

## Three Billy Goats Gruff Family Literacy Lesson

### Introduction:

Using a well-known story of “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” allows parents to focus on reading, springboard to teachable themes, and reinforces lessons from an adult education classroom. Adult education teachers can give their students who are parents (or responsible for children) ideas for interaction with their own children.

### Objectives:

- Provide time and activities for parents and children to spend time together
- Encourage adult education students to focus on reading in their homes
- Support parents as teachers of their children
- Reinforce lessons learned in the ABE/GED/ESL classroom

### Procedures:

**1)** Read the attached story of “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” which is a Norwegian folktale. To give a touch of realism, use some visuals. One idea is: the bridge is described as “rough and wooden” and it “springs and sways” as the goats go across. Use a small narrow piece of thin, unsanded wood and put it across an empty shoebox, and then “walk” across it with your fingers, pressing down really hard with your fingertips with each “step” to see the board “spring and sway”.

**2)** Role play the story with four characters taking the parts of the goats and the troll. Ask kids to use different voices depending on the qualities of their character. This will encourage understanding of point of view.

**3)** Discuss size – smallest, larger, and largest. Ask children to categorize items in the home looking at size.

**4)** Look at and pronounce the letter “G” with young children just learning their letters. Help children practice writing the letter “G”.

**5)** Teach words such as “under” and “over” by having the children point to where those would be in relation to an object. Also teach order – first, second, last by relating these to the goats.

**6)** Using a map or globe, show where Norway is in relation to the United States.

## FamEd Activity #6 (Part 2 of 7)

7) Teach children basic information about goats. The goat is an animal with hooves, hollow horns, and rough hair. Goats are mammals that are raised for their milk, wool, and meat. They are closely related to sheep.

8) Teach the following rhyme with actions

### Three Billy Goats Gruff Rhyme

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Three little goats went walking         | (hold up 3 fingers)   |
| one lovely summer's day.                |                       |
| They crossed a bridge to get some grass | (fingers walk up arm) |
| but a troll got in their way!           |                       |
| They tricked the troll and down he fell | (dive hand)           |
| into the water wet.                     |                       |
| Now three little goats are getting fat  | (hold up 3 fingers)   |
| and the troll hasn't come back yet!     | (shake head)          |

9) Make a goat puppet out of a toilet paper roll. See attached sheet for directions.

10) Relate the story to goal setting. Sometimes there are obstacles we have to overcome to get where we want to go. Anticipating barriers and making a plan can often be the road to success. Parents learning how to use these kind of teachable moments as they enjoy a story with their children will not only lead to more effective parenting but also reinforce these concepts in their own lives as they strive to set and reach goals.

## Three Billy Goats Gruff

(A Norwegian Folktale)  
retold by  
S. E. Schlosser

Snippity-snip, snap and swill,  
the tale begins upon a hill...

The air was crisp and cool. The sky was an endless blue. The green meadow grass swayed in a gentle breeze. And Big Billy Goat Gruff was bored.

"I am tired of eating in the same old field every day," he told his brothers. "I want to eat in the meadow on the far side of the stream.

"Ohhh no, Big Billy Goat," said little brother. "We cannot walk through the stream for it is too deep and too fast. We would be swept away!"

"And we cannot walk over the bridge," said middle brother, "because there is a big troll under the bridge who will gobble us up if we try to cross it."

"I am not afraid of the troll," said Big Billy Goat Gruff, tossing his bold head with the huge round horns. He stamped the ground - once, twice, thrice - with his big hooves. "Let him try to eat me! We shall see who wins the fight!"

"But we won't be there to see," said Middle Billy Goat Gruff practically, "Because Little Billy Goat Gruff and I will have been eaten."

"Not so!" cried Big Billy Goat Gruff, dancing around the meadow excitedly, his large hooves making holes in the mossy turf under his feet. "I have a plan!" The three billy goats put their heads together and whispered for a long time. Finally they broke the huddle and all three of them trotted across the wide meadow to the narrow bridge that crossed the fast-flowing, deep stream in the ravine dividing their meadow and the one on the other side.

Taking a deep breath for courage, Little Billy Goat Gruff stepped onto the rough wooden bridge. Trip-trap, trip-trap. His little hooves made the bridge spring up and down a little as he moved carefully forward.

A pair of huge round eyes peered out from the darkness under the bridge. "Who's that trip-trapping over my bridge?" rumbled the troll. A big hairy arm reached out from the darkness and huge fingers gripped the rail beside Little Billy Goat Gruff.

## FamEd Activity #6 (Part 4 of 7)

"It's just me," said Little Billy Goat Gruff in a very small voice. "I am the teeny-tiniest Billy Goat Gruff, all skin and bones, going over to the meadow to make myself fat."

A second huge hand joined the first on the rail. "I am coming to eat you," said the troll, his voice rumbling so deep that it shook the whole bridge.

"Eat me?" asked Little Billy Goat Gruff, shaking from head to toe, "I am too little. Not even worth a bite for a big troll like you. You should wait for my middle brother to come. He is much bigger than me."

This made sense to the troll. Why go to all that bother for one small bite of Billy Goat when a bigger Billy Goat was on its way?

"Get off my bridge then," the troll roared, slipping back down into the darkness underneath. "And don't come back here until you are big and fat!"

"Yes sir," said Little Billy Goat Gruff, trotting off the far side of the bridge in triumph and heading up into the wide-green meadow above. The plan was working!

When Little Billy Goat Gruff reached the top of the hill, Middle Billy Goat Gruff stepped onto the rough wooden bridge. Trap-rap, trap-rap. His medium-sized hooves made the boards of the bridge spring and sway under his weight as he moved forward.

A pair of huge round eyes peered out from the darkness under the bridge. "Who's that trap-rapping over my bridge?" grumbled the troll loudly. Hairy arms reached out from the darkness and huge fingers gripped the rail beside Middle Billy Goat Gruff.

"It's me," said Middle Billy Goat Gruff in a very medium-sized voice. "I am the Middle Billy Goat Gruff, all skin and bones from the winter. I am going over to the meadow to make myself fat."

Two blazing troll eyes over a long, twisted nose glared at him through the rails of the bridge. "I am coming to eat you," said the troll, his voice rumbling so deep that it shook the whole bridge.

"Eat me?" asked Middle Billy Goat Gruff with a laugh. "Why do you want to eat me? I am all skinny from the winter. Barely two bites for a big troll like you. And my bones will get stuck in your throat and make it feel all scratchy and horrible. You should wait for my big brother to come. He is huge! Much bigger than me."

This made good sense to the troll. Why go to all that bother for one bony, medium sized Billy Goat when a bigger Billy Goat was on its way?

## FamEd Activity #6 (Part 5 of 7)

"Get off my bridge then," the troll roared, slipping back down into the darkness underneath. "And don't come back here until you are big and fat!"

"I'm off then," said Middle Billy Goat Gruff, trotting to the far side of the bridge in triumph. He headed up to the wide-green meadow above and joined Little Billy Goat Gruff at the top of the hill. Then both of the brothers peered down at the bridge to see what Big Billy Goat Gruff was going to do.

As they watched, Big Billy Goat Gruff stepped onto the rough wooden bridge. Stomp-tromp, stomp-tromp. His huge hooves made the boards bend and give protesting creaks under his massive weight as he moved forward.

A pair of huge round eyes peered out from the darkness under the bridge.

"Who's that stomp-tromping over my bridge?" roared the troll. He sprang out onto the top of the bridge in a single leap. Big Billy Goat Gruff narrowed his eyes at the large, hairy troll. "It's me," he said, lowering his huge head so the curved horns were pointed at the troll. Then he charged.

Wham! Big Billy Goat Gruff slammed into the troll. "Arrrgh!" screamed the troll as it was lifted clean off its feet and thrown way, way, way up into the air. The troll landed head down on the bridge, making it shake and rattle from top to bottom. Big Billy Goat Gruff stomped and tromped on the troll with his huge hooves until the troll was smashed flat on the wood boards. Then he tossed him into the raging stream with his huge horns and the troll sailed down the ravine and out of sight, never to be seen again in those parts.

And Big Billy Goat Gruff went up the hill to join his brothers in the meadow. All summer long they ate the lovely green grass in both meadows until they all grew quite fat. And they walked back and forth over the troll-free bridge whenever they wanted.

Snippity-snip, snap and snout,  
This little tale has been told out!

## Ibex (Wild Goat) Toilet Paper Roll Craft

An ibex is basically a wild goat who lives in the mountains

Adult Ibex are brown in color, average 27 to 43 inches high at the shoulder and weigh approximately 200 pounds. The male's horns can grow up to 56 inches in length forming a semicircle over its back, whereas the female of this species has shorter horns that only grow up to 15 inches in length. Older males have a long beard.



### Materials:

- Toilet paper roll
- Glue
- Scissors
- Colors
- Template of goat (attached)

### Instructions:

- Color template of goat
- Glue the large rectangular piece on first to cover the tube
- Glue on the head, arms and legs (see photo above)
- We put him together as if he was sitting on his haunches -- they don't do this of course, but this is the simplest way for young children to construct the craft. It also gives the animal a "cartoon" feel .

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mibex.html>

