Name: _____ Date: _____

The Two Goats

Reading level 7 (3rd grade) · 247 words

Two goats lived on opposite sides of a mountain stream. One was brown, and one was gray.

Both goats wanted the fresh grass across the water. Only a narrow plank crossed the stream.

The stream below was deep and dangerous. The plank was no wider than a goat's back.

The brown goat carefully stepped onto one end. At that moment, the gray goat stepped onto the other.

They walked carefully, one hoof at a time. They met in the middle, nose to nose!

"Back up," said the brown goat. "I arrived here first. You must go back."

"I arrived first," said the gray goat. "You must go back yourself."

"I will not," said the brown goat. "I will not," said the gray goat. They stamped and glared angrily, and the plank shook.

Neither goat would take one step backward. Each one said the other must give way.

Then the gray goat lowered her horns. The brown goat lowered his horns, too. Bump!

The plank wobbled and tipped sideways. Splash! Both goats tumbled into the stream.

The water was freezing. It came up to their chins. They paddled to the bank and climbed out.

They stood there, dripping and miserable. The grass was still across the stream. Now they were wet as well.

The plank had caught on a rock. This time the gray goat politely stepped aside. "After you," she said.

They crossed one at a time. Both goats enjoyed a good breakfast, and neither fell in.

Questions

1. Where did the two goats meet?

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

2. What happened when the goats bumped heads?

A. They both fell in the stream
B. The plank grew wider
C. One goat ran away

3. Why did the goats not get across at first?

A. The plank was too long

B. Neither would give way

C. The stream was dry

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

A. Sat down

B. Fell over

C. Walked slowly

5. What does this fable show?

A. Goats are good swimmers

B. Giving way can be wiser than pride

C. Planks are slippery

Words to know

plank: long flat board

stream: small river

glared: stared angrily

tumbled: fell over

paddled: swam with paws

Answer key: The Two Goats

1. B. In the middle of a plank
2. A. They both fell in the stream
3. B. Neither would give way
4. B. Fell over
5. B. Giving way can be wiser than pride