



Reading Outdoors

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Level 3

Story Description

Harriet and her father go walking at the weekend to read stories and have a picnic. While they read, two sneaky goats come along and try to steal their belongings.

Pre-Reading Vocabulary and Phonics

Particular

per-tik-u-lur

*On that **particular** day, it was hot and sunny.*

Immediately

imm-ee-dee-ut-lee

*They sat in the shade **immediately**, because of the heat.*

Belongings

be-long-ings

*They put their **belongings** on the ground.*

Trough

tr-off

*There was a drinking **trough** by the house.*



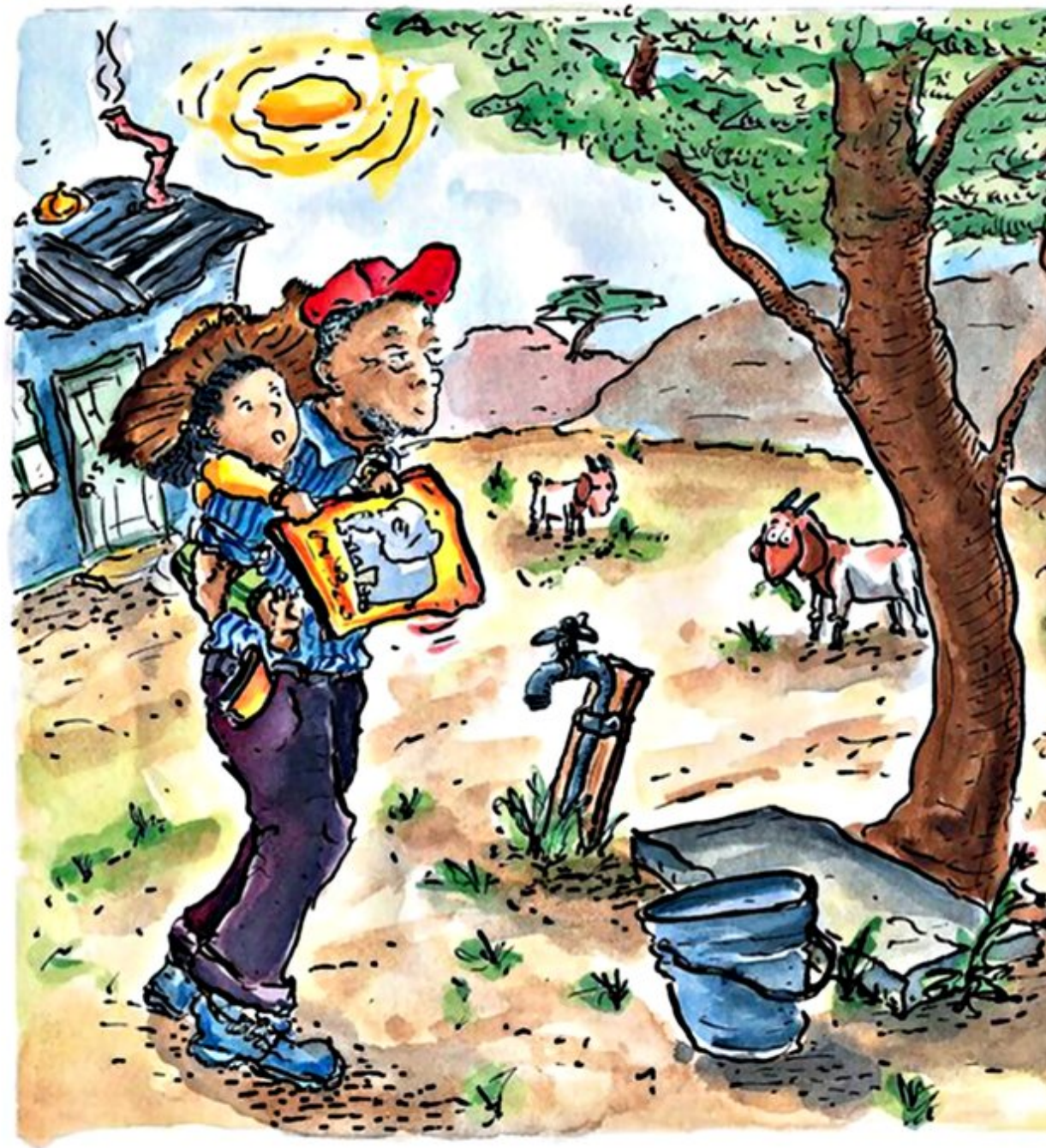
Harriet and her father went walking every weekend, and whenever it was a sunny day. She loved spending time with her father, reading books and petting animals. On this particular day the sun was high in the sky and it was the middle of summer. Harriet wore a big straw hat and her father wore his baseball cap. Their hats kept bumping into each other.



They found a spot to rest and Harriet placed her books carelessly on the ground. Two goats, Dinkle and Dankle, were wandering through the area and they saw the books. They immediately thought of eating them. Dinkle took one of the elephant story books in his mouth and began chewing, but he could not bite through the strong spine. Dankle laughed at him.



Suddenly Harriet pounced on them and shooed them off. Dinkle was startled and Dankle jumped at the fright. They ran off and Harriet collected her books, reminding herself to take better care of her belongings.



Harriet climbed on her father's back and he carried her to a tree, where there was a fresh bucket of water and a feeding trough for the animals.

"Time to sit in the shade," said her father. "Away from the sun for a while. In this weather we'll bake."



"Can we eat and read now?" said Harriet.

"Not yet," said her father. "Remember hygiene. Always wash your hands first. I saw you scaring off those goats. They are dirty animals, especially those two. They roll around in mud. To be safe, wash your hands in the bucket of water."



Little did they know that Dinkle and Dankle had sneaked up on them and were watching closely, waiting for scraps of food to come out.

"Whoops!" said Harriet's father as he washed his hands. "There goes the soap!"

Harriet giggled and chased after it.



To the goats' surprise, Harriet and her father only had a small picnic, but they had plenty more books made out of paper.

Harriet sat on her father's knee as he opened the book. She pointed at the animals and described their features, and looked through a pocket dictionary to guess how to pronounce the words.

"Your hat is in my mouth," said her father.

"Oops, sorry!" said Harriet.



"Your reading is improving quickly," said Harriet's father. "Within a few months you'll be able to read books for teenagers, and then young adults."

Harriet was so happy and confident about her reading. She closed her dictionary shut, just as Dinkle and Dankle ran away.

"I have it! I have it!"
shouted Dankle, as he ran
away with a sock in his
mouth.

"It has to be more delicious
than the books," said Dinkle.
"But it's been on someone's
sweaty foot."

"I don't care about the
sweat and the cheesy
smell," said Dankle. "I'm
starving!"





Harriet and her father saw the goats take off with the spotted sock and laughed between themselves. "Of all the things they could have taken," said Harriet's father. "Our picnic, our hats, our books...they decided to steal a sock."

Post-Reading Questions

What did Harriet and her father **enjoy doing** every weekend?

What did Harriet's father say about her **reading skill**?

Re-read page 6. Ask: *What should Harriet have **done** better?*

Re-read page 8. Ask: *What is it important to do **before eating**?*

Re-read page 13. Ask: *Of all the objects the goats could have stolen, what did they **take**?*

Why is **important** to take care of belongings?

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



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