

Playstage

Junior

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GRUFFED UP!



Basically the tale of Three Billy Goats Gruff – but so much more!

Written by
Paul Cockcroft

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

TREVOR the Troll

BILLY GOAT ONE

BILLY GOAT TWO

GOLDBLOCKS

RED

EM

MO

TRISH

WIDOW TWANKEY

ALADDIN

CINDERELLA

JACK

DADDY BEAR

MUMMY BEAR

BABY BEAR

HANSEL

GRETEL

LITTLE BO PEEP

18 speaking parts. You could have more if you used a chorus to come on and sing and dance for each song in the play.

Running time approximately one hour.

MUSIC

Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. If you cannot source them from amongst the school community, then Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Below we give the song title and source of backing tracks. Where it says "Traditional" or "Disney", this means there is no backing track we know of, but it may be in sheet music form in your school or on a children's school music compilation CD.

Suggested songs

1/ THE TROLL RAP (*original lyrics by the author*) (You might consider supplying a back beat.)

2/ BEARS IN THE WOODS (*Sung to the tune of Teddy Bear's Picnic*) Backing track available here:

https://www.ameritz.co.uk/search_backing_tracks.asp?search=Teddy%20Bear%27s%20Picnic

3/ THE GIRLS IN THE HOOD RAP (*original lyrics by the author*) (You might consider supplying a back beat)

4/ GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN (Cyndi Lauper) Backing track available here:

http://www.ameritz.co.uk/search_backing_tracks.asp?search=Girls+Just+Wanna+Have+Fun

5/ GETTING TO KNOW YOU (*from The King and I*) Backing track available here:

http://www.ameritz.co.uk/backing_tracks.asp?artist=The%20King%20and%20I

6/ HELP (*The Beatles*) Backing track available here:

http://www.ameritz.co.uk/backing_tracks.asp?artist=The+Beatles&offset=20

7/ BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER (*Simon & Garfunkel*) Backing track available here:

http://www.ameritz.co.uk/backing_tracks.asp?artist=Simon%20and%20Garfunkel

GRUFFED UP!

SCENE ONE

The Troll's Bridge.

*TREVOR the Troll is sleeping under his bridge. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES)
He stirs from time to time, turns over, chunters in his sleep, scratches and coughs. Wait. He belches loudly. He sits up suddenly, startled.*

TREVOR

What was that noise? *(He rises, stretches, scratches, and comes down centre)*
Who are you lot? *(pause for audience response.)* Strange...you weren't there earlier. *(He looks back at his bridge)* Maybe I'm dreaming... yes... that's probably it...must get back to sleep. *(He goes back and lies down under his bridge. Wait. He sits up again. He comes back down centre.)* Are you...you know...real? Or just one of my nightmares? *(He surveys the audience.)* Hm...A pretty sinister looking bunch...yes *(long pause)* I hope you're not thinking...no...surely not...I hope you're not here...thinking...that you're going to cross my bridge...are you? Well you can forget it...This is *my* bridge see? I'm a Troll right? *The Troll...*in fact...so just watch out...Nobody...but nobody...is allowed to cross my bridge. OK? How can I explain? Oh yes...here we go...*(he raps)*

THE TROLL RAP

I'm a Troll, right?

And this is a play.

I'm a Troll, right?

Don't just run away.

I am here all alone,

Sitting under my bridge,

But people just don't care,

That my home's like a fridge.

And this is my own bridge,
Want to cross? It's my say,
And those smelly old goats,
Best keep out of my way.

My mum called me Trevor,
Oh, come on, don't laugh,
Say how would you like it,
If your name was so naff?

When people find that out,
They are no longer scared,
But start all this laughing,
And I am not prepared.

I'm a Troll, right?
And this is a play.
I'm a Troll, right?
Don't just run away.

Right. I'm exhausted now and I'm going back to sleep.

(He returns to his bridge and lies down again. Wait. BILLY GOAT ONE appears. TREVOR sits up and sees the goat. GOAT ONE falls to his knees and starts to beg.)

GOAT ONE

Oh no Mr Troll! Please don't eat me!

TREVOR

Eat you?

GOAT ONE

Yes, you know...I come trip trapping up...

TREVOR

Trip trapping?

GOAT ONE

Yes...and you say...“I’m going to eat you....”

TREVOR

I do?

GOAT ONE

Yes and I say “Oh no...please don’t eat me...my brother’s much bigger...” And you say...

TREVOR

Why?

GOAT ONE

No...not “Why?”...you say “OK. Then...I’ll wait for him” and I go, you know, trip trapping off.

TREVOR

Trip trapping off? What does that even mean?

GOAT ONE

Mean? I dunno...it’s just...you know...in the story...

TREVOR

Story? What story?

GOAT ONE

Yes...you know...The Three Billy Goats Gruff...

TREVOR

And what’s all this about three...I can only see one of you...

GOAT ONE (*rising*)

Ah yes, right. That’s cos you let me go, right? Cos my brother’s bigger and so you think you’d rather eat him so I go...

TREVOR

Trip trapping over my bridge? (*pause*) No.

GOAT ONE

No? How do you mean...“No”?

TREVOR

I mean no, I will not let you pass.

GOAT ONE

But in the story...

(GOAT TWO enters and stops, startled on seeing TREVOR.)

GOAT ONE *(to GOAT TWO)*

You're early. You're supposed to wait for me to get across before you come in.

GOAT TWO

I know but I got fed up waiting. Anyway, on you go, over the bridge.

GOAT ONE

Ah well that's just it...isn't it? You see - he won't let me pass.

GOAT TWO

Won't let you pass? But why? Haven't you told him about your big brother and all that?

GOAT ONE

We've been over all that but he's not having it.

GOAT TWO

OK. I'll sort this out then. *(firmly)* Now look here, Mr Troll.

(TREVOR growls.)

(hastily backing down) I mean Mr Troll...*Sir*...we are the Three Billy Goats Gruff...right? And what happens is that you let the first goat pass cos he's got a bigger brother and then the next goat comes along and...

TREVOR

No! Two problems...

GOAT TWO

Problems?

TREVOR

Yes. One is that you keep talking about the *Three Billy Goats Gruff*...and there are only two of you...

GOAT TWO

Ah...yes...well you see...that's the cutbacks.

TREVOR

Cutbacks?

GOAT TWO

You see, the government has to cut back on public spending to get the budget deficit down...

TREVOR

Eh?

GOAT TWO

I know, I know – but in these times of austerity...

TREVOR

Oz what?

GOAT TWO

Never mind...the fact is...the school can only afford two goats.

TREVOR

I see.

GOAT ONE

And the second problem?

TREVOR

Oh yes...the second problem...is (*pause*) that you're not goats...

GOAT ONE AND TWO (*confused*)

WHAT?

GOAT TWO

So what do you think we are?

TREVOR

Sheep...

GOAT TWO

Sheep? But that's just ridiculous! We don't look anything like sheep...I mean...look...we've got horns...

TREVOR

Some sheep have horns...like you for instance...

GOAT TWO

But...wait...beards...beards...we've got beards...

TREVOR

Loads of humans have beards. But that doesn't make them goats...

Most of all, I know you're sheep because of you look...well...kind of...sheepish...

GOAT TWO

Sheepish? Well...I...I've never been so insulted in all my life!

TREVOR

So you can go now. What's the expression?

GOAT ONE

"Trip trapping"?

TREVOR

Yes "trip trapping"...that's it...Go trip trapping off before I get really, really angry. *(He advances towards them looking menacing)*

GOAT TWO *(hastily)*

OK, OK! We're going! But you've not heard the last of this!

(TREVOR growls and lunges toward the goats who exit rapidly.)

TREVOR

OK then...I'm really tuckered out after all that...time for a proper sleep...see you...

(TREVOR lies down under the bridge. Wait. Sounds of snoring begin.)

END OF SCENE 1/

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SCENE TWO

In the Woods.

(SEE PRODUCTION NOTES. Enter GOLDILOCKS in front of the curtain. She's a bit of an airhead.)

GOLDILOCKS

Oh hello - can you guess who I am? *(She does a twirl.)* Can you? Oh go on...have a guess...go on...have a go...d'you think maybe...d'you think maybe...I might be like...you know...a glamorous Princess...seeking her Prince and romance? No? Or maybe...I don't know... Sleeping Beauty waiting to be woken by a kiss...Yeah? Or maybe...Rapunzel waiting to let down her hair? No? Well OK...I'm Goldilocks... yeah... The hair's a clue. But the thing is you see...I've had a bit of a run in with some bears. I say a run in...I didn't actually see them...you know...I just heard this roaring noise..."Who's been sleeping in my bed!" and I was like...out of there...you know...like I climbed out of the window...didn't look...just ran and ran 'til I got here! But these bears, *(She looks over her shoulder.)* I'm pretty sure they're after me. I don't know why! Honest! I mean all I did was like...eat a little bit of porridge...you know. I didn't even eat all of it...just a bit...well...a whole bowl...a small bowl. But I left the rest...and...well...I sat on a couple of chairs. Like...I mean...what's so bad about that? Yeah...I mean I did... like...kinda...you know...break one of them - but really, is it my fault that it was badly made? The door was open...that's like an invitation...right? Of course I was tired out after all that so I went for a lie down but their beds! I don't know how they put up with them! Too hard...too soft...honestly! I finally found a good one, which was totes amazeballs - and I'm then off...you know...fast asleep. Next thing I know there's this roaring - and here I am. *(She looks round.)* Looks like I might have given them the slip...

(GOAT ONE and GOAT TWO enter and rush up to GOLDILOCKS.)