

TRIP-TRAP HOLLOW - READER GUIDE

The Three Goats Bramble: The REAL Story of the Troll Under the Bridge

GETTING READY

Before stepping into Trip-Trap Hollow, read or review the traditional The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Invite children to act out the familiar tale with goat and troll puppets. This gives them a story they think they know - and sets the stage for discovering that there may be another side to the story.

LIVE THE STORY

Become a Trip-Trap Hollow Goat. Print the goat horns and ears template. Attach the pieces to strips of gray or brown construction paper sized to fit around each child's head.

Become Timmer the Troll. The reader puts on troll ears and wild rainbow hair. No glasses yet! Timmer cannot see very well when the story begins.

Want to go all out? Oversized troll feet and giant glasses make fun optional additions to the reader's Timmer costume. Save the glasses until Veronica discovers that Timmer needs them, then put them on as part of the story.

Enter Trip-Trap Hollow. Create a large bridge from bulletin board paper leading into the reading area. Children put on their goat headbands and cross the bridge one at a time. Timmer greets each child:

"Welcome to my side of the story!"

Once all the little goats have arrived, gather in the reading circle and begin the story.

WHILE YOU READ - LOOK FOR CLUES

Keep the story moving and pause only at a few natural moments. Let children notice clues, make predictions, and wonder why Timmer might be acting the way he does. Do not give away the answer - let them discover Timmer's side of the story.

- Timmer stays under the bridge. Why doesn't he come out?
- He says, "I'm coming to get you!" Could he mean something different from what the goats think?
- Timmer has trouble seeing Veronica clearly. What is Veronica beginning to notice?
- The Brussels sprouts near the bridge. Why might Timmer have been eating those awful things?

STORY MAGIC MOMENT: When Veronica gives Timmer his new glasses, put on Timmer's glasses, too! For the first time, the children see their Timmer just as the goats do - finally able to see Trip-Trap Hollow clearly.

AFTER THE STORY - HEAD, HEART, HANDS

HEAD - What Did We Discover?

- What clues helped us realize Timmer might not be a mean troll?
- Why did Timmer stay under the bridge?
- Why did Timmer keep saying, "I'm coming to get you!"?
- What did Veronica discover when she took the time to learn more about Timmer?

HEART - What Did We Feel?

- How do you think Timmer felt when everyone kept running away from him?
- How do you think Timmer felt when Veronica said, "Come along, I'd like to meet you"?
- How did you feel about Timmer at the beginning of the story? Did your feelings change?
- How does it feel when someone takes the time to understand you?

HANDS - What Can We Do?

- What can we do before deciding that someone is mean or unfriendly?
- How can we help someone who is having trouble?
- What could we say if we need help?
- What is one kind thing you could do for someone who seems left out or misunderstood?

KEEP THE MAGIC GOING

Story Sequencing - What Happened First? Cut out the story pictures, put them in order, and use them to retell the story of the Three Goats Bramble and Timmer.

Walk in Timmer's World. Think about how Timmer felt during the story. What changed when everyone finally learned the truth?

Build a Better World! Become a Secret Kindness Agent. Secretly do something kind for someone - but don't get caught! After the mission, draw a picture of what happened and complete the Secret Agent Report.

TAKE THE MAGIC HOME

Send home the Trip-Trap Hollow Family Note so families can continue talking about kindness, understanding, and looking beyond first impressions.

Reader tip: Keep this guide behind the reader-version picture pages while you read. The children can stay focused on the illustrations while you glance at the prompts without needing a laptop.