The Goat Problem

and

Lost on the Goldfields



PM

reader's theatre

PM Oral Literacy



For teachers' inspection ONLY

The Goat Problem and Lost on the Goldfields Levels 25–26

Purpose

To extend speaking and listening skills to an advanced level, through role play.

Student Outcomes

- Displays increasing confidence when speaking to an audience.
- Conveys meaning through the use of correct intonation patterns.

Key Teaching Points PM Reader's Theatre

- Discuss the personality of each character in relation to the role and setting.
- Encourage independent role-play practice followed by peer analysis.
- Use audio devices to improve performances.

Links with Other Levels 25 and 26 PM Reader's Theatre

A Cunning Plan and *The Holiday Nobody Wanted*

The Roman Coin and *Waa, Sugoi, Yuki!*

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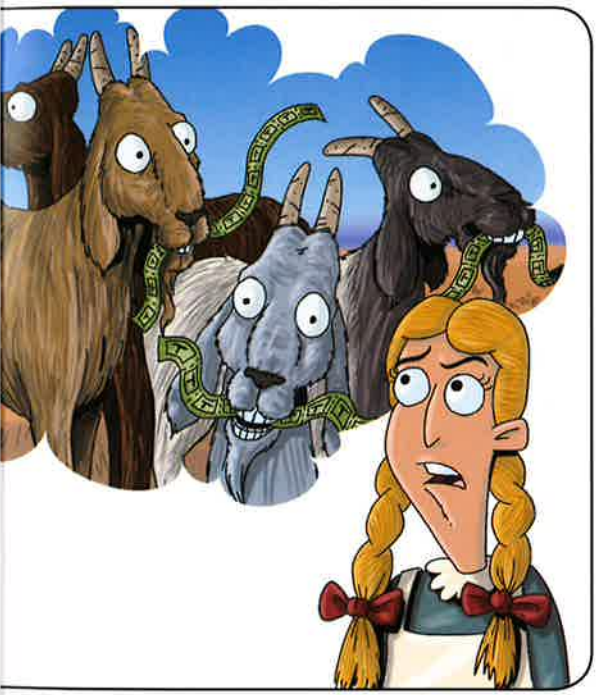
The Goat Problem

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The Goat Problem

By Pamela Rushby

Illustrated by Dave Stone

Characters:



Narrator



Becky



Mr Taylor



Harry



Tom



Children in Mr Taylor's school



Liza



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Narrator

In the early 1900s, in a remote country town in Australia, everyone kept one kind of animal. Goats. Goats were everywhere! Goats were used for milk and meat. They pulled little carts. Children rode them. Goats were very, very tough and could survive in harsh country conditions. In fact, it was said the only things that really thrived in the country town were goats and parrots – and sometimes it got too tough even for the parrots.

The children from the small country town were very excited on the first day of school for the year. A new teacher from the city was coming to their town.



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Tom

(looking expectantly down the road)

Is he coming yet?

Liza

There's some dust.

Becky

No, that's a herd of goats.

Harry

There's a cloud of dust! It must be the teacher. Oh, look at that! He's driving a – a – motorcar! And it looks brand new!

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Narrator

There weren't very many motorcars in their town, so the children were impressed. The new teacher, Mr Taylor, turned out to be a very modern-looking young man in smart city clothes. He drove up and parked his motorcar, with a flourish, under a shady tree.

Mr Taylor

Good morning, everyone! You must be my new pupils.

Children

Yes, Sir. Good morning, Sir.



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Mr Taylor

Well come along and show me the school. Oh, look at that! A herd of goats! Here you, you goats, shoo!

Oh, look at that … Out of the way!



Tom

Sir, just a minute. You shouldn't park under the tree.

Mr Taylor

Why not? I don't want the paint on my new motorcar to fade, or the seats to get cracked from the sun. They're real leather seats, you realise.



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Harry

No one in this country town ever leaves anything under a tree.

Mr Taylor

Really? Then maybe people in the country should have more sense.

Tom *(to the other children)*

We haven't got any sense, huh? Let him find out for himself then!