

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

LISTEN to
your child read
this story aloud.

Once upon a time there were Three Billy Goats Gruff. One day they decided to cross a bridge and eat some new grass. But there was danger! Under the bridge lived a mean, ugly troll.

Trip, trap, trip, trap, went the Littlest Billy Goat as he walked on the bridge. "Who's that crossing over my bridge?" roared the troll.

"It is only I, the Littlest Billy Goat. I want to go to the hillside to eat the new grass."

"I'm going to gobble you up!" screamed the troll.

"I am so very little. Wait for my brother and you will get more to eat!"

"Okay. Be off with you then," said the troll.

Trip, trap, trip, trap, went the Middle-Sized Billy Goat as he walked on the bridge.

"Who's that crossing over my bridge?" roared the troll.

"It is only I, the Middle-Sized Billy Goat. I want to go to the hillside to eat the new grass."

"I'm going to gobble you up!" screamed the troll.

"Oh, don't eat me!" answered the Middle-Sized Billy Goat. "Wait for my biggest brother and you will get more to eat!"

"Okay. Be off with you then," said the troll.

TRIP, TRAP, TRIP, TRAP, went the Biggest Billy Goat as he walked on the bridge.

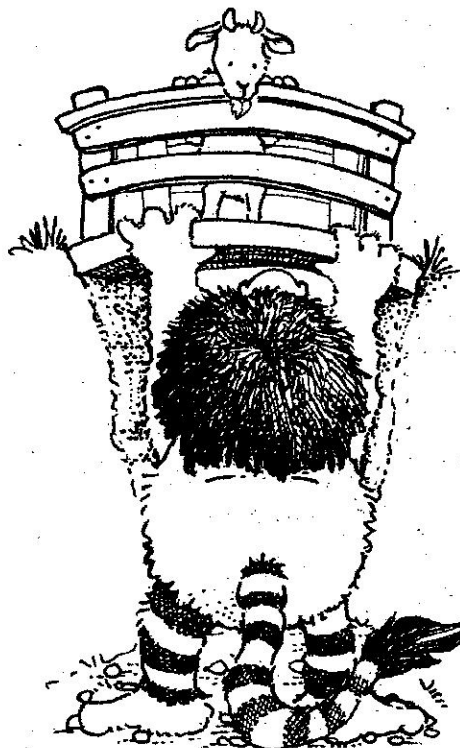
"Who's that crossing over my bridge?" roared the troll.

"It is I, the Biggest Billy Goat. I want to go to the hillside to eat the new grass."

"I'm going to gobble you up!" screamed the troll.

"You can't eat me! I am the Biggest Billy Goat." He lowered his head, stomped his feet, shook his horns, and charged at the troll. With one butt of his head he knocked the troll back in the water under the bridge.

And the third Billy Goat joined his brothers on the hillside to eat the new grass.



Retold by Mary Rose

Dear Parents,

Quite often teachers, as well as standardized tests, ask students to tell the difference between the main idea of a story and the supporting details. This is an important reading comprehension skill because it helps the reader to home in on major and minor concepts and to sort out the meaning of a story. In this story, the main idea is quite simple: the Three Billy Goats Gruff want to eat grass and the troll wants to eat them! Help your child understand this main message. All of the other information in the story is supporting detail.

Skill

Determining the Main Idea
Identifying Supporting Details

We completed this assignment together.

(Child's Signature)

(Parent's Signature)

The Questions

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The main idea of this story is that the Three Billy Goats Gruff want to eat grass and the troll wants to eat all of them. Everything else is a detail. Write five different details from the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____