Name: _____ Date: _____

Nobody Gives Way

Reading level 6 · 182 words

Two goats lived by a stream. One was brown, one gray. Each wanted the grass on the far side.

A narrow plank lay across the stream. It was wide enough for one goat.

The brown goat walked out onto the plank. The gray goat walked out from the other end.

They met in the middle, nose to nose. "Move back!" said the brown goat.

"No, you move back!" said the gray goat. "I was here first!" said the brown goat.

They pushed and they stamped. The plank began to shake and wobble under their feet.

Neither goat would take one step back. Each one wanted to go first.

Then, splash! Both goats fell into the stream. The water was deep and cold.

They swam to the bank and shook themselves. Now they were wet and cross.

The plank had caught on a rock. It still reached across the stream.

This time the gray goat said, "You go first." The brown goat said, "Thank you."

They crossed one at a time, and nobody fell in. Both goats had a fine lunch of grass.

Questions

1. Where did the goats meet?

A. At the barn
B. In the middle of the plank
C. On a hill

2. What did each goat want?

A. To nap
B. To swim
C. To go first

3. What happened when they pushed?

A. They fell in the stream
B. They flew
C. They went home

4. What does "cross" mean in this story?

A. A mark like an X
B. To go over

C. In a bad mood

5. How did they cross the second time?

A. Both at once
B. One at a time
C. They did not

6. What does this fable show?

A. Giving way can save the day
B. Goats like water
C. Planks are weak

Words to know

plank: a long board
stream: a small river
cross: in a bad mood
bank: the stream's side

Answer key: Nobody Gives Way

1. B. In the middle of the plank
2. C. To go first
3. A. They fell in the stream
4. C. In a bad mood
5. B. One at a time
6. A. Giving way can save the day