



STUDY GUIDE FOR

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Adapted by Kevin M Reese

TO THE PARENT/TEACHER

This guide has been provided to help children benefit the most from experiencing a live theatrical event. The activities described herein are only suggestions. Please feel free to pick and choose the things that will most benefit your children in the time you have available. It is our hope that the performance is not only entertaining, but is a valuable educational experience as well.

You will find that some of the activities contained in this guide are geared for younger, some for older children--but there is something for everyone. Please feel free to reproduce and distribute any of the enclosed pages and activities for your personal use.

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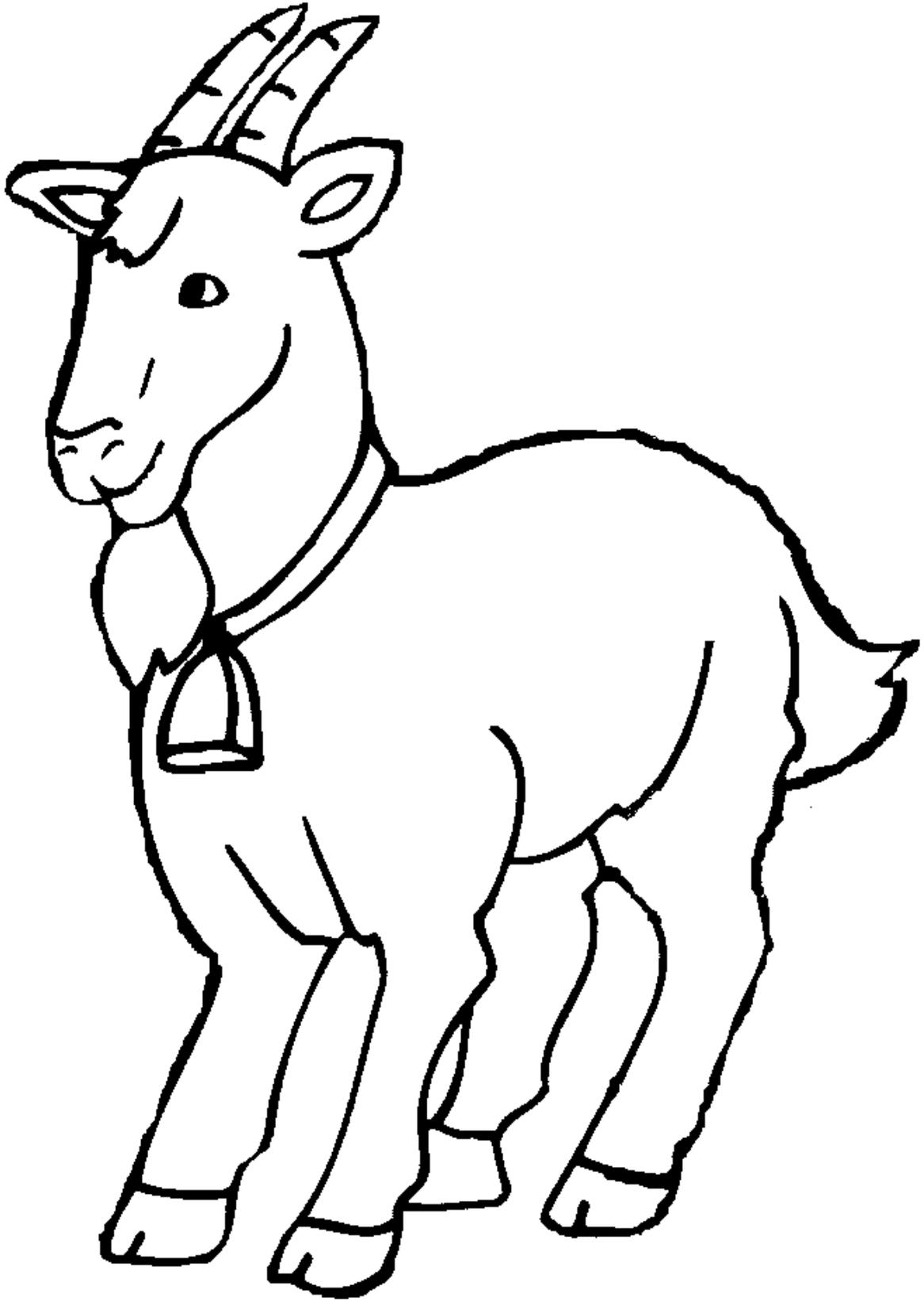
Theatre Etiquette

1. Attending a theatrical performance is a social event. Just as the way you act (and behave) in church or temple is different than the way you act on the playground, there is certain behavior that is appropriate in a live theatre. Discuss with your children the types of behavior that is appropriate when they are members of an audience.
2. Explain that they need to act differently when they're watching a live play than if they're watching a movie in a theatre. Live actors can hear the audience's laughter and applause as well as their talking to their neighbor or rustling papers. And their responses-- appropriate or not-- really do affect the actors' performance. The end line is: How would they want to be treated if THEY were up on the stage.
3. Write to the actors. After you see the show, have your students write a letter to their favorite character or draw a picture of their favorite character or scene and send it to the theatre. The actors would LOVE to hear from your students. The actors may even have time to send a reply of some sort to your class (because of the volume of mail they receive, individual replies are probably not possible).
4. Audience Participation. Normally, audience members should never talk during the play--and especially not talk directly to the actors (it distracts other audience member and may even make the actors forget their lines). But the plays by KMR Scripts are unique in that we offer the audience special opportunities to participate in the production. They will probably not be asked to come onstage, but there are various times throughout the production where the actors will ask them questions or ask them to use their imaginations and pretend they are animals, trees, or people. At those times we encourage the audience to participate and/or answer them wholeheartedly (but not in an overly loud yell). Over the years, this has become one of the hallmarks of KMR Scripts' productions.

Activities & Discussion

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

1. **STORY CIRCLE.** Have the children make up their own version of THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF. Have them sit in a circle. Pick one child to begin the story and go clock-wise around the circle, allowing everyone a chance to add to the story. You may have to limit each child's contribution to one story event (some children are avid storytellers!).
2. **GOOD MANNERS.** The Troll didn't let the Billy Goats cross over his bridge until they said "please." They didn't display good manners. What are some of the things people say to each other that are called "good manners?" (please, thank you, excuse me, I'm sorry, you're welcome, bless you, how are you, etc.) How does it make you feel when someone says them to you? How do you feel if you do something nice for someone and they don't say "thank you?"
3. **REVIEW.** Have the students write a review of the play. What were their favorite parts? Their least favorite? Did anything happen that they didn't understand or seemed confusing? Did they like the music or did it "get in the way of the story?" What did they think of the costumes and scenery? Help them understand that their opinions are most certainly valid and will most likely differ from that of others (and that is OK). Being able to objectively discuss their opinions and others' is a skill that will benefit them the rest of their lives.
4. **NAMES.** Adult and child farm animals have different names, depending on the type of animal. A male adult goat is called a *billy* goat. A female adult goat is a *nanny* goat and a young goat is called a *kid*. What are the peculiar names for other animals? (Bull, cow, calf; stallion, mare, colt or filly; rooster, hen, chick; hog sow, piglet; ram, ewe, lamb; gander, goose, gosling. Can you think of others?)
5. **FEET.** There are lots of different types of feet in the world. We humans have soft, fleshy feet with five toes (why do we always wear shoes?). Horses and cows have hooves; goats, deer, and sheep have cloven (split) hooves; cats and dogs have pads; frogs have webbed feet, yet snakes and fish don't have any feet at all! Why do different animals have such different types of feet?
6. **TROLL MASKS.** According to ancient folklore, a Troll was a dwarf (or sometimes a giant) who lived in a cave or in a hill. Though the mythical creature was a mean and scary monster, the troll in our play was silly and very likeable. Have the kids make a troll mask. It can have either a silly, friendly face or a mean, scary face. Use a heavy-duty paper plate or cut a large oval out of cardboard or heavy construction paper and attach a stick (large popsicle-type or paint stirrer sticks are good) behind the chin of the mask for a handle. Cut out two eyes and decorate the mask using paint, markers, crayons, paper mache, yarn, etc..
7. **ALL ABOUT GOATS.** The goat is related to the sheep and is a cud-chewer. More than 200 domesticated breeds are recognized around the world. Goats are raised primarily for milk and meat. Other important goat products include the wools mohair and cashmere, certain goat cheeses (feta), and leather made from the skin of young goats. Being hardy animals, goats can graze on grass, shrubs, leaves, and twigs. Their hardiness, and the quantities of milk they can produce in extreme climatic conditions, make them preferred herd animals in regions that are not suited for cattle raising or agriculture.



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