Name: _____ Date: _____

Goats on a Plank

Reading level 5 (2nd grade) · 122 words

Two goats lived by a stream, one brown, one gray.

Both goats wanted the grass on the far side.

A thin plank lay across the stream.

Brown Goat stepped on one end. Gray Goat stepped on the other.

They met in the middle. Nose to nose!

"Go back!" said Brown Goat. "No, you go back!" said Gray Goat.

Neither one would move. They stamped and pushed.

The plank shook. Splash! In they fell.

The water was cold. They swam to the bank.

Brown Goat was wet. Gray Goat was wet. Both were cross.

The plank was still there. Gray Goat said, "You go first."

Brown Goat went. Then Gray Goat went. Nobody fell in.

They ate the grass, and it was good.

Questions

1. What lay across the stream?

A. A boat
B. A plank
C. A log

2. Where did the goats meet?

A. At the end
B. In the grass
C. In the middle

3. What did each goat say?

A. "You go back!"
B. "Let us nap!"
C. "I am sad."

4. What happened to the goats?

A. They got lost
B. They got lunch
C. They got wet

5. What does this fable show?

A. Goats can swim
B. Give way and stay dry
C. Grass is good

Words to know

plank: a long board
stream: a small river
cross: in a bad mood

Answer key: Goats on a Plank

1. B. A plank
2. C. In the middle
3. A. "You go back!"
4. C. They got wet
5. B. Give way and stay dry