



Forest Legends

Trolls

By Tea Orsi



Trolls

After all that talk of ogres, we can't help but introduce you to the trolls. They can be a bit pesky to deal with, too, come to think of it. They are also very noisy (have you ever heard them digesting their food).



These strange creatures actually love the peace and quiet of nature. So, they're careful to take care of every little flower, mushroom and root they come across. And they do it very carefully and precisely (incredible, but true: their big, lumpy hands are super delicate).



Unfortunately, however, humans disturb their peace and quiet, which is why they can't stand us. While they can be a bit mean and rough around the edges, trolls appreciate those who treat them with respect and kindness. So, keep that in mind if you ever meet one. Maybe you can even become friends.



Trolls are often very funny looking. They have long tusk-like teeth in the strangest shapes; large, strong hands and arms; tiny (but smelly) feet; and small pointed ears.



Some trolls prefer to grow their hair long and combine it with an even longer beard. No, they never brush them. Don't be silly. But they do decorate them with moss, blades of grass and even wild mushrooms.



Sometimes these creatures have really unique horns, similar to twisted branches. Unfortunately, they aren't very practical since they get caught in the trees all the time.



The Legend of Askeladden

This is a story about a very clever boy who managed to take on a troll by coming up with a brilliant plan. Intrigued, aren't you? Keep reading!



Askeladden was the youngest son of a poor farmer who had to find a lot of wood to sell at the market in order to pay his debts. Not knowing how to find all that wood, he asked his two oldest sons for help. They said they would do their best. Unfortunately, they were lazy and didn't really feel like working hard at all.



Askeladdaen, on the other hand, would have been happy to help his father. But, because he was the youngest son, his brothers forbade him from going with them. The two older brothers set out, but after spending all day in the woods, they came home empty handed.



You read that right. They didn't harvest a single twig! How could it be? Well, basically, a troll was to blame. This troll lived in those very woods and didn't want anyone to touch "his" trees (he was a real bully!).



That meant Askeladden finally got a chance to show what he could do. He set out full of excitement, carrying a backpack and a piece of cheese.



As soon as he got to the woods, the young man found himself in front of that troublesome troll. He looked at him calmly and said: “Be warned! I’m strong and will surely win any challenge!”



Then, he pulled out the piece of cheese and, pretending it was a rock, squeezed until the whey oozed out. The troll fell for it! fearing the boy's great strength, he went so far as to offer to chop the wood for him!



After working hard all day, the troll invited Askeladden to his home (which was full of gold and silver). As the creature prepared some heavy oatmeal for his guest, the boy suggested they have an eating contest.



Convinced that he would win, the troll immediately agreed, but Askeladden had a trick up his sleeve. He hid his backpack under his shirt and pretended to eat, filling the bag with gruel. When the backpack was full, he poked a hole in it and kept eating and eating.



Meanwhile, the troll tried to keep up, binging on oatmeal until he fell fast asleep. Askeladden wasn't one to let an opportunity pass him by, so he took all the gold and silver he could find and ran all the way home, taking it to his father to pay his debts.





THINK

DIGITAL ACADEMY