

The Three Nanny Goats Gruff

The *Three Nanny Goats Gruff* is a modern version of the classic fairy tale *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, written as a play. In this extract, the three goats argue over whether or not to confront a troll. 'Nanny Goat' has been shortened to 'NG', so 'Little NG' means 'Little Nanny Goat'.

Narrator: Once upon a time, there were three nanny goats. Big Nanny Goat, Middle Nanny Goat and Little Nanny Goat. Big Nanny Goat was a wrinkled old goat, with great curved horns and a long, flowing beard. Middle Nanny Goat's horns weren't as big, but she had the silkiest coat of any goat around. Little Nanny Goat didn't have curved horns or a silky coat, but she wasn't scared of anything.

The three nanny goats lived in a muddy field, where the grass was full of weeds. At the bottom of their field was a stream, and across the stream was a hill, covered in the juiciest grass a goat could imagine. Day after day, the goats dreamed of going to the hill.

Middle NG: Look at all that green grass! If we could get over there, I'd eat and I'd eat and I'd eat. And then I'd eat some more!

Narrator: Now, there was an old wooden bridge that went across the stream, but nobody had crossed it for hundreds of years. Under the bridge lived a nasty old troll, who got meaner as every day went by. His cruel, narrow eyes were completely black and he had a dangling snout that wobbled like a plate of jelly. The troll didn't let ANYONE cross his bridge, no matter how big or small they were. But one day, everything changed.

Little NG: I'm fed up of that great ugly brute. He's got no right to stop us from crossing that stream! If we all stand together, we can fight our way across.

Big NG: Well, you might have a point, Little Nanny Goat, but what about my lovely long beard? I'd hate to catch it in some sort of scuffle.

Middle NG: And what about my soft, silky coat? It's taken years to grow and it might get tangled. I'm sorry, Little Nanny Goat, we just can't risk it.

Narrator: Little Nanny Goat stamped the ground and looked her sisters up and down. Then, she turned her back on them and began to trot over the bridge.

Clip clop. Clip clop.

Narrator: A deep, terrible voice rumbled from below:

Troll: Who DARES to try to cross MY bridge?

Little NG: Oh, hello. It's your neighbour, Little Nanny Goat. I was wondering if I could have a quick word?

Narrator: The troll's ugly head slowly appeared, with an evil smile across his face.

Troll: Goat, you're as good as dead. Nobody gets across the bridge alive.

Written by Louise McEvoy.

1 Which goat has the biggest horns?

1 mark

2 Write down a word to describe Little Nanny Goat's personality, based on lines 1-6.

1 mark

3 Why is "wobbled like a plate of jelly" (lines 16-17) a good description?

1 mark

4 Why do you think the words "clip clop" are in italics on line 27? How do you think this sound would be performed?

2 marks

5 a. The words "DARES" and "MY" are written in capitals in line 29. How might the person playing the part of the troll say those words?

1 mark

b. What do you think this suggests about the troll's personality? Explain your answer.

2 marks

6 How do you think Little Nanny Goat might have felt when her sisters refused to fight the troll with her? Explain your answer.

2 marks

Total