

**THE GRUFFALO**  
**By Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler**

A mouse walks in the deep dark wood. A fox saw the mouse and the mouse looked good.

So, the fox asked the mouse, “where are you going to, little brown mouse? Come and have lunch in my underground house.”

“It’s kind of you, Fox, but no – I’m going to have lunch with a gruffalo,” said the mouse.

The fox replied, “A gruffalo? What’s a gruffalo?”

“A gruffalo! Why, didn’t you know? He has terrible tusks, and terrible claws, and terrible teeth in his terrible jaws.” said the mouse.

“Where are you meeting him?” the fox asked again.

“Here, by these rocks, and his favourite food is... roasted fox!” the mouse answered.

“Roasted fox!! I better go now! Goodbye mouse!” and the fox ran as fast as the lightning.

“Silly old fox! Doesn’t he know there is no such thing as a gruffalo?” laughed the mouse.

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Then, the mouse continued his journey through the deep dark wood. A snake saw the mouse and the mouse looked good.

The hungry snake asked, “Where are you going to, little brown mouse? Come for a feast in my logpile house,”

“It’s kind of you, Snake, but no – I’m having a feast with a Gruffalo,” the clever mouse rejected.

“A gruffalo? What’s a gruffalo?” asked the curious snake.

The mouse played his trick again, “A gruffalo! Why, didn’t you know? His eyes are orange, his tongue is black, he has purple prickles all over his back”.

The snake started to get scared, he asked, “Where are you meeting him?”

“Here, by this lake and his favourite food is... scrambled snake,” replied the mouse.

“Scrambled snake!! It’s time I hid!! Goodbye, little mouse,” and away the snake slid.

The mouse couldn’t help but laugh hysterically, “Silly old Snake! Doesn’t he know there’s no such thing as a gruffalo...hahaha!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

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But suddenly, something big and ugly came out of the bushes.

“Who is this creature with terrible claws and terrible teeth in his terrible jaws? His eyes are orange, his tongue is black; he has purple prickles all over his back” thought the mouse.

“Oh, help!! Oh, no!!! It’s a gruffalo!” the mouse screamed and tried to run but it was too late...

The gruffalo picked the mouse up with his hairy finger, “My favourite food!” the gruffalo said. “Yumm..You’ll taste good on a slice of bread!”

The mouse tried to put on his brave face and replied, “Good? Don’t call me good! I’m the scariest creature in this wood. Just walk behind me and soon you’ll see, everyone is afraid of me.

The gruffalo was skeptical and as he was bursting with laughter, he said “All right. You go ahead and I will follow later.”

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They walked and walked till the Gruffalo said “I hear a hiss in the leaves ahead”

“It’s Snake,” said the mouse.

“Oh, hello Snake!” the mouse waved at the snake.

Snake took one look at the Gruffalo.

“Oh no!Good bye little mouse,” and off he slid to his logpile house.

“You see? I told you so,” said the mouse.

The gruffalo started to impress by the mouse, “Amazing!”

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They walked some more till the Gruffalo said “I hear feet on the path ahead.”

The mouse replied, “It’s Fox”

“Oh, hello fox!” the mouse waved at the fox.

Fox took one look at the Gruffalo.

As his feet started to tremble, he said “Oh help! Goodbye little mouse,” and off he ran to his underground house.

The mischievous mouse said, “Well, Gruffalo.You see? *Everyone* is afraid of me!! But now my tummy’s beginning to rumble. My favourite food is – gruffalo crumble!”

The gruffalo was terrified, “Gruffalo crumble!” he said.

And quick as the wind he turned and fled.

All was quiet in the deep dark wood; the mouse found a nut and the nut was good.