

# Great Arizona Puppet Theater

## *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* Study Guide

### Objectives

By following this study guide students will fully engage with the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The show and study guide are best suited for children preschool aged and up. **This guide is great for teachers and parents alike.** Included are: discussion topics for before and after the show, audience behavior guidelines, a summary of the story, and an easy make your own puppet craft. All of these activities aim to satisfy Arizona Common Core Standards in English Language and The Arts in various ways.



### Arizona Common Core Standards

#### Speaking and Listening, Writing Standards:

- 1.SL.2. Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. (*Discussion Topics for After the Show*)
- 2.SL.2. Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. (*Discussion Topics for After the Show*)
- K.SL.5 Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail. (*Discussion Topics for After the Show*)
- 1.SL.5. Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings. (*Discussion Topics for After the Show*)
- K.W.3. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened. (*Make your own paper bag puppets and do a puppet show.*)

#### Arts Standards for Kindergarten through Grade 2:

- 1.1.PO 101. Demonstrate respect for others' opinions by respectfully listening while ideas are articulated. (*Discussion Topics for Before or After the Show*).
- 1.1.PO 102. Cooperate in the dramatic process. (*Make your own billy goat and troll puppets and do a puppet show.*)
- 1.3.PO 101. Describe and/or document the **setting/environment** of a story to be dramatized (e.g., through words, drawings, technical elements.) (*Make your own paper bag puppets and do a puppet show.*)
- 1.4.PO 102. Retell a story including its theme, setting, storyline, plot, and physical descriptions of the characters. (*Make your own paper bag puppets and do a puppet show.*)
- 3.2. PO 101. Demonstrate respectful **audience** behavior. (*Attending the puppet show.*)
- 3.2. PO 104. Justify the perception of a **performance** and critique its production elements. (*Discussion topics for after the show.*)

## The Characters

Big Billy Goat

Middle Billy Goat

Little Billy Goat

The Troll

The Storyteller/Musician

## The Story

The Great Arizona Puppet Theatre's version of this story is told by a narrator who acts as musician and storyteller and who interacts with the puppet characters and leads the story forward. First, the storyteller introduces the three billy goats. The storyteller and the Little Billy Goat sing several songs with the audience and then they begin to tell the story of the goats. One day the Three Billy Goats Gruff decide they must move to greener pastures because they have run out of grass in the meadow where they live. However, to get to the new pasture they must cross over a bridge. Under this bridge lives an ugly troll who is very hungry and would love to eat a billy goat for lunch. Each of the younger brothers get across the bridge by convincing the troll that their older, bigger brother is behind them and would make a much better meal. Until finally, Big Billy Goat Gruff arrives. The two begin to struggle until Big Billy Goat bucks the Troll off the bridge. The Troll falls down into the water below and turns into a rock, never to bother the Three Billy Goats Gruff again!

## The Puppets

The Goats in *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* are rod puppets, while the Troll is a hand puppet. The goat puppets are carved from Styrofoam that makes up the body pieces. The bodies are covered with paper mache. Once this is dry and sanded the puppets are painted and/or covered with fake fur. Their clothes are custom made for their bodies and are similar in construction to doll clothes. Finally, their mouths are operated by a spring and string mechanism that is operated by the rod the puppeteer holds. The Troll has a paper mache head which is painted with fake fur used for the hair and rest of its body is fabric.

## Discussion Topics for Before the Show

- Discuss with students whether or not they have heard the story of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* before. What are some of the different endings they've heard? How might they end the story if they had their choice?
- Have students discuss other puppet shows they have gone to or seen on television and in the movies. What did the puppets look like? How did they move?
- Ask students to discuss theatre audience behavior. How must we act differently watching a play than when we are at home watching television or at the movie theatre? Why must our behavior be different when the show is "live"?

## Discussion Topics for After the Show

- Have students discuss what they thought about the performance. Which parts of the show did they like? Were there any parts they did not like?
- Have students discuss what they think it would be like to be a puppeteer. Is it a job they would enjoy? What do they think are important things that a puppeteer can do?
- Have students draw pictures of the puppet show. Have them share their pictures with the class and describe the scene they have drawn and the characters in it.

## Make Your Own Puppet Show

### Materials:

Printed copies of the puppets for each student (found at the end of the packet)

Crayons / Markers

Scissors

Craft sticks

Tape

### Directions:

1. Have students color the puppets to their liking.
2. Cut out each individual puppet (you can cut them out in large circles or follow the lines of the puppet depending on students' ability).
3. Tape a craft stick on the back of each character and on one side of the bridge so the stick extends below the puppets.
4. Use your puppets to tell your own version of the Billy Goats trip-trapping across the bridge!

## References:

Arizona Department of Education Core Curriculum Standards:

<http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices>

Great Arizona Puppet Theater:

<http://azpuppets.org>

Please send any thoughts or appreciation letters to the Great Arizona Puppet Theater at:

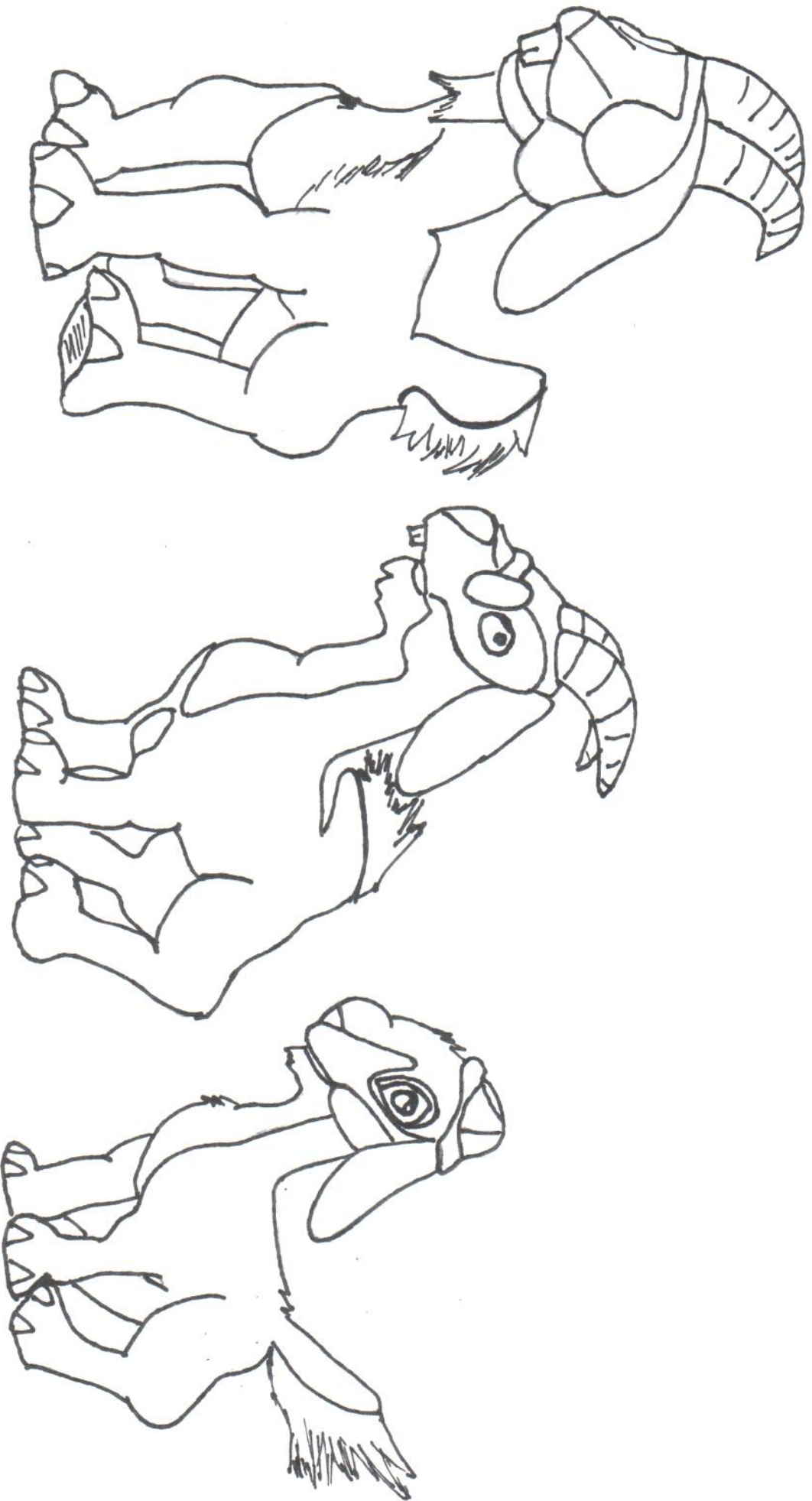
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*We love hearing from you and your students!*

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