

THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF

Three Billy Goats Gruff

by P.C. Asbjornson & J.E. Moe (Harcort)

Themes: Folktales

Grade Level: Pre- K-1

Running Time: 6 minutes, iconographic

Summary

Three billy goats, ranging in size from smallest to largest must cross a bridge in order to get to the meadow where they graze. Under the bridge lives a mean troll, who threatens to gobble up each of the billy goats.

The first two goats implore the troll to pass them by for the next billy goat who is bigger than they are. The troll agrees and meets his match in the third billy goat, who in a showdown, challenges the troll to come up onto the bridge. The billy goat butts the troll with his horns and tosses him into the river. The story ends with the billy goats contentedly grazing in the meadow, forever free of the nasty troll.

Objectives

- Children will enjoy a familiar folktale
- Children will explore the concept of courage
- Children will investigate bullies

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* with children.

Then ask:

Why do you think the first two billy goats told the troll to wait for the next billy goat? How do you think the three billy goats felt about one another?

Talk with children about goats. Explain that female goats are called nanny goats, male goats are called bucks or billy goats and baby goats are called kids. The female goats' horns are not as large as the males. Tell children that goats usually live in mountainous areas. Goats are very surefooted and can take flying leaps from rock to rock.

Take a walk outdoors with children. Find a grassy spot where children can sit down, close their eyes, and imagine the three billy goats grazing on the grass nearby. Ask: What sounds do you think you might hear as the billy goats enjoy their lunch? Can you make the sound of the billy goats hooves as they climb rocks? Can you make the sound of the billy goats trip-trapping over a bridge? Can you make the sound of the mean, ugly troll?!

After Viewing Activities

Give children an opportunity to dramatize the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Try face paint to help the child representing the troll to get into character. Attach bells to lengths of yarn and let the "billy goats" wear them around their necks. A long strip of kraft paper attached to the floor will make a wonderful bridge. (After the performance, have children use the "bridge" as a balance beam. See if children can hop on one foot, walk backward, and tiptoe across the bridge!)

Talk with children about a bully they've known. Ask

children to describe the bully and to draw an imaginative picture of him/her. See if children can explain why bullies need to bully others.

Plan a field trip to a museum or nature center where children can observe animals in their assimilated, or natural habitats. Encourage children to ask questions of the museum or nature center guides. As children observe the animals, point out the physical characteristics that help the animals defend themselves, in the same way that billy goats use their horns, or camouflage their bodies.

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