

“The Three Betty Goats Griff” – The Play

The Three Betty Goats Griff is a fun story to retell or to act out. Help children create goat and troll masks to act out this story or visit the **Stick Puppets** page and download the characters for this play.

Characters (5 people):

- **Narrator**
- **Troll**
- **Betty Anne Griff**
- **Betty Lou Griff**
- **Betty Jean Griff**

Setting – A bridge with a flat area on one side and a grassy field on the other. (Students might color a meadow with green grass and clover – and any other scenes – on large paper, then attach the paper to a wall.)

Narrator: “Once upon a time there were three Betty goats who loved to dance. They lived on a plateau. They had to cross a bridge over deep river to get to the field of sweet green grass and clover. Under the bridge that crossed the river lived a mean and grouchy Troll. Soon the oldest Betty goat, Betty Ann Griff puts on her high tops and goes swishin’ and a swayin’ over the bridge.”

Betty Ann Griff: (Puts on her fancy shoes, goes a swishin’ and a swayin’ across the bridge.)

Troll: (in a grouchy voice) “Who is that a swishin’ and a swayin’ over my bridge?”

Betty Ann Griff: “Oh! You sound so grouchy! What’s gotten you so worked up?”

Troll: (looking menacing) “I have a terrible hunger! I think I will gobble YOU up!”

Betty Ann Griff: “Oh my! I’m just one goat, but I do have a fishing pole and a fabulous recipe for fried fish! Maybe you and I could catch a few, and I could cook them up for you!”

(Betty Ann takes the Troll’s arm and goes to the river. They pretend to catch fish. Betty Ann Griff cooks the fish and offers it to the Troll.)

Troll: (Eats the fish with gusto and makes yummy eating noises.)

Narrator: “Then a swishin’ and a swayin’ Betty Ann Griff crosses the bridge to the green grass and sweet clover.”

Betty Ann Griff: (Swishin' and a swayin' crosses the bridge and pretends to chew the grass and clover.)

Narrator: "A little while later, the middle goat, Betty Lou Griff, goes tappity – tap – tapping across the bridge on her way to the green grass and sweet clover."

Betty Lou Griff: (Puts on her tap shoes and goes tappity – tap – tapping across the bridge.)

Troll: (in a grouchy voice) "Who is that tappity – tap – tapping across my bridge?"

Betty Lou Griff: "Oh, hi! How do you do? It's a nice day today, isn't it?" (smiles and curtsies).

Troll: (looking menacing) "I'm feeling grouchy. I've got a terrible headache! I can't see so well with all this hair in my face. So, I'm going to knock you off this bridge!"

Betty Lou Griff: "Hold on there a second. (She puts her hand up as a Stop sign.) I'm just one goat, and I can't cure your headache. But I can show you a fabulous brush down by the river, and perhaps I can trim some of your hair. Follow me."

(Betty Lou takes the Troll by the hand and pretends to brush head against a bramble bush. She then pretends to nibble on the Troll's hair to clear it from his face.)

Narrator: "Then Betty Lou leaves the Troll and tappity – tap – taps across the bridge to join Betty Ann in the green grass and sweet clover."

Betty Lou Griff: (Waves as she leaves & dances across the bridge to the green grass and sweet clover.)

Narrator: "Now, some time later, the littlest goat, Betty Jean Griff, puts on her high lace slippers and comes tippy toe, tippy toe across the bridge."

Betty Jean Griff: (Laces on her ballet shoes and tippy toes across the bridge, trying not to make any noise.)

Troll: (in a grouchy voice) "Who is that going tippy toe across my bridge?"

Betty Jean Griff: "Oh my! I thought you were asleep, so I was trying to go very quietly." (She shrinks back a little as if she is afraid)

Troll: (looking menacing) "I might have been asleep, but my teeth hurt too much! I'm feeling grouchy enough to knock you off this bridge!"

Betty Jean Griff: "Oh my! I'm just one little goat, but I could take a look."

Narrator: “The Troll opened his mouth most unnecessarily wide. And little Betty Jean leans in to look deeply inside his mouth.”

Betty Jean Griff: (Looks deep inside the Troll’s mouth.) “You know, I clean MY teeth down by the river’s edge. Let me show you.”

(Betty Jean takes the Troll by the arm and walks to river’s edge. She pretends to take a reed and clean her teeth.)

Troll: (Cleans teeth using the reeds.)

Narrator: “Betty Jean waves goodbye to the Troll and dances across the bridge to join other goats.”

Troll: (Walks to the bridge and sits down to gaze at the river, content and smiling.)

Narrator: “From that day to this, they all lived in bliss. And now, three, two, one, this tale is done.”

All Characters can say “The End” and bow to the audience.

THE END