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I'm a Tough Goat!

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Level 3

Story Description

Gerald is a stubborn goat who is headstrong and thinks himself to be tough. He decides to escape and show other animals how tough he is.

Pre-Reading Vocabulary and Phonics

Whizzed
w-iz-d
*The goat **whizzed** by, going so fast.*

Resilient
re-zil-ee-unt
*The goat thought he was **resilient**, but the desert was too hot for him.*

Scarpered
sc-ar-pur-d
*The goat **scarpered** when the laughing hyena suddenly appeared.*

Puny
p-yew-nee
*The goat had **puny** legs but a firm head.*

There was once a farm with lots of goats, and one night, Gerald the goat was restless.

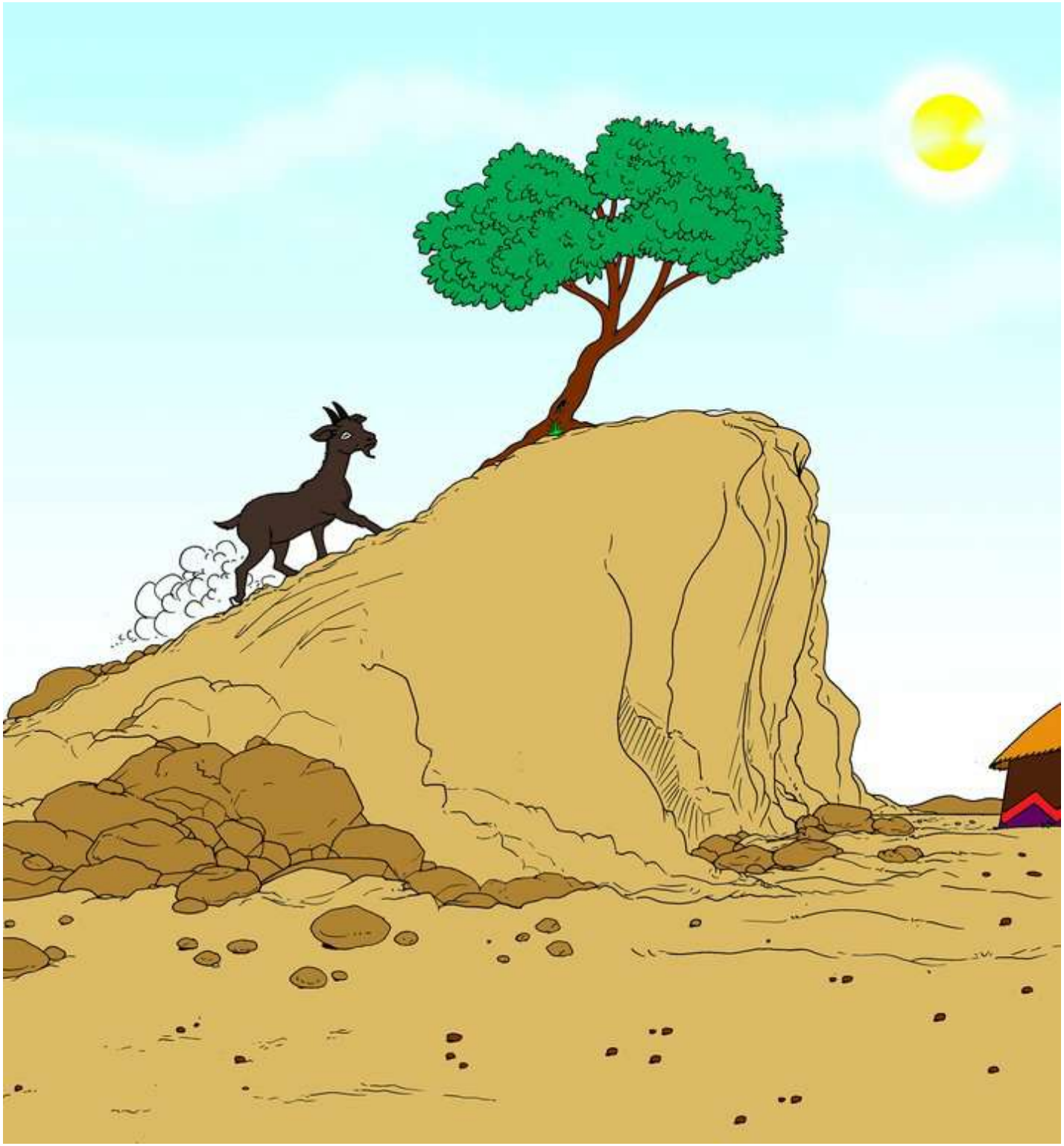
"I'm sick of this place!" he bleated. "I'm going to escape. I know I can look after myself because I'm strong enough! Ha!"

The other animals shouted at Gerald to be quiet.

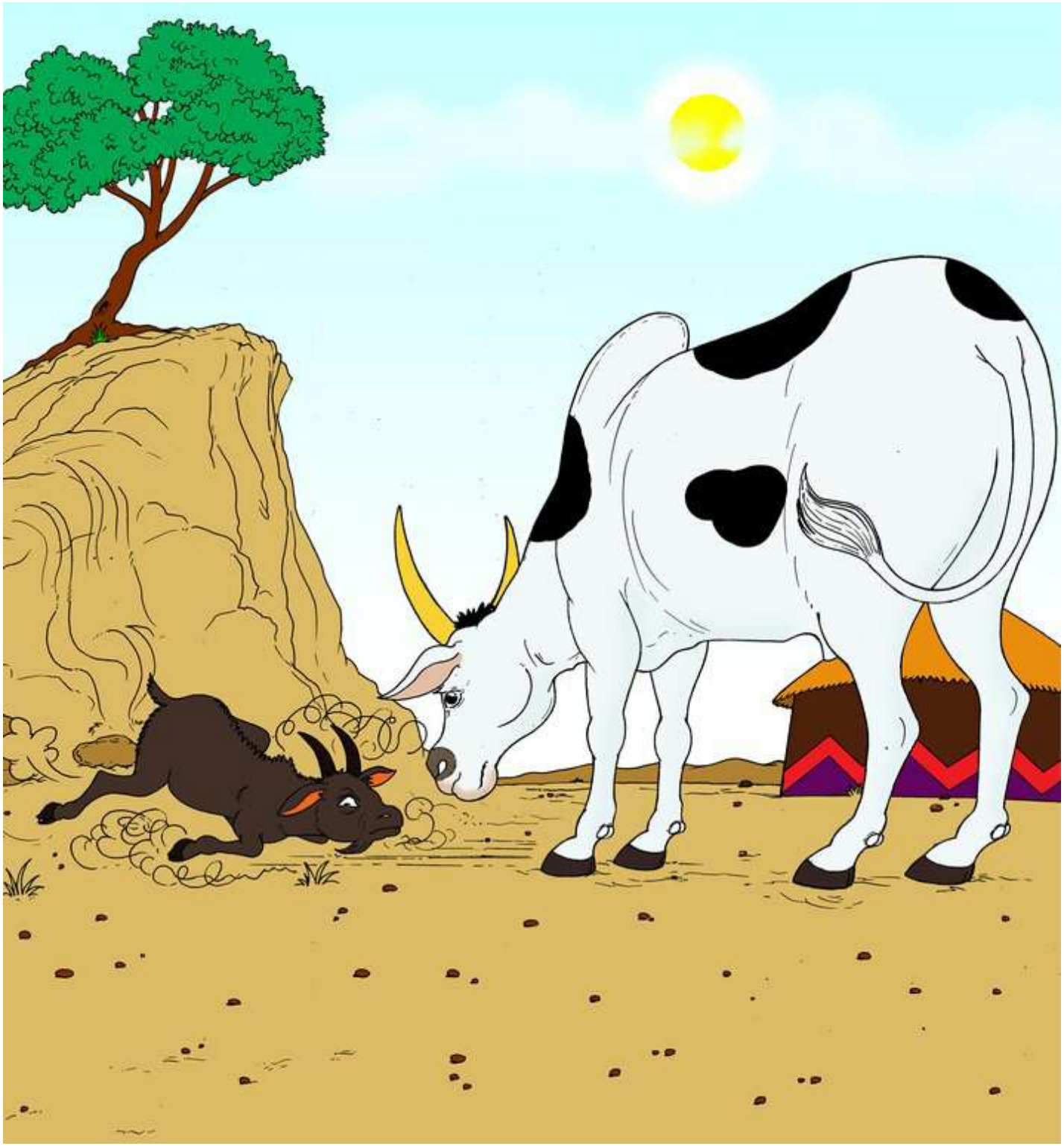
In the morning, Gerald encountered the pig, who was eating a yam. As he was enjoying his meal, Gerald whizzed past and snatched the yam out of the pig's mouth.

"Hey, pesky goat!" said the pig. "You come back here with my breakfast, or I'll sit on top of you!"

"Ha!" shouted Gerald. "I'm a tough and fast goat. There's no way you can catch me!"



Gerald ran away from the farm and found a tree on a hill. The day got warmer and Gerald needed a place to rest for a while to get his energy back. He had not stopped running since he had left the farm. He took a rest at the very edge of a rock face...



...without realising that it was a dangerous and slippery rock face. He lost his balance and slid down the slope, performing a back flip and landing in front of a bull.

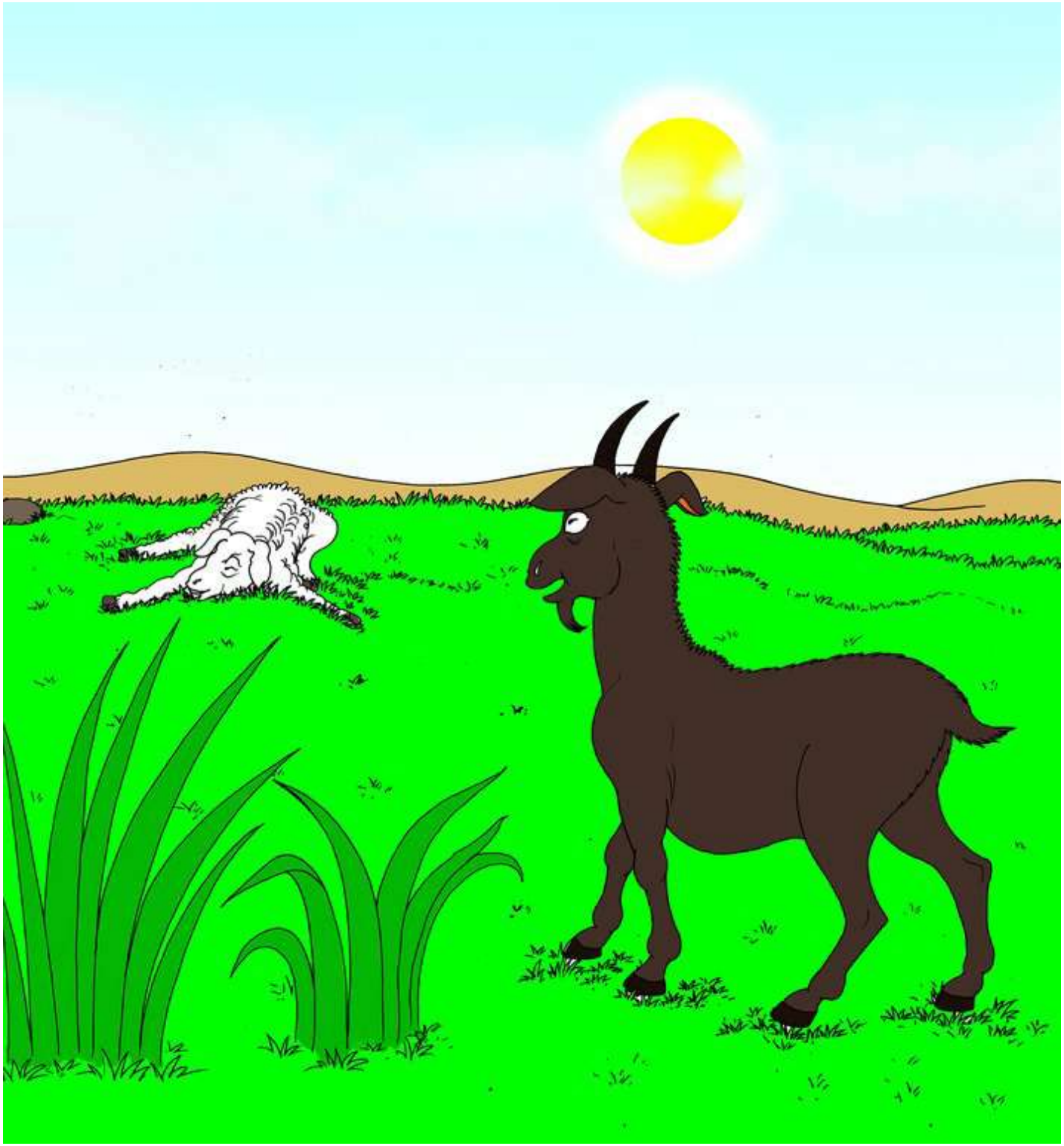
"You don't belong out here," said the bull. "You're a goat. You should be back at the farm with your water. This area is far too dangerous for you to live in."

"Ha!" said Gerald. "I'm a tough, resilient goat! I can outlast hot weather. All I had was a little accident and I won't let that stop me!"

Later, Gerald found some long pieces of grass to eat. They satisfied his hunger, but Gerald couldn't find any water. He felt frustrated, but calmed himself down, reassuring himself that he would not go thirsty.

It felt strange to Gerald with no other animals around. The bull had moved on and he was left all alone.

"This is peaceful," he said uneasily, secretly wanting the sounds of other animals to accompany him. "But I'm a tough goat. I don't need other animals around me to feel happy."



Gerald found a sheep enjoying the sun in a field.

"Silly sheep!" said Gerald. "He doesn't know I'm here. I'll sneak up on him and bite his ear. Then he'll be terrified!"

Gerald put his plan into action...

...when suddenly a hyena came out of nowhere and scared the sheep and Gerald away.

"Get off my land! Ha! Ha! Ha! Hoo! Hoo!" said the hyena, licking his lips. "I eat goats for breakfast!"

"Yeah?" said Gerald as he ran away. "Well...I eat yams, because I am a tough and mean goat!"

Gerald found a local farm and hopped the fence, landing in the chicken coop. The chickens were alarmed when they saw Gerald and they scarpered for safety, knocking over their food bowl. Gerald charged at them and they got away.

"Ha! Stupid chickens!" he said. "I'm a big, tough and powerful goat, and you're just puny birds who can't fly!"

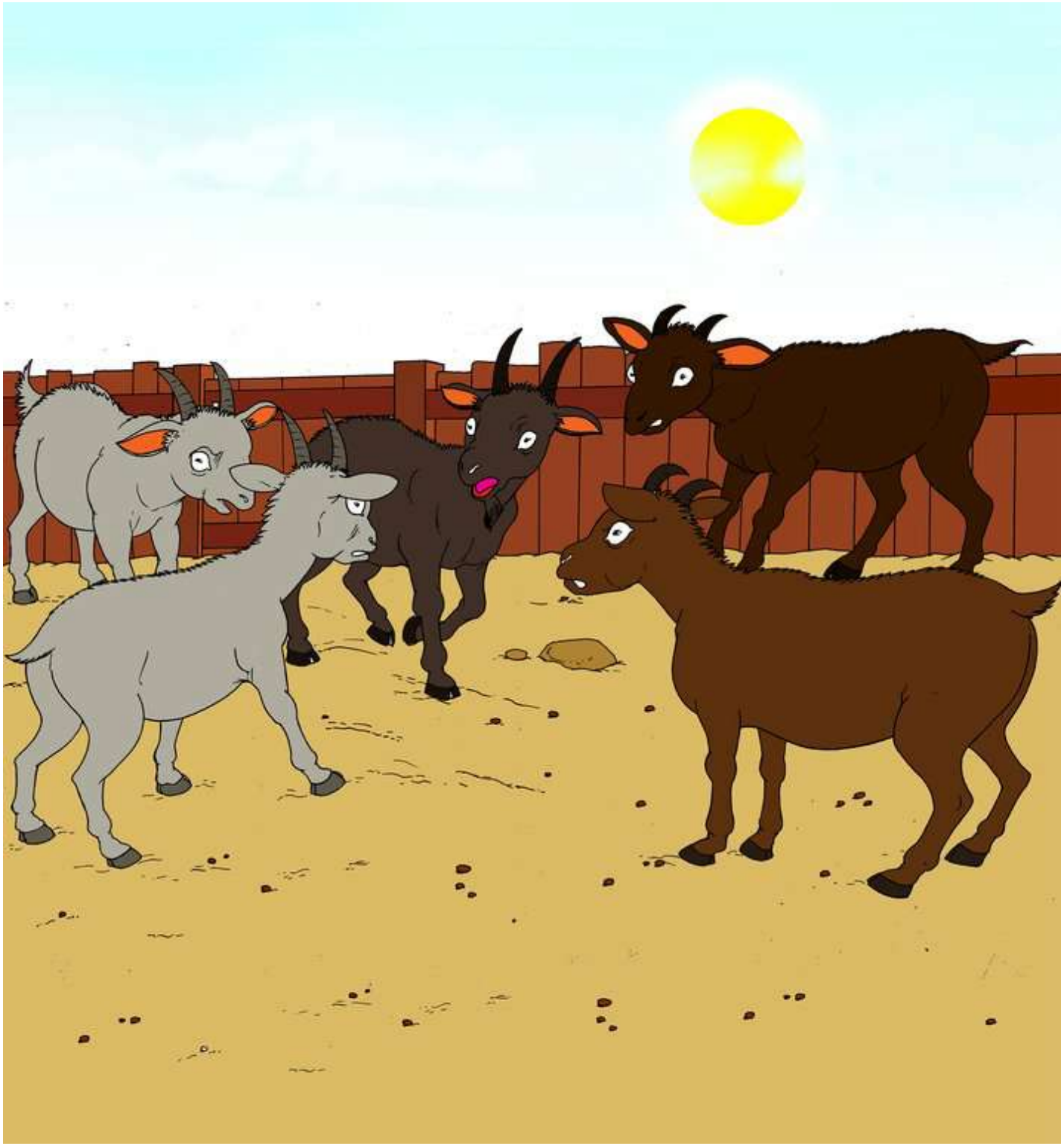
"Get out of here, this is not your farm!" shouted a dog, which came towards Gerald to fend him off.

"I'm not afraid of a little dog!" said Gerald, shoving his horns forward and lowering his head.

The dog gave Gerald a giant shove, and Gerald felt scared.

"That's enough!" said the dog. "You get out of here!"

"I will!" said Gerald. "Like I need your silly little farm! I'm a big, tough and brave goat, and I'm not intimidated by you!"



Gerald decided to run back to his farm, where he saw his fellow goats all concerned.

"Why did you run away?" they said. "We heard about what happened with the chickens and the dog."

"I just wanted to show I'm tough," said Gerald. "I can survive alone out there."

"You don't need to run away or to prove how tough you are," said the goats. "It's nasty to bully others, and a strong goat doesn't need to prove himself."

Post-Reading Questions

Describe Gerald's **attitude and character**.

Why does Gerald **challenge himself** by running away from the farm?

Re-read pages 6-7. Ask: *What **doesn't** Gerald realise about the hill?*

Re-read pages 9-10. Ask: *What happens when Gerald plans on **surprising the sheep**?*

Re-read page 14. Ask: *What is the **lesson** of the story?*

What do **you** think of Gerald's behaviour?

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I'm a Tough Goat!
(English)

Gerald is a stubborn goat who is headstrong and thinks himself to be tough. He decides to escape and show other animals how tough he is.

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.

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