he wants to eat him, he pushes the troll into the river then crosses to the nice green grass with the others.



Background to the story

This was originally a Norwegian folk tale, translated into English in *Popular tales from the Norse* in 1859 by Sir George Dasent. He pointed out that it was a goat who pulled the chariot of the Norse god Thor and Thor hated trolls.

Topics and themes

Animals. Pupils can collect pictures of a group of animals such as lions, elephants, goats etc. and see if they can see which is the smallest and biggest.

Family. Pupils can describe where they fit in with their brothers and sisters. Are they the 'baby' the 'oldest' or a 'middle' child.

Food. The troll likes to eat goats, the goats eat grass. Some animals eat plants, others eat meat. Pupils can talk about the animals they know and what they eat.

Monsters. The troll is nasty. What other monsters in stories do the children know?

Size. The goats are in three sizes, a start to a topic on this.

Seasons. Grass grows in springtime when the weather becomes warmer.

Making use of the Reader

Animals. In the pictures of the Reader there are many animals, birds, lizard, rabbit, spider and a beetle. Can the pupils find them? Ask the pupils to look at the colour of the baby and compare it with the colour of the Daddy billy goat. Is there a difference? Talk about other babies that are different from the grown-ups e.g. swan baby or chick is grey and the grown-up is white. Collect pictures as examples of these and talk about them with the pupils.

Comparing size. e.g. pages 4 and 5 the troll and the small goat. Look at the difference in size between a range of animal babies and human babies. Perhaps collect information about the sizes of the children in the class and see how much bigger they are to their parents. Gather three of lots of things in different sizes e.g. shoes, jumpers, books, pencils, bags, children and use these to talk about size such as big/small; thin/thick; strong/weak; long/short etc.

Monsters. Create a big troll for the classroom. He should be twice as big as a human grown-up and look quite ugly. You could photocopy the troll from the book and enlarge him until he is huge and each 'bit' of him that has been enlarged can be coloured by a different group.

Role play. This is a lovely story to role play. It can be done in groups of four = three billys and the troll. You can tell the story and the three characters can mime it. Change the characters around after each time so that they each take a turn of every character.



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Using the accompanying video and audio cassette

Do the role play with the audio or video cassette played each time instead of you reading it out. As the groups carry out the story perhaps let them join in the dialogues as they feel able. This way they all could 'say' quite a lot.

Create a situation where pupils have to act out the bridge scene with the troll. One person is the troll (they may be under a table). The dialogue is 'Who are you? I want to eat you!' 'Oh no don't eat me. I am too small/thin/strong.'

Simultaneous listening in groups.

Divide the class into three, one group of deep voices, one of medium voices, one of baby voices to repeat the dialogue with the tape.

Notes on the activities in the factsheet

Activity 1. Labelling. Pupils should look at the pictures and check that they know which animal is in each picture then label them accordingly.

Activity 2. Wordsearch. Pupils should look at the pictures next to the spaces and write in the name of the thing in the picture. Talk this through with the class before they do it to show them what they have to do.

Activity 3. Colouring. Pupils should look at the numbers and then colour the picture of the troll and the bridge in the numbers marked.

Activity 4. Pupils should draw a line between the word that describes each of the character in the story.

Answers to the activities

In the back of the Reader

Before you read

1 = goat

After you read

I'm small = baby billy

I'm hungry = the troll

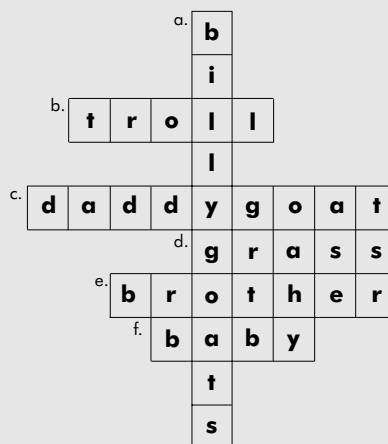
I'm thin = brother billy

I'm strong = daddy billy

In the factsheet

Activity 1 a. troll, b. baby, c. brother, d. daddy.

Activity 2



Activity 4

a. troll – hungry, b. baby billy goat – small, c. brother billy goat – thin, d. daddy billy goat – strong, e. grass – green.



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Name.....

Activity 1

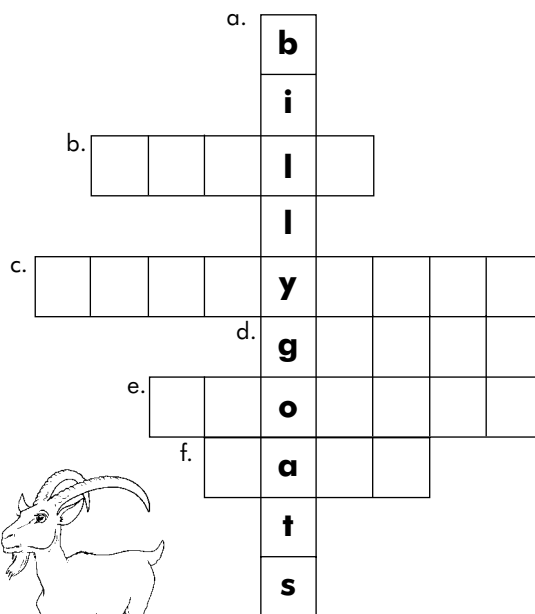
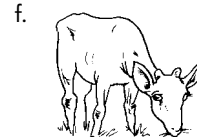
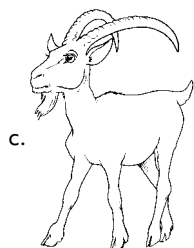
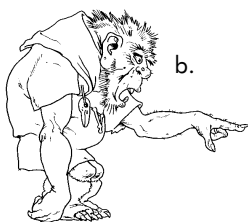
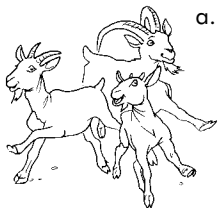
Put the right word under the picture.

- a. baby
- b. troll
- c. daddy
- d. brother



Activity 2

Find the words.



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Name.....

Activity 3

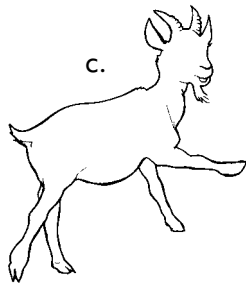
Colour in the picture.

- 1 = yellow
- 2 = brown
- 3 = green
- 4 = black

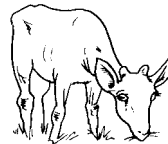


Activity 4

Match the word and the picture.



thin



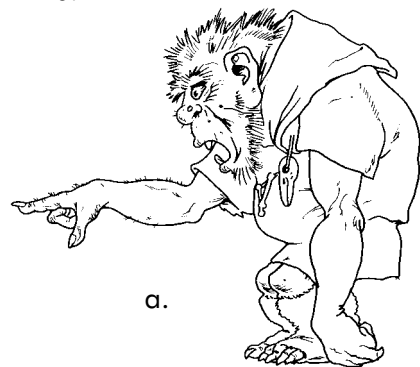
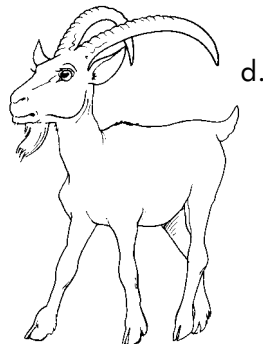
b.

strong

small

hungry

green



e.

