

Y4 Information Text: Biography

Example Text

Who Was the Real Troll of the Bridge?

Thorvald the Troll was born in the 19th century in northern Norway. He came from the town of Tromsø although he spent most of his life in the mountains.

Early Life

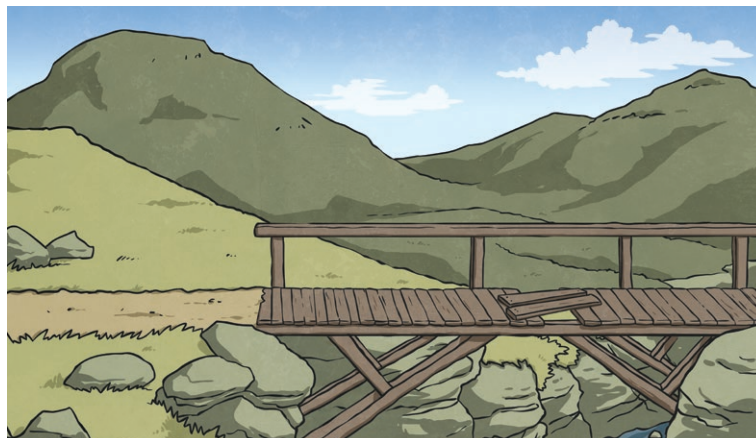
When Thorvald was born, his family were very surprised because he had a squashed nose, pointy ears and huge green eyes. His older sister trolls Ava, Anna and Elsa loved him very much even though he looked very different to them. Anna remembers, "Thorvald was always smiling and laughing."

Then he went to school and everything changed. The other trolls, goats and sheep in his class laughed at him because of how he looked so he was extremely upset. On one occasion, an unkind child even tripped him up so he fell on his face. After that, his teeth were permanently wonky.

Thorvald's parents knew his favourite subject was nature so they often went to observe the animals' and plants' lives. He became quite an expert and could name almost any bird or flower that he saw!

Growing Up and Moving On

When he was an adult, Thorvald found it hard to get work because everyone said he was too ugly. After a while, a farmer gave him a job mending bridges. Thorvald had to check each one and repair any damage. He was a tremendous worker and enjoyed spending his days out in the fresh air. Plus, he won a special award for protecting the countryside.



Y4 Information Text: Biography

Example Text

Nasty Neighbours

He lived in a cosy cave under one of the bridges and was very happy. However, some people still made fun of him. Three irresponsible billy goats from the next meadow came to annoy him every day. They trip-trapped noisily over the bridge while Thorvald was trying to sleep. Eventually, this made him so cross that he climbed up and shouted at them. They pushed him right off the bridge and into the water! Luckily, Thorvald was a great swimmer with lots of swimming awards and escaped further down the river.

A Quiet Life

Thorvald decided that he would go and live secretly up in the mountains. He wrote books all about wildlife but he didn't use his real name. He also opened a home for retired goats. Thorvald died when he was 97 years old. Most people remember him as an angry, dangerous monster and say he ate billy goats but this is simply incorrect. He was actually a really kind but sadly misunderstood creature.



Y4 Information Text: Biography

Annotated Genre Features

¹an introduction that summarises the main events of the person's life

²the key events in a person's life in chronological paragraphs

³verbs written in past tense

⁴sentences written in the third person using third person pronouns (e.g. he, she, they)

⁵the person's feelings about different points and events in their life

⁶a conclusion about how they are/will be remembered

Who Was the Real Troll of the Bridge?

Thorvald the Troll was born in the 19th century in northern Norway. He came from the town of Tromsø although he spent most of his life in the mountains. ¹

Early Life

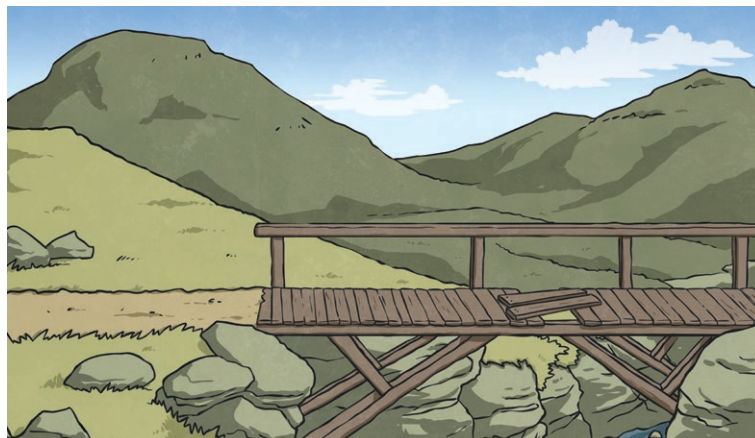
When Thorvald was born, his family⁴ were very surprised because he had³ a squashed nose, pointy ears and huge green eyes. His older sister trolls⁴ Ava, Anna and Elsa loved³ him very much even though he looked³ very different to them. Anna remembers, "Thorvald was⁴ always smiling and laughing⁵." ²

Then he⁴ went³ to school and everything changed. The other trolls⁴, goats and sheep in his class laughed³ at him because of how he looked so he was extremely upset⁵. On one occasion, an unkind child⁴ even tripped³ him up so he fell⁴ on his face. After that, his teeth were permanently wonky. ²

Thorvald's parents knew³ his favourite subject was nature⁵ so they often went to observe the animals' and plants' lives. He became³ quite an expert and could name almost any bird or flower that he saw! ²

Growing Up and Moving On

When he was an adult, Thorvald found it hard to get work because everyone⁴ said³ he was too ugly. After a while, a farmer⁴ gave³ him a job mending bridges. Thorvald had to check each one and repair any damage. He was a tremendous worker and enjoyed^{3&5} spending his days out in the fresh air. Plus, he won³ a special award for protecting the countryside. ²



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Nasty Neighbours

He lived³ in a cosy cave under one of the bridges and was very happy⁵. However, some people⁴ still made³ fun of him. Three irresponsible billy goats from the next meadow came³ to annoy him every day. They⁴ trip-trapped noisily over the bridge while Thorvald was trying to sleep. Eventually, this made him so cross⁵ that he climbed³ up and shouted³ at them. They pushed³ him right off the bridge and into the water! Luckily, Thorvald was a great swimmer with lots of swimming awards and escaped³ further down the river.

A Quiet Life

Thorvald decided³ that he would go and live secretly up in the mountains. He wrote³ books all about wildlife but he didn't³ use his real name. He also opened a home for retired goats. Thorvald died when he was 97 years old. Most people⁴ remember him as an angry, dangerous monster and say he ate³ billy goats but this is simply incorrect. He was actually a really kind but sadly misunderstood creature.



Y4 Information Text: Biography Example Text

Annotated Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Features

All text¹ Uses the full range of spelling, grammar and punctuation features that have been taught in previous year groups.

Who Was the Real Troll of the Bridge?⁴

Thorvald the Troll was² born in the 19th century¹⁴ in northern¹³ Norway. He came² from the town of Tromsø although¹⁴ he spent most of his life in the mountains.

⁸Uses possessive apostrophes accurately for plural possession, e.g. girls' toilets, children's toys.

⁹Uses all the necessary punctuation in direct speech.

² Uses Standard English verb inflections consistently, e.g. we were NOT we was, I did NOT I done.

Early Life⁴

When Thorvald was born⁷, his⁵ family were very surprised because he⁵ had a squashed nose⁶, pointy ears⁶ and huge green eyes⁶. His⁵ older sister trolls Ava, Anna and Elsa loved him very much even though he looked very different¹⁴ to them. Anna remembers¹⁴, "Thorvald was always smiling and laughing."⁹

¹⁰Spells a wider range of words with prefixes correctly, e.g. irrelevant, autograph, incorrect, disobey, superstar, antisocial.

³Organises their writing into paragraphs around a theme.

⁴ Uses simple layout devices in non-fiction, e.g. headings and sub-headings.

Then he went to school and everything¹³ changed. The other trolls, goats and sheep in his class⁶ laughed at him because of how he looked so he was extremely¹¹ upset¹⁰. On one⁷ occasion^{12&14}, an unkind¹⁰ child even tripped him up so he fell on his face. After that⁷, his teeth were² permanently¹¹ wonky.

¹¹Spells a wider range of words with suffixes correctly, e.g. usually, poisonous, adoration.

⁵ Chooses to use nouns or pronouns appropriately to aid cohesion and avoid repetition, e.g. he, she, they, it.

Thorvald's parents knew¹² his favourite¹⁴ subject was nature so they⁵ often went to observe the animals' and plants' lives⁸. He became² quite an expert and could name almost any bird or flower¹² that he saw!

¹²Spells homophones correctly, e.g. which and witch. witch.

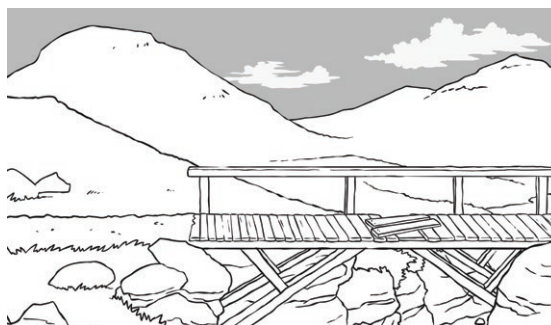
Growing Up and Moving On⁴

When he was an adult⁷, Thorvald found it hard to get work because everyone^{5&13} said he was too¹² ugly. After a while⁷, a farmer gave him a job mending bridges. Thorvald had to check each one⁵ and repair any damage. He was a tremendous¹¹ worker and enjoyed spending his days out in the fresh air⁶. Plus⁷, he won² a special¹⁴ award for protecting the countryside⁶.

¹³Uses knowledge of word families to help with their spelling.

¹⁴Spells all of the year 3 and 4 statutory spelling words correctly.

⁷Uses fronted adverbials, e.g. As quick as a flash, Last weekend, etc. followed by a comma.



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All text¹ Uses the full range of spelling, grammar and punctuation features that have been taught in previous year groups.

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⁵ Chooses to use nouns or pronouns appropriately to aid cohesion and avoid repetition, e.g. he, she, they, it.

⁶ Uses noun phrases expanded by the addition of modifying adjectives and prepositional phrases, e.g. the strict teacher with curly hair.

⁷ Uses fronted adverbials, e.g. As quick as a flash, Last weekend, etc. followed by a comma.

Nasty Neighbours⁴

He lived in a cosy cave under one of the bridges⁶ and was very happy. However,⁷ some¹² people still made² fun of him. Three⁶ irresponsible^{10&11} billy goats from the next meadow⁶ came to annoy him⁵ every day. They trip-trapped noisily¹¹ over the bridge while Thorvald was trying to sleep. Eventually,⁷ this⁵ made him so cross that he climbed up and shouted at them⁵. They⁵ pushed him right¹² off the bridge and into the water! Luckily¹¹, Thorvald was a great swimmer with lots of swimming awards⁶ and escaped further down the river.

⁸ Uses possessive apostrophes accurately for plural possession, e.g. girls' toilets, children's toys.

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¹⁰ Spells a wider range of words with prefixes correctly, e.g. irrelevant, autograph, incorrect, disobey, superstar, antisocial.

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A Quiet Life⁴

Thorvald decided¹⁴ that he⁵ would go and live secretly¹¹ up in the mountains. He wrote books all about wildlife¹³ but he didn't use his⁵ real name. He also opened a home for retired goats. Thorvald died when he was 97 years old. Most people remember² him as an angry, dangerous monster⁶ and say he ate^{2&12} billy goats but this is simply¹¹ incorrect¹⁰. He was actually a really¹¹ kind but sadly misunderstood¹⁰ creature⁵.



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Annotated Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Features

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Who Was the Real Troll of the Bridge?⁴

Thorvald the Troll **was**² born in the 19th **century**¹⁴ in **northern**¹³ Norway. He **came**² from the town of Tromsø **although**¹⁴ he spent most of his life in the mountains.

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Early Life⁴

When Thorvald **was born**⁷, **his**⁵ family were very surprised because **he**⁵ had a **squashed nose**⁶, **pointy ears**⁶ and **huge green eyes**⁶. **His**⁵ older sister trolls Ava, Anna and Elsa loved him very much even though he looked very **different**¹⁴ to them. Anna **remembers**¹⁴, "Thorvald was always smiling and laughing."⁹

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Then he went to school and **everything**¹³ changed. The other trolls, goats and sheep in his class⁶ laughed at him because of how he looked so he was **extremely**¹¹ **upset**¹⁰. **On one**⁷ **occasion**^{12&14}, an **unkind**¹⁰ child even tripped him up so he fell on his face. **After that**⁷, his teeth **were**² **permanently**¹¹ wonky.

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Thorvald's parents **knew**¹² his **favourite**¹⁴ subject was nature so **they**⁵ often went to observe **the animals' and plants' lives**⁸. He **became**² quite an expert and could name almost any bird or **flower**¹² that he saw!

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Growing Up and Moving On⁴

When he **was an adult**⁷, Thorvald found it hard to get work because **everyone**^{5&13} said he was **too**¹² ugly. **After a while**⁷, a farmer gave him a job mending bridges. Thorvald had to check each **one**⁵ and repair any damage. He was a **tremendous**¹¹ worker and enjoyed spending his days out in the **fresh air**⁶. **Plus**⁷, he **won**² a **special**¹⁴ award for protecting the countryside⁶.

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