

Long Time Ago

Name of Song or Rhyme

“Once there was a little kitty”

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	B	Source's Starting Pitch: B4	2/4		R1. Meter
M2. Scale	Incomplete major				R2. Metronome
M3. Toneset	s, t, (d) r m				R3. Note values
M4. Range	V - 3		☐ Outer:	☐ Inner:	R4. Upbeat
M5. Mel. Form	A B A C		☐ Iso	☒ Hetero	A B A C
M6. Cadences	1 2 1 1		6 4 6 4		R6. Beats/phrase
M7. Intervals	s, ↑ d (P4)		☐ Iso	☒ Bi	☒ Tri
M8. Target Phrases	A: m-r-d-t,-r-d-s,-d B: m-r-d-m-r C: t,-r-t,-d		☒ Hetero	☐ Tetra	☐ Other:
			A: . B: . C: .		
M9. M. Diffic.					R9. R. Diffic.
M10. Other					R10. Other
Cultural					Classroom Use
C1. Context	Ballad		Actual Verses on Page 2	5	U1. # of verses
C2. Ethnicity	American				U2. Improv.
C3. Geographic	United States		Recording on John A. Lomax, Jr. Sings American Folksongs, Smithsonian Folkways		U3. Listening
C4. Source: Where did this version come from?	Feierabend, J. M. (2021). <i>The Book of Children's Songtales: Revised Edition</i> (p. 32). GIA Publications, Inc.		Additional Room on Page 2		U4. Game Directions/ Movement
C5. Source info	☐ Primary	☐ Secondary	☒ Tertiary	low ti	U5. Ped. Uses
C6. Research Notes	Additional Room on Page 2 See page 2				U6. Roles
C7. Holiday			Animals		U7. Themes

Once there was a little kit-ty, White as the snow.

She went out to hunt a mou-sie, Long time a - go.

Long Time Ago
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Stick Notation:

Stick notation for the song "Long Time Ago" in 2/4 time. The notation consists of four lines of music. Line 1: A half note (m), a quarter note (r), a half note (d), a quarter note (t), a half note (r), a quarter note (d), a half note (s), and a quarter note (d). Line 2: A half note (m), a quarter note (r), a half note (d), a quarter note (m), a half note (r), and a quarter note (d). Line 3: A half note (m), a quarter note (r), a half note (d), a quarter note (t), a half note (r), a quarter note (d), a half note (s), and a quarter note (d). Line 4: A half note (t), a quarter note (r), a half note (t), and a quarter note (d).

C6. Additional Research Notes

This song's text is a poem attributed to Elizabeth Payson-Prentiss. I am unable to find a primary source of this poem, but a variation does appear (unattributed) in the book *Kittens and Cats: A Book of Tales* (c. 1911) by Eulalie Osgood Grover. Additionally, the text is found (also unattributed) with an additional verse in *Little Susy's Six Birthdays* (1857, A. D. F. Randolph). The text was adapted, apparently by Alan and John A. Lomax, in *American Folk Songs and Ballads* (1934), with a dedication to Hugh Waters of Washington, D.C.

U1. Additional Verses

2. Two black eyes had little kitty,
Black as a crow,
And she spied a little mousie,
Long time ago

3. Four soft paws had little kitty,
Soft as the snow,
And they caught the little mousie,
Long time ago.

U1. Additional Verses

4. Nine pearl teeth had little kitty,
All in a row,
And they bit the little mousie,
Long time ago.

5. When the kitty bit the mousie,
Mousie cried out, "Oh!"
But she got away from kitty,
Long time ago.