



STORY: THE OLD WOMAN AND HER PIG

An English Tale Adapted and Retold by Dianne de Las Casas

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NOTE: This story appears in Dianne de Las Casas' book *Tangram Tales: Story Theater Using the Ancient Chinese Puzzle* (Teacher Ideas Press, 2008).

One evening, an old woman went to market to buy a fat pig. On the way home, she came to a fence. The old woman said,

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Let's go home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)

The old woman tried to get her pig to jump the fence but it wouldn't. She saw a dog and said,

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Let's go home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)

The old woman said, "Dog nip the pig. Pig won't jump the fence and I won't get home tonight!" But the dog would not. She saw a stick and said,

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Let's go home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)

The old woman said, "Stick, poke the dog. Dog won't nip the pig. Pig won't jump the fence and I won't get home tonight!" But the stick would not. She saw a fire and said,

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Let's go home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)

The old woman said, "Fire, burn the stick. Stick won't poke the dog. Dog won't nip the pig. Pig won't jump the fence and I won't get home tonight!" But the fire would not. She saw some water and said,

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Let's go home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)

The old woman said, "Water, quench the fire. Fire won't burn the stick. Stick won't poke the dog. Dog won't nip the pig. Pig won't jump the fence and I won't get home tonight!" But the water would not. She saw an ox and said,

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Let's go home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)

The old woman said, “Ox, drink the water. Water won’t quench the fire. Fire won’t burn the stick. Stick won’t poke the dog. Dog won’t nip the pig. Pig won’t jump the fence and I won’t get home tonight!” But the ox would not. She saw a rope and said,

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Let’s go home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)

The old woman said, “Rope, lasso the ox. Ox won’t drink the water. Water won’t quench the fire. Fire won’t burn the stick. Stick won’t poke the dog. Dog won’t nip the pig. Pig won’t jump the fence and I won’t get home tonight!” But the rope would not. She saw a rat and said,

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Let’s go home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)

The old woman said, “Rat, gnaw the rope. Rope won’t lasso the ox. Ox won’t drink the water. Water won’t quench the fire. Fire won’t burn the stick. Stick won’t poke the dog. Dog won’t nip the pig. Pig won’t jump the fence and I won’t get home tonight!” But the rope would not. She saw a cat and said,

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Let’s go home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)

The old woman said, “Cat, chase the rat. Rat won’t gnaw the rope. Rope won’t lasso the ox. Ox won’t drink the water. Water won’t quench the fire. Fire won’t burn the stick. Stick won’t poke the dog. Dog won’t nip the pig. Pig won’t jump the fence and I won’t get home tonight!” But the cat would not. The cat said, “If you go to the cow and give me milk, I will chase the rat.”

So the old woman went to the cow and said, “Please give me some milk.” The cow said, “I will give you milk if you go to the barn and get me some hay.”

So the old woman went to the barn. Hey! Hey! Hey! The old woman gathered hay!

The old woman gave the hay to the cow. The cow gave her some milk. The old woman gave the milk to the cat. The cat began to chase the rat. The rat began to gnaw the rope. The rope began to lasso the ox. The ox began to drink the water. The water began to quench the fire. The fire began to burn the stick. The stick began to poke the dog. The dog began to nip the pig. The frightened pig jumped over the fence. And that’s how the old woman got home that night.

I went to market to buy a fat pig (clap, clap)
Now I’m home again – jiggedy jig (clap, clap)