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# 1

## TARPEN AND TOAD

As I was going down the road  
I met the tarpen and the toad.  
Every time the toad would jump  
The tarpen would dart behind the stump.

**Chorus:** So close the kitchen  
Old folks, young folks,  
Oho! Virginia true.

As I went out on yonder hill  
There I spide my Uncle Bill  
Sitting on a tater hill  
Eating up a Whipper Will.

## LITTLE HOBBY HORSE

Little hobby horse as white as milk,  
Saddled with the gold and bridled with the silk.  
Pigs in the parlor making up the beds,  
Cats before the fire combing their heads,  
Misses in the dairy making cheese,  
Cows in the meadow making hay,  
Horses in the barn thrashing out corn,  
Did you ever see such a little one since I was born?

# 2

## UNCLE JAKES

As I went down to Uncle Jakes  
To see old Auntie baking cakes  
A little bit of dough  
And that was flour  
A little bit of milk  
And that was sour.

Collected by Helen Crabb from her aunt, Miss Margaret Francisco, an old lady who learned this and the two preceding songs in Staunton, Virginia. **K.**

## FUDGE, FUDGE

Fudge, fudge,  
Call the judge,  
Mama's got a new-born baby.  
It's not a girl,  
It's not a boy,  
It's just a new-born baby.  
What'll we do?  
What'll we do?

Wrap it up in tissue paper,  
Send it down the elevator,  
First floor miss [jumper misses on purpose],  
Second floor miss [again],  
Third floor and out the door [jumper runs out].

Jump-rope game collected by Alice Ingwerson in grade school, Illinois. **K.**

## THE PUMPKIN SONG

Said the pumpkin to himself  
 As he lay in the cellar,  
 "Oh, I wish I had stayed away,  
 For there's nothing going on  
 That would interest a feller  
 If he lived here a year and a day.  
 Oh the apples and the turnips  
 Are as still as they can be,  
 The potatoes might as well be dead,  
 For although they have their eyes  
 I am sure they cannot see  
 Or hear a single word that's said."  
 Just then there came a sound  
 As of soft wind sighing  
 And an odor soon completely filled the air  
 As the onion changed position  
 In his corner lying  
 Beside the dark cellar stair.  
 By and by there came a Giant  
 Who took the pumpkin off  
 And left the others there alone.  
 The pumpkin wondered then  
 As his heart within him quaked  
 What would happen, but to us 'tis no surprise.  
 For they cut him into pieces  
 And they stewed and they baked  
 Till they had a row of pumpkin pies.

Collected by James R. Bails in Evergreen, Colorado. "My mother learned this song from her grandmother in the early 1900's. My great-grandmother remembered it as an old family lullaby, so it would be possible to state that the song is at least 100 years old. My great-great-grandmother came from North Carolina and she and her husband homesteaded in Eastern Illinois." **K.**

## WILLIAM A-TREMBLETOE

William A-Trembletoe  
 He's a good fisherman,  
 Catch his hens,  
 Put them in pens,  
 Some lay eggs,  
 Some none.  
 Wire briar  
 Nimber lock  
 Three old geese  
 In a flock,  
 One flew east,  
 One flew west,  
 One flew over the cuckoo's nest.  
 O-U-T spells out,  
 You old dirty dish rag you.

Counting-out rhyme collected from Edith Buchanan, North Carolina.

## THE PURPLE HEN

La gallina purpurado  
 Puso un huevo en el arado.  
 Puso uno, puso duo, puso tres.  
 Tapa, cocho.

**Translated:**

The purple hen  
 Laid an egg on the hoe.  
 She laid one, she laid two, she laid three.  
 Hide, hog.

Counting-out rhyme collected by Dolores Brown from Angela Salazar, aged five, from southern Texas. It is played like "One potato, two potato."



## GRASSHOPPER SONG

There once was a grasshopper lived in a pine tree,  
Silver-voiced as a frog in June.

He was not pleased with his situation;

Thought he would like to go to the moon.

Oh-heigh-oh, "Why did I come here? -oh!

With a hop and a skip and a flop and a flip,

"Way up to the moon I will go!"

Up he went like a streak of lightning.

Down he came like a thunderbolt.

There he spied a man with a lantern

Riding on a pea-green colt.

Oh-heigh-oh, "Why did I come here? -oh!

With a hop and a skip and a flop and a flip,

Way back to the earth I will go!"

Up he went like a fiery rocket.

Down he came like a shooting star.

And whom should he meet but a gay little goshawk,

Flying over the earth so far.

Oh-heigh-oh, poor little grasshopper-oh!

With a snap and a tweak of the bonny bird's beak,

And that was the end of him, oh!

Collected by Nancy Nelson from Kent L. Sanborn, Longmont, Colorado. "Mr. Sanborn remembers that his grandmother sang it to him when he was very small. The Sanborns are New Englanders of English descent." K.

### THE OLD WOMAN

There was an old woman all skin and bones,  
Oo-oo-oo.

Her name was Smith, but they called her Jones,  
Oo-oo-oo.

This woman went to church one day,  
Oo-oo-oo.

To hear the parson preach and pray.  
Oo-oo-oo.

When she got up and near the door,  
Oo-oo-oo.

She found a dead man on the floor.  
Oo-oo-oo.

The woman to the parson said,  
Oo-oo-oo.

“Will I look like that when I am dead?”  
Oo-oo-oo.

The parson to the woman said,  
Oo-oo-oo.

“Yes, you’ll look like that when you are dead.”  
Oo-oo-oo.

The woman to the parson said,  
(Scream here).

**SNAKE BAKED A HOECAKE**

Snake baked a hoeecake,  
 And left a frog to mind it,  
 The frog went to sleep  
 And the lizard came and stoled it.  
 Bring back my hoeecake  
 You long-tailed lizard you.

The rain came and wet me,  
 The sun came and dried me.  
 Stand back, pretty gal,  
 Don't you come a-nigh me.

**OLD MOLLY HARE**

Old Molly Hare,  
 What you doin' there?  
 Goin' through the cotton patch  
 Hard as you can tear.

The above two collected from Edith Buchanan, North Carolina.

**LONELY WOODPECKER**

There was a lonely woodpecker  
 A-sittin' on a hill,  
 Pecked against a granite rock  
 And broke his little bill.

Collected by Richard Fluke, El Centro, California. K.

**DO, MAMA, DO**

Mama, buy me a china doll.

Mama, buy me a china doll.

Mama, buy me a china doll.

Do, Mama, do.

What will I buy it with?

What will I buy it with?

What will I buy it with?

Do, Mama, do.

Sell papa's feather bed.

Sell papa's feather bed.

Sell papa's feather bed.

Do, Mama, do.

Where will papa sleep?

Where will papa sleep?

Where will papa sleep?

Do, Mama, do.

Sleep in the piggie's bed.

Sleep in the piggie's bed.

Sleep in the piggie's bed.

Do, Mama, do.

Yes, my child, I'll buy you a doll.

Yes, my child, I'll buy you a doll.

Yes, my child, I'll buy you a doll.

Do, Mama, do.

### MOUSE WENT A-COURTIN'

There once was a mouse who lived on a hill  
Ah ha, ah ha,

There once was a mouse who lived on a hill  
And he hustled and bustled like Buffalo Bill,  
Ah ha, ah ha.

One day he thought he'd go for a ride  
Ah ha, ah ha,

One day he thought he'd go for a ride  
With his sword and his pistol by his side,  
Ah ha, ah ha.

He rode up to Miss Mousie's door  
Ah ha, ah ha,

He rode up to Miss Mousie's door  
And knocked and knocked till his fists got sore,  
Ah ha, ah ha.

He set Miss Mousie on his knee  
Ah ha, ah ha,

He set Miss Mousie on his knee  
And he asked her, "Will you marry me?"  
Ah ha, ah ha.

"Oh, no!" she said, "I can't do that,"  
Ah ha, ah ha,

"Oh, no!" she said, "I can't do that  
Until I ask my brother rat."  
Ah ha, ah ha.

Her brother rat has gone to town  
Ah ha, ah ha,

Her brother rat has gone to town  
To buy Miss Mousie a wedding gown,  
Ah ha, ah ha.

The wedding was held in the old oak tree  
Ah ha, ah ha,

The wedding was held in the old oak tree  
With corn and cabbage and black-eyed peas,  
Ah ha, ah ha.

The first to come was Mr. Chick  
Ah ha, ah ha,

The first to come was Mr. Chick  
And he ate so much that he got sick,  
Ah ha, ah ha.

The second to come was Dr. Fly  
Ah ha, ah ha,

The second to come was Dr. Fly  
And he said that Mr. Chick might die,  
Ah ha, ah ha.

The last to come was Mr. Snake  
Ah ha, ah ha,

The last to come was Mr. Snake  
And he wrapped his tail around the cake,  
Ah ha, ah ha.

And after that they sailed for France  
Ah ha, ah ha,  
And after that they sailed for France  
And that was the end of their romance,  
Ah ha, ah ha.