

Name of Song or Rhyme

"There was an old man that lived in the wood"

Ballad

First line of song or rhyme (text only)

Song type

Use a checkmark (✓) or “X” in appropriate boxes

Melodic	Melodic/Cultural Analysis		Rhythmic/Uses Analysis		Rhythmic	
M1. CSP	D	Source's Starting Pitch: D4	♩		R1. Meter	
M2. Scale	do hexachord, plagal		♩ = 108		R2. Metronome	
M3. Toneset	s, l, (d) r m f s		♩ / ♪ / ♪ / ♪ / ♪		R3. Note values	
M4. Range	V	- 5	☒ Outer: ♪	☒ Inner: ♪	R4. Upbeat	
M5. Mel. Form	A B C B _v		☐ Iso	☒ Hetero	A B C C	R5. Rhy. Form
M6. Cadences	3 1 2 1		8 8 8 8		R6. Beats/phrase	
M7. Intervals	s,↑d (P4) d↑s (P5) r↓s, (P5)		☒ Iso	☐ Bi	☐ Tri	R7. Podia
M8. Target Phrases	A: s,-d-s,-l-s,-d-r-m		A: ♩ ♩			

There was an old man that lived in a wood, as you can plain - ly see,

Who said he could do more work in a day, than his wife could do in three.

"If that be so," the old woman said, "Why this you must al - low,

That you shall do my work for a day, while I go drive the plough."

Father Grumble
Name of Song or Rhyme

Stick Notation:

6 **8**

s, d d d s, s, l, l, l, s, s, d d r r m

r d d d s, s, l, l, l, s, s, s, d m r r d

d m s s m f f f f r m d s m r

s, d d s, s, l, l, l, s, s, d m r r d

C6. Additional Research Notes

Roud Song Index 281. Earlier versions are titled “The Old Man and His Wife”. It appears in the book *English Folk-Songs for Schools* by Baring-Gould and Sharp (1906) with this earlier title. The earliest version I can find is from a manuscript written by Emily S. Baring-Gould (c. 1838), aunt of Sabine Baring-Gould. This earliest version has a similar text, but the melody is very different. In *150 American Folk Songs*, it is attributed as being from “New England”, and the listed source is Eloise Linscott’s *Songs of North America* (The Shoestring Press, Inc.). In *Folk Songs of Old New England* (also by Eloise Linscott, 1962), the following note is given: “Contributed by Phillips Barry, Cambridge, Massachusetts. This ballad is of Scotch origin and is based on a well-known theme in folklore. The oldest version of the story in English goes back to the late fifteenth century. It appeared in James Johnson’s *Scots Musical Museum* in 1787. The song is widely known throughout New England.”

U1. Additional Verses

2. “But you must milk the tiny cow
For fear she should go dry
And you must feed the little pigs
That are within the sty,
And you must watch the bracket hen
Lest she should lay astray,
And you must wind the reel of yarn
That I spun yesterday.”

3. The old woman took the staff in her hand
And went to drive the plough;
The old man took the pail in his hand
And went to milk that cow;
But Tiny hinchd and Tiny flinchd
And Tiny cocked her nose
And Tiny gave the old man such a kick
That the blood ran down to his toes.

U1. Additional Verses

4. 'Twas, “Hey, my good cow,” and “How, my good cow,”
And “Now my good cow, stand still.
If ever I milk this cow again,
‘Twill be against my will.”
And when he’d milked the tiny cow
For fear she should go dry,
Why, then he fed the little pigs
That were within the sty.

5. And then he watched the bracket hen,
Lest she should lay astray.
But he forgot the reel of yarn
His wife spun yesterday.
He swore by all the leaves on the tree,
And all the stars in heaven,
That his wife could do more work in a day
Than he could do in seven.