

## Part 2

# THE THREE CITY GOATS GRUFF

## ACT IT

### About The Author



Laura is the creator of the *Play In A Book* series for young readers and President of *Act It Read It*. She has worked for nearly 20 years as a Teaching Artist in the Chicago Public Schools, utilizing drama as a framework to help young readers gain basic phonics skills, fluency, and comprehension on their way to becoming lifelong readers. Laura's writing is currently used in classrooms throughout Chicago and has been performed and enjoyed by thousands of students. In addition to her *Play In A Book* series, Laura collaborated on the educational reform book, *Through the Cracks* (Davis Publications). Laura is a member of Actors Equity Association and lives with her family in Chicago, Illinois.



## **How to Act It!**

*suggestions for actors*

- Begin by reading the script at least 2 or 3 times without any action, just focusing on the text.
- Discuss simple actions or gestures that can be incorporated to help show the action of the script.
- Designate a stage area and an audience area.
- Try acting it out multiple times on stage, incorporating the actions and gestures.
- While acting it out, make sure to hold books at chest level so that faces can be seen and make sure to always face the audience.
- Use a loud, strong voice that can be heard by everyone on stage and in the audience.
- Repetition is the key to a successful performance. The more rehearsal, the better the performance will be. Rehearse as many times as possible!
- Remind the audience that they should be quiet and respectful.
- When performing, remember to tell the story and have a great time.

For additional tips on performing or to watch the pros Act It!, visit us at our website [www.actitreadit.com/playinabook](http://www.actitreadit.com/playinabook).

# CONTENTS

Introduction .....	i - iii
Act I, Level 1 .....	1
Act I, Level 2 .....	2
Act I, Level 3 .....	5
Act II, Level 1.....	9
Act II, Level 2 .....	10
Act II, Level 3 .....	13
Act III, Level 1.....	17
Act III, Level 2 .....	18
Act III, Level 3 .....	21
Act IV, Level 1.....	25
Act IV, Level 2 .....	26
Act IV, Level 3 .....	29
Act V, Level 1.....	33
Act V, Level 2 .....	34
Act V, Level 3 .....	37





Level 1

# THE THREE CITY GOATS GRUFF

## Act I (featuring short ă)



Alas, this is bad.



Alas, I am sad.



Alas, the grass...



The grass!



The grass!



Alas, the grass is gone!



Cans, and bags, and mats,  
I can eat them just like that.

*Act I (featuring short ă)*

*Three goats eat grass.*



I am Kid Gruff. I am as big as a fat r.



I am Mom Gruff. I am as big as a fat cat.



I am Dad Gruff. I am as big as a fat yak.



Yum, yum, yum—I love to eat grass!

## Level 2



What? There is no more grass!  
We ate it all up!



Oh no!



We can cross the bridge. We can  
cross the bridge to get more grass.



Are you mad?



Madame Troll lives under that  
bridge.



Madame Troll is very bad. But we

have to cross the bridge.



Let's go pack our bags.

*Meanwhile, under the bridge...*



Cans and bags and mats! I have had it with these snacks. I want to eat a fat goat.

*She hears a sound.*

What is that? I hear a tap, tap, tap...

## Level 3

**Act I** (featuring short *ă*)

*A fine Saturday on a hillside by  
Lake Michigan. Three goats are  
eating grass.*



I am Kid Gruff. I am as big a  
very fat rat.



I am Mom Gruff. I am as big as a  
very fat cat.



I am Dad Gruff. I am as big as a  
very fat yak.



Yum, yum, yum—I love to eat  
this sweet green grass!



I will have just a tad more grass.



And I will have a dab more grass.



What? There is no more sweet green grass! We ate it all up!



Oh no!



## Level 3

*Pulling up a map app on his phone.*



I have a plan. We can go to this land. This land has more grass. But we will have to cross the bridge.



Are you mad?



Madame Troll lives under that bridge.



Alas, if we want to eat more grass, then we will have to cross the bridge.



Let's go pack our bags.

*Meanwhile, under the bridge...*



Cans and bags and mats! I've had it with these snacks. I want to eat a nice, fat goat. *She hears a sound.* What is that? I hear a tap, tap, tap...





*Act II (featuring short i)*



I put on my wig  
and dance a jig  
and wish for a goat so big.



I am not big,  
I am not big,  
Do not eat me, I am not big.



You are not big.



My mom is big.



She is as big as a pig.  
I will wait for a goat so big.

*Act II (featuring short i)*



It is time to hit the road!



It is time for dinner!



Click, click, click.



Who is that click, click, clicking  
across my bridge?



It is I—Kid Gruff.

*She flips up on the bridge.*



Kid Gruff, I am going to eat you  
up!



Oh no! Kick, kick, hit!



Did you hear me, Kid Gruff? I am going to eat you up!



Madame Troll, you do not want to eat me up. I am too thin to eat.



You are thin.



In a minute, you can eat my mother, Mom Gruff.



I can wait a minute for Mom

Gruff. She is as big as a pig.  
Get out of here Kid.

*She flips back under the bridge.  
She sits and waits for Mom Gruff.*



In a minute, Mom Gruff will  
give her a swift kick!

*He click, click, clicks across the  
bridge.*

*Act II (featuring short i)*

*Kid Gruff finishes packing his bag.*



It is time to hit the road! I am ready for my trip across the bridge.



I am ready to have a goat for dinner!



Click, click, click.



Who is that click, click, clicking across my bridge?



It is I—Kid Gruff.

*Madame Troll flips up onto the bridge.*



Kid Gruff, I am going to eat you up!



Oh no! I do not want to be Madame Troll's dinner.



I will eat you for my dinner!



Twist. Kick, kick, hit!



Did you hear me, Kid Gruff? I am going to eat you up!



Oh no! I wish my Mom and Dad were here. That's it! Madame Troll, you do not want to eat me up. I am too thin to eat.



You are thin. Nothing but skin and ribs.



Wait a minute for your dinner. Then you can eat my mother, Mom Gruff.



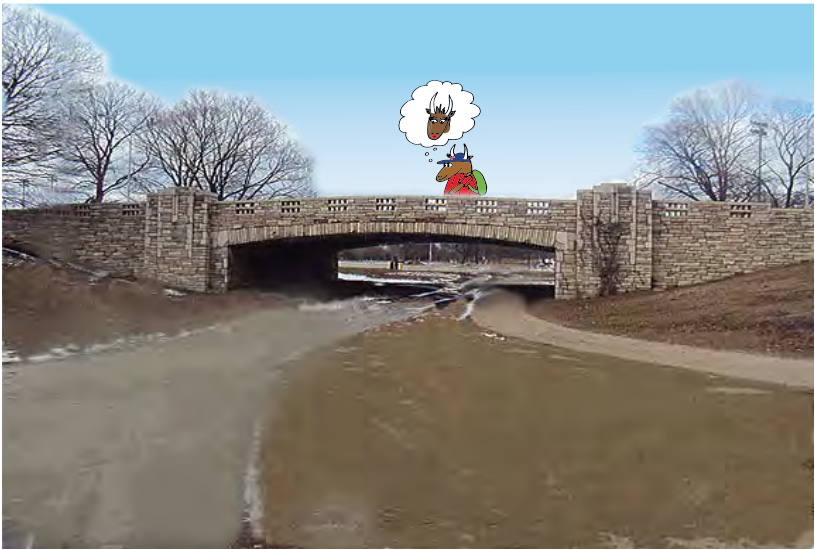
I think I can wait a minute for Mom Gruff. She is as big as a pig. Now, get out of here Kid.  
*She flips back under the bridge.*

*She sits and waits for Mom Gruff.*



Mom Gruff will teach her not to pick on goats. She'll give her a swift kick!

*He click, click, clicks across the bridge.*





*Act III (featuring short ö)*



Trot, trot, trot.



Stop, Mom, stop. I want to put you in my pot.



But there is not a lot of me to put inside your pot.



There is not a lot of you to put inside my pot.



Dad will fill your pot. He is a lot to fill your pot.



Yes, Dad will fill my pot. He is a lot to fill my pot.



Trot, trot, trot.

Act III



Act III

Act III

*Act III (featuring short ö)*  
*Madame Troll puts a log on the fire.*  
*She stirs her pot.*



I have a big pot. Now I need a goat.



Trot, trot, trot.



Who is that trot, trot, trotting across my bridge?



It is I—Mom Gruff.

*She hops up on the bridge. Plop!*



Mom Gruff, I am going to eat you up!

## Level 2



Oh no!



Did you hear me, Mom Gruff? I am going to eat you up!



Madame Troll, you do not want to eat me up. I am not fat enough to fill your pot.



There is NOT a lot of you.



Wait for Dad Gruff.



Dad Gruff will fill my pot. He is as big as a hog. Be a doll and run along.

*Madam Troll hops back under the Bridge.*



Dad Gruff will show her who is boss. He will stop Madame Troll.

*She trot, trot, trots across the bridge.*





*Act III (featuring short ö)  
Madame Troll stirs a pot of broth.  
She puts a log on the fire.*



Once I've got Mom Gruff, my  
Goat Stew is complete.



Trot, trot, trot.



Who is that trot, trot, trotting  
across my bridge?



It is I—Mom Gruff.

*Madame Troll hops up onto the bridge. Plop!*



Mom Gruff, I am going to eat you up!



Oh no! I do not want to end up in Madame Troll's pot.



I'll put you in my pot and cook you for my dinner!



I'll knock her off the bridge!  
Knock!



Did you hear me, Mom Gruff? I am going to eat you up!

Level 3



Oh, how I long for my family.  
Dad Gruff would stop her. Hey-  
I've got it! Madame Troll, you do  
not want to eat me up. I am not  
fat enough to fill your pot.

Act III



There is NOT a lot of you.



Wait for Dad Gruff. He'll be along  
soon.



Dad Gruff will fill my pot. He is  
as big as a hog. Be a doll and run  
along.

*She hops back under the Bridge.*



Dad Gruff will show her who is boss. He'll put a stop to Madame Troll.

*Mom Gruff trot, trot, trots across the bridge.*





Level 1

*Act IV (featuring short ŭ)*



Yum, yum, yum. I will eat you  
up – yum, yum.



I will not run. I will hum and  
hum and hum.



This is no fun. Please do not  
hum.



Would it bug you if I hug you?



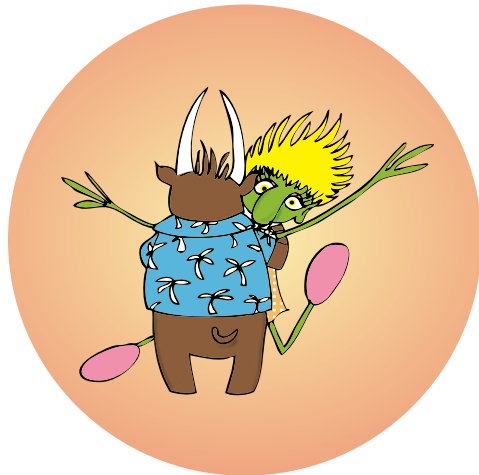
It would bug me if you hug me.



Hug!



Ugh!



Act IV

*Act IV (featuring short ŭ)*

Act IV

Act IV



*The sun sets.*



Time for supper!



Suppertime!



Clunk, clunk, clunk.



Who is that clunk, clunk, clunk-  
ing across my bridge?

Level 2



It is I—Dad Gruff.

*She jumps up.*



Yum! Dad Gruff, I am going to eat you up!



I will not run. I will not duck. I will hum. Hum, hum, hum.



Did you hear me, Dad Gruff? I am going to eat you up.



Clunk, clunk, clunk.



Will he punch me in the gut?  
Will he pick me up and throw me in the mud?

Act IV

Level 2



I am not a thug. I just want to give you a hug.

*He hugs her.*



UGH!



Madame Troll, we must trust one another. We must be—buddies.



I am stunned. I have never had a hug. I have never had a buddy.

*Biggest Gruff gives Madame Troll another hug. Then he clunk, clunk, clunks across the bridge.*

*Act IV (featuring short ŭ)*

*The sun is setting on the hillside.*



I will take my trunk across the bridge. It is time for supper.



It is time for supper! I am ready for some good grub!



Clunk, clunk, clunk.



Who is that clunk, clunk, clunking across my bridge?



It is I—Dad Gruff.



Yum! *She jumps up onto the bridge.*  
Dad Gruff, I am going to eat you up!

Level 3

Act IV



This is not the time to run or duck. It is not the time to make a fuss or huff and puff. Instead I will just hum. *He hums.*



Did you hear me, Dad Gruff? I am going to eat you up.



Clunk, clunk, clunk.



Is he going to punch me in the gut? Is he going to pick me up and throw me in the mud?



I am not a thug. I just want to give you a hug. *He hugs her.*

Level 3



UGH!



Madame Troll, you must let us cross your bridge. You must not try to eat us up. Let us trust one another, Madame Troll. Let us become—buddies.

Act IV



I am stunned. I have never had a hug. I have never had a buddy.

*Dad Gruff gives Madame Troll another hug. Then he clunk, clunk, clunks across the bridge and into the sunset.*

Level 3

Act IV





Level 1

*Act V (featuring short ě)*



When we met, we were not friends.



We were not friends.



We were not friends.



When we met, we were not friends. We were not friends when we met.



But now we are all friends.



We are all friends.



Now we are all friends. Let us watch the sun set.

Act V

*Act V (featuring short e)*  
*Morning. The Goats are eating grass.*



Who is that step, step, stepping  
on our grass?



It is I—Madame Troll.



Madame Troll, have you come to  
eat us up?



I no longer eat goats. Can we be  
friends?



Well, well, well.



That's swell.

Act V

## Level 2



Welcome, Friend.



Let me make you dinner.



These cans are the best!



These bags and mats are the best!



These twigs are the best! Thank you for dinner, Madame Troll.



Let's watch the sun set.



Remember the day we met?



We learned a lesson that day.

Act V

## Level 2



We learned that a hug...



Could change an enemy into a friend...



Forever.



Snip, snap, snout—this tale is told out!



Level 3

*Act V (featuring short ě)*  
*Morning. The three City Goats  
Gruff are eating grass on the new  
hill.*



Did you rest well, Mom Gruff?



Yes, I did, Kid Gruff.



Do you hear something?



Who is that step, step, stepping  
on our sweet green grass?



It is I- Madame Troll.



Madame Troll, have you come  
to eat us up?

Act V

Level 3



I no longer eat goats. I am a vegetarian. I would like it if we could be friends.

Act V



Well, well, well.



That's swell.



Welcome, Friend.



Let me make you dinner.



This can is better than I would have guessed!



These bags and mats are the best!

## Level 3



The twigs are excellent, Madame Troll.



Let's have some bonbons and watch the sun set.



Remember the day we all met?

Act V



We all learned a lesson that day.



We learned that a kind word and a warm hug...



Could change an enemy into a friend...



Forever.



Snip, snap, snout—this tale is told out!