

#10101 THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY



WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 2002

Grade Level: K-3

8 mins.

DESCRIPTION

Clever adaptation of the familiar cumulative poem about the old lady with the ever-expanding stomach who swallows everything from a fly to a horse. Cyndi Lauper narrates and sings this Caldecott Honor Book by Simms Taback. Sing-along repeats the story.



ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Language Arts–Reading

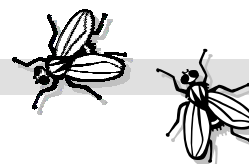
- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ♦ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 4.)
 - ♦ Benchmark: Makes simple inferences regarding the order of events and possible outcomes (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

Subject Area: Thinking and Reasoning

- Standard: Effectively uses mental processes that are based on identifying similarities and differences
 - ♦ Benchmark: Classifies objects by size, color, or other significant characteristics (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To appreciate a funny folk tale.
2. To practice predicting what will happen next in a story.
3. To illustrate classification of animals and objects.
4. To promote the reading of children's literature.



VOCABULARY



- | | | |
|----------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. bird | 6. dog | 11. moral |
| 2. cat | 7. don't know | 12. perhaps |
| 3. catch | 8. fly | 13. spider |
| 4. cow | 9. horse | 14. swallowed |
| 5. die | 10. lady | 15. why |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Display the cover of the book or the video. Discuss the title and the art. Students recite any or all parts of the poem that are already known.
2. Show a few pages of the book looking closely at the illustrations. Discuss the items in the drawings. Observe the illustrations carefully while watching the video.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause after the verse when the old lady swallows the spider. Predict what she might do next.
3. Repeat the procedure described above after each verse, predicting what she might swallow next.

AFTER SHOWING



Discussion Items and Questions

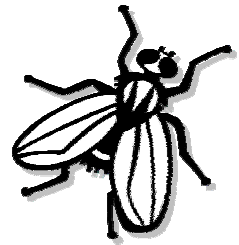
1. Discuss why the old lady swallowed a fly. Could it have been an accident? Share experiences when a bug went in your mouth, nose, eyes, or ears.
2. What was the reaction of the cow, bird, dog, and cat?
3. Why did the old lady swallow the spider? Was it an accident? What did the spider do inside the old lady? How did the dog and cat respond?
4. What was the third thing the old lady swallowed? Why did she swallow a bird?
5. What was the fourth thing she swallowed? Why? What was the dog's response?
6. What was the fifth thing the old lady swallowed? Why? What was the cow's response?
7. What was the sixth thing she swallowed? Why?
8. What happened when she swallowed a horse?
9. How did the man react to the old lady dying? Who was the man in the story supposed to be? Why do you think the illustrator put himself in the story?
10. Discuss the purpose and meaning of the moral of the story.

Applications and Activities

1. Replay the video or use the sing-along section of the video. Encourage reciting the lines as the video is playing.
2. Dramatize the story.
 - a. Make masks for the various characters using plain Manila file folders, paper plates, or construction paper.

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

- b. Hang a dress over a lamp pole and put the old lady's mask on the lampshade. A stagehand can hide behind the dress and gradually fill it with pillows.
 - c. Add music and dance as appropriate. Some students may want to add appropriate animal noises.
 - d. Perform the drama for other students and/or parents.
3. Watch the video again, and use the illustrations to practice grouping and classifying objects and animals.
 - a. Pause at each scene with many objects either grouped or ungrouped.
 - b. Discuss what makes the objects or animals in each group alike and different.
 - c. Label the groups when appropriate.
4. Using either the book or the video, identify the rhyming words. Create a list of additional animals with rhyming words. Add other rhyming verses to the story.
5. Fold a piece of drawing paper into six boxes, numbering them one through six. Draw the animals that the lady swallowed in order, one per box. On the back, draw the horse.
6. Read other cumulative or add-on stories or rhymes. Consider:
 - a. *This is the House That Jack Built* by Simms Taback
 - b. *Old McDonald* author unknown.
 - c. *One Fine Day* by Nonny Hogrogian.
 - d. *The Mitten* by Jan Brett.
 - e. *The Gingerbread Boy* by Paul Galdone.
 - f. *Stone Soup* Marcia Brown.
 - g. *By the Light of the Halloween Moon* by Caroline Stutson.
 - h. *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* by Simms Taback (uses the opposite technique—subtracting items)
7. Read other books by Simms Taback. Compare and contrast the style of stories and illustrations.
8. Discuss the Caldecott award. Read other Caldecott award and honor books. Compare illustrations.
9. Research to see if the drawing of the man in the video actually looks like Simms Taback.
10. Read other traditional folktales or poems.
11. Investigate food chains. Find out what animals really do eat flies. Create a new story with animals that correctly follow a food chain.
12. Take a digital picture of yourself with your mouth open. Scan interesting objects and use imaging software to combine your face and the objects. Make your own silly book.



SUMMARY

Based on a Caldecott Honor Book, this program is an adaptation of a familiar childhood poem. The more familiar the poem is to children, the more they will enjoy the new twists provided by the extra animal comments and the brightly colored folk art illustrations.





CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [By the Light of the Halloween Moon #10047](#)
- [Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears #10106](#)

World Wide Web

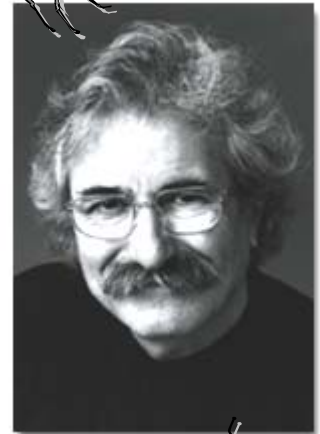


The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

• EMBRACING THE CHILD–SIMMS TABACK

<http://www.embracingthechild.org/bookspecialtaback.html>

Read a brief biography and view a photograph of the author who wrote this classic children's book. There is a link to this book and his more recent famous children's book *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*. Also links to Newberry, Caldecott, picture books, and many more at the top of this Web site.



• SIMMS TABACK

http://www.cbcbooks.org/html/simms_taback.html

This site has biographical information about the illustrator and also a photo of him.



• REBUS RHYMES: BOOKLET TO PRINT

<http://www.zoomdinosaurs.com/rhymes/coloring/ladyfly>

This site includes ten printable pages with instructions on how to create a book for the story *There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*.

• KIDSTORIES

<http://www.kidstories.com/bibl2b.html>

This is a suggested list of simple folktales, cumulative stories, and circle stories. Each listing has a short summary of the story and a link to purchase it and a rating of reading levels infants through 4th grade.

- **THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY**

http://www.libsci.sc.edu/miller/Old_Lady.htm

This site has links to a variety of resources related to the book, including lesson plans and activities.

- **LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY LESSON PLAN**

<http://www.thesolutionsite.com/lpnew/lesson/2452/lesson5.htm>

Reenact the story step by step following this lesson plan. Begin by making real vegetable soup with a plastic fly eaten by a paper puppet of course.



- **POETRY4KIDS**

<http://www.poetry4kids.org/>

Do you want more silly stories and poems to read? This Web site is full of them. It's a collection of Kenn Nesbitt's funny stories and silly rhymes and also has "Writing Poetry Lessons," "Poetry Links," and "Stuff for Teachers."

