

## CROSSING THE RIVER

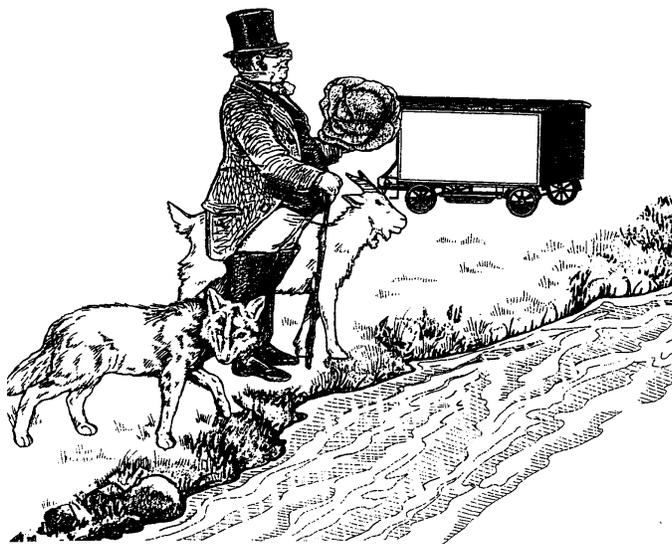
British mathematician John Venn wrote about the power of logical thinking. Use logic to solve this famous old puzzle.

Once there was a showman traveling on foot with a wolf, a goat, and a cabbage. When they came to a wide river, the showman paused to think. A small boat was available for his use, but it would hold only himself and one of the others. He could take the wolf, the goat, or the cabbage, but not more than one at a time.

The showman's problem was complicated by the nature of his companions. He dare not leave the wolf alone with the goat or the goat alone with the cabbage. Given a chance, the wolf would eat the goat! If the showman turned his back, the goat would eat the cabbage!

After thinking for a while, the showman realized that it was possible to use the boat to transport himself and all of his belongings safely across the river.

How did he do it?



[Source: [Historical Connections Vol. II, p. 67](#), ©1995 AIMS Education Foundation]

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