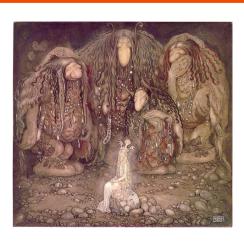
TROLLS



- 0. TROLLS Story Preface
- 1. ROME LEAVES A POWER VACUUM
- 2. WOLVES ENTER THE FOLD
- 3. INVADING ANGLO-SAXONS
- 4. DEFENDERS BECOME INVADERS
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- 6. WHO WERE THE GEATS?
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- 9. HEOROT: THE MEAD-HALL

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- 13. GRENDEL'S MOTHER
- 14. BATTLES and RUNE STONES



John Bauer (1882–1918 created this illustration, circa 1915, for Walter Stenström's "The Boy and the Trolls or The Adventure," in a childrens' anthology entitled *Among Pixies and Trolls, a Collection of Childrens' Stories*, published in 1915. The illustration has this title: "Look at them," troll mother said. "Look at my sons! You won't find more beautiful trolls on this side of the moon." The copyright-expired image is online via Wikimedia Commons.

Scandinavian folk tales are filled with <u>tales of trolls</u>. Was Grendel, the monster in Beowulf, one of them? Before we answer that question, let's examine what folklore tells us about such creatures.

Trolls can be:

- covered in moss,
- sprout trees or branches,
- have <u>four fingers</u>, and can
- live in water
- forests or mountains.

Some <u>trolls</u> appear as fairly harmless, <u>merely mischievous</u>, or very <u>tiny creatures</u> - while others are <u>huge</u>, absolutely <u>gigantic</u>, <u>frightening</u> or downright <u>terrifying</u>. (This <u>representation</u>, in Copenhagen, was made by Niels Hansen Jacobsen in 1895-96.)

According to some tales, trolls only come out at night. If exposed to the sun, they could turn into stone - like when they're cursed. Does that theory explain "natural trolls," which are <u>carved in stone</u>, like one located at Hamarøy, Norway? <u>Theodor Kittelsen</u>, a Norse artist most known for his troll paintings, shows us what might happen were a <u>mountain troll</u> to see the sun.

It is said that trolls can be devious. In this 1882 drawing, one pretends to be a woman simply <u>talking with</u> <u>someone</u> in the forest. But if you look closely at the back of her skirt, you'll see a troll's tail!

Askeladden, a young boy featured in Norwegian fairy tales, was someone who could outwit a troll. <u>Through his eyes</u> (and those of other folk-tale heroes) we can see trolls in their <u>natural surroundings</u> - and at home with <u>proud</u> but <u>scary mothers</u>.

Maybe you disbelieve that trolls exist. But if you happen to be traveling on Norwegian roads, watch out. You just might see a "<u>Troll Crossing</u>" sign!

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/TROLLS-Beowulf

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/TROLLS-Beowulf

Media Stream



Trolls - Covered in Moss

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website). $\ensuremath{\mathsf{PD}}$

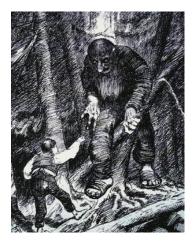
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trolls-Covered-in-Moss



Trolls - Can They Sprout Trees?

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website). PD

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<u>Trolls - They Have Four Fingers</u>

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website). PD

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Sea Trolls - Live in Water

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website).

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<u>Trolls - Living in Mountains</u>

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website).

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Troll Legends: They Can Appear Harmless

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View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Troll-Legends-They-Can-Appear-Harmless



<u>Trolls - Are They Merely Mischievous?</u>

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website).

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trolls-Are-They-Merely-Mischievous-



Trolls - Tiny Creatures

Image online, courtesy Northern (a Swedish-language website).

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View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trolls-Tiny-Creatures



Troll Legends - They Can be Huge

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website).

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Troll-Legends-They-Can-be-Huge



<u>Trolls - Legends of Gigantic Creatures</u>

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website).

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trolls-Legends-of-Gigantic-Creatures



<u>Trolls - Legends of Frightening Creatures</u>

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trolls-Legends-of-Frightening-Creatures



Trolls - Terrifying Creatures

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Trolls - Appear Naturally in Stone

Photo by Michael Haferkamp (Mikesegeln at Wikipedia), taken during June of 2002. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trolls-Appear-Naturally-in-Stone



<u>Theodor Kittelsen - Illustrator of Trolls and Fairy Tales</u> Image, described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Theodor-Kittelsen-Illustrator-of-Trolls-and-Fairy-Tales



Mountain Troll - Echo in the Mountains

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website). PD

View this asset at:

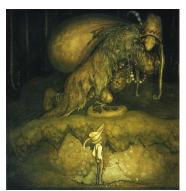
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Mountain-Troll-Echo-in-the-Mountains



<u>Troll - Hiding Her True Appearance</u>

Image, described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Troll-Hiding-Her-True-Appearance



<u>Trolls - The Boy and the Trolls</u> Image described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trolls-The-Boy-and-the-Trolls



<u>Trolls - Mother and Sons with Abducted Princess</u> Image, described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trolls-Mother-and-Sons-with-Abducted-Princess



<u>Trolls - Scary Mothers</u> Image, described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<u>Trolls - "Troll-Crossing" Sign in Norway</u>
Photo by Hesse1309; online via Wikimedia Commons.

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trolls-Troll-Crossing-Sign-in-Norway



Troll - A Water Spirit

Image, described above, online courtesy Kittelsen Archive (a Russian-language website).

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Troll-A-Water-Spirit



TROLLS

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