

Over the Button and Through the Fig Activity

Over the River and Through the Wood is a poem by Lydia Maria Francis Child, published in 1844.

EXPLORE ONE OF OUR FAVORITE NONSENSE VERSIONS OF THIS POEM, ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID CATROW, PUBLISHED IN 1996.

THE ORIGINAL POEM HAD 12 VERSES, BUT THE SONG USUALLY ONLY HAS FOUR.

HERE ARE THE ORIGINAL VERSES FROM THE DAVID CATROW ILLUSTRATED VERSION.

Over the river, and through the wood,
To Grandfather's house we go;
the horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
through the white and drifted snow.



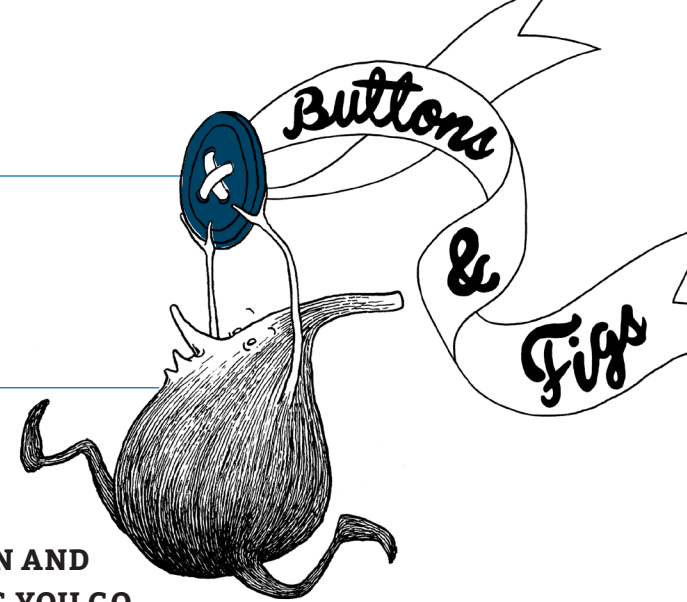
Over the river, and through the wood—
oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose
as over the ground we go.

Over the river, and through the wood,
to have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring, "Ting-a-ling-ding!",
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river, and through the wood,
trot fast, my dapple-gray!
Spring over the ground like a hunting-hound!
For 'tis Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river, and through the wood—
and straight through the barnyard gate,
We seem to go extremely slow,
it is so hard to wait!

Over the river, and through the wood—
now Grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!



OVER THE BUTTON AND THROUGH THE FIG YOU GO

Try this nonsense game on for size!

1. Cut out each stanza of the poem.
2. Pass out each stanza at your gathering. Provide pen and blank piece of paper too. Each person or team will rewrite the stanza they receive.
3. But first, agree upon the first line of the poem. It will be the same for everyone.

Over the _____, and Through the _____.

4. Now, each person or team gets to work on creating new words for lines 2, 3 & 4 of a stanza. Remember to rhyme the endings of lines 2 and 4 in order to keep the meter of the original poem!
5. Taking turns, ask each person or team to read or sing the new stanza aloud.
6. Read or sing it again, but this time have each team act out their stanza too!

Listen to episode 9 to hear the new stanzas recorded by the Buttons & Figs kids!

"IS A STANZA A TROPICAL FRUIT?" YOU ASK.

A stanza is a group of lines in a verse. In this poem each stanza has 4 lines.

