
Reviewer: Irene Halliday
Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary
Rating: Excellent
Genre: Fairy tales; Folklore; Picture books;
Subject: Fairy tales; Folklore--Norway; Books—Reviews;

The lure of a fiesta with music, dancing and good things to eat is strong enough to entice the three cabritos (young goats) to risk crossing the bridge over the Rio Grande into Mexico. Their mother warns them to be especially watchful, as the monster Chupacabra lives under the bridge and loves to dine on goats. The brothers are confident that the musical magic in their instruments will protect them. When they play their fiddle, guitar and accordion, even monsters just have to dance!

Kimmel's original retelling of The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Texas style, is not only great fun, but simply begs to be read aloud. Young children are generally familiar with the essentials of the original tale and will freely recognize the southwestern variations and delight in making comparisons. Kimmel includes a glossary and pronunciation guide for the Spanish names and terms, further enhancing the read-aloud experience. Gilpin's illustrations are simple, uncluttered, bold and brightly-colored, like the American southwest. Sketched with pencil and colored in Photoshop, they compliment Kimmel's breezy text very well. The monster, Chupacabra, is sky blue and should not frighten even very young children.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)