

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

by Mary Finch

The three goat brothers brave the terrible troll in a colorful version of the classic tale.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Who can tell me if a goat has a beard or not?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder where the goats are going?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*

- gruff: abrupt, angry, harsh-sounding speech
- munching: to chew food with a crunching sound
- field: area of land used to grow crops or graze livestock
- stream: a narrow and shallow river
- rickety: in bad condition, unstable, and likely to collapse
- bridge: a structure that is built above and across a river, road, or other obstacle to allow people or vehicles to cross it
- hill: an area of land, usually rounded in shape, that is higher than the surrounding land
- troll: a being depicted as either a dwarf or giant and living in caves or under bridges
- damp: moist, slightly wet
- furious: extremely or violently angry
- hooves: the foot of an animal
- mouthful: the amount of food or drink that can comfortably be held in the mouth at one time
- skipped: to move along by hopping from one foot to the other
- course: an action or series of actions that somebody decides to take
- trembled: to shake with slight movements, continuously and uncontrollably
- join: to put or fix two or more things together

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why did the billy goats want to cross the rickety bridge?
- Who lived under the bridge? What is a troll?
- Who can tell me how many goats there are? What are their sizes?
- What causes the clickety clack sound on the bridge?
- Which billy goat kicked the troll into the middle of next week?
- What happened to the troll?



Do

Take a Field Trip to the Petting Zoo

Plan a field trip to a local petting zoo letting the children pet and feed the goats and other animals. While at the zoo, enjoy the outdoors and plan a picnic lunch for the children.