

Crossing The Bridge (an end of year assembly)

You will need 8 children (I used Year 6 children who were to transfer to secondary school) for the play, and one to read the poem. The children will need to rehearse the play before the assembly. Introduction can be done by the teacher.

Intro: You've all heard the story of the 3 Billy Goats Gruff. They had to go across the bridge to get to the other side. Unfortunately for them, the area under the bridge was inhabited by a very irate Troll. You'll all know how each of the Goats is treated by the Troll, and that finally the Troll meets his match against the biggest of the three goats. Now meet their grand children.

Narrator One summer, in a paddock not far from here, there was a small herd of kids (baby goats). They had been playing in the same paddock ever since the day that they were born.

Kid 1 What shall we do today?

Kid 2 Why don't we play Hide and Seek?

All No!

Kid 3 We all know all the hiding places. Not much of a challenge.

Kid 2 Why don't we climb the hill and find an adventure?

All No!

Kid 4 We've done that 100 times before. Boring!

Kid 2 We could always go swimming in the stream.

All No, too shallow!

Kid 5 That was OK when we were little kids, but the water barely comes up to my knees now.

Kid 2 Why don't we go down to the meadow and have a picnic in the grass?

All BORING!

Kid 6 We've eaten all the grass there. All that's left is stinging nettles and thistles. Yuck!

Narrator So the young kids mooched around aimlessly, bumping into each other now and again, and getting on each other's nerves. They'd grown so big that there really wasn't enough room for them in the paddock.

All muttering at the same time:

Kids 1&2 I'm bored

Kid 3 What can we do?

Kid 4 I'm hungry.

Kids 5 This place is too small.

Kid 6 Gerroff, leave me alone.

Narrator Then one bright spark piped up...

Kid 7 I know... why don't we go across the bridge?...

Narrator A deathly hush descended the paddock.*(pause)*
The goats stood still, wide eyed with disbelief.
(pause) Eventually they started to speak, fear obvious in their voices.

- Kid 1 You know what happened to my cousin, Billy, when he was a kid. He tried to cross the bridge, and the Troll....(*sobs unable to finish*).
- Kid 2 Oh yes, and my Nanny, we all know what happened to her!
- Kid 7 Yeah, but don't you remember, Grandad Gruff sorted it all out in the end, didn't he. It should be OK now.
- Kid 3 How do we know that there's not another Troll under the bridge?
- Kid 4 Or something much, much worse?
- Kid 5 And what's on the other side anyway?
- Kid 6 It'll be too big. The grass will be so long; I'll probably get lost in it. I shan't be going over there.
- Kid 1 There may be bigger goats. I don't want to go.
- Kid 2 If there are other goats, I won't know anyone. I'm not going either.
- Kid 3 It's too risky. I don't want to end up in a Troll's Burger.
- Kid 4 Me neither. Forget it.
- Kid 5 I want my Mummy!!
- Kid 7 But I thought you were all bored here.
- ALL We are!

Kid 7 Then we'll have to cross the bridge and see what's there.

All goats speak together

Kids 1&2 But what about the Troll?

Kids 3&4 But what about the long grass?

Kids 5&6 But what about the Big Kids?

Kid 7 Maybe if we all stick together we'll be OK. Come on...I'm going...Come with me.

ALL Oh...OK.

Narrator So, led by the little kid, the goats ventured timidly onto the bridge. As they walked across they looked down.

Kid 7 See, there is no sign of any Trolls!!!

ALL Phew.

Narrator This gave them all the confidence they needed. They strode boldly over the rest of the bridge and ran off to find out for themselves what lay beyond. Sometimes they kept together, but eventually ventured out on their own.

At the end of the play the 7 kids ran around and back to their places at the back of the hall.

This was then followed by a moment of silence, before the following poem was read. (The original version can be found in "The Tinder Box Assembly Book")

Crossing The Bridge

I cross the bridge and leave behind
The world so well I know,
A place without surprises,
Quite ordinary and dull.

Across the bridge, what lies there.
If only that I knew.
A land of possibilities,
Where all my dreams come true?

Every bridge I cross in life
Will take me to new ground.
Old things will be left behind,
But new things will be found.

Inspired by a poem of the same title by George Moore

The Year 6 Children chose to sing "Reach for the Stars" by S-Club 7 instead of the traditional Hymn. Other suggested songs are "Travel On", "One More Step Along The World I Go", "The Road Ahead Lies Before Me",

Conclusion For many of the children, and some of the staff, today is the end of their time at _____ school. Not only is it an end, but also the beginning of something new. Try to remember that as you face big changes you are not alone. We will be thinking of you (*and God will be with you*). There are good things waiting for you just around the corner. So step out with confidence and take new opportunities in your stride.

We finished our assembly by listening to "Hello, Goodbye" by the Beatles.