

## Shared reading Trolls Arts week Spring 2022

Trolls are ugly human-like creatures and come in many shapes and sizes. Many are large, stupid and live alone. Classic fantasy trolls often guard bridges. Scandinavian Trolls are human-sized and ugly; they live in forests and mines and sometimes kidnap human children to raise them as workers. Meanwhile, Icelandic trolls are savage giants who roam snowy areas and eat children! They can be petrified either by sunlight or by the ringing of church bells.

Sitting in his home Trolldhaugen ("Troll's Hill") in Norway Edvard Grieg composed the music for the play Peer Gynt. The most famous section of this is In the Hall of the Mountain King. This particular king under the mountain is a troll who asks the central question of the play: What is the difference between a troll and a man?

### **Read this excerpt from James Mayhew's book Once Upon A Tune 'In the hall of the mountain king'.**

Just then, in the gloom, Peer Gynt saw a young girl dressed in green. It was a strange girl with flashing eyes and wild hair.

"I'll dance with you," she said. "And more...I'll marry you if you like?" She laughed and ran off.

Peer Gynt followed her- bewitched.

"Who are you?" he called.

"Oh I'm just the daughter of a king- the Mountain King. Have you heard of him? If you marry me there will be treasure for you, a dowry of gold. Come meet my father and you can make the arrangements."

Peer Gynt followed her into a cave.

Deeper and darker they went, until at last the cave opened up into a vast underground cavern. It was filled with glittering eyes and muffled voices. Soon Peter saw the cave was filled with ...

TROLLS!



- a. Complete this sentence. Trolls often guard \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Petrified means turned into stone. Name two other stories where characters are petrified.
- c. How can you petrify a troll?
- d. Explain why you think Peer Gynt followed the girl dressed in green into the cave.
- e. Why is the King's daughter is a human girl and not a troll?
- f. Name the composer who was inspired to write the music for the play 'Peer Gynt'.

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