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**From: Readers Theatre for Beginning Readers by Suzanne I. Barchers.  
Englewood, Colorado: Teacher Ideas Press, 1993, p. 16.**

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## THE OLD WOMAN AND HER PIG

### Summary

A woman finds a coin and decides to buy a pig in this cumulative English tale. The pig won't jump over the stile, and the woman solicits the help of various characters she meets on her way. RL1.

### Presentation Suggestions

This script includes many characters. However, the woman does the bulk of the reading. With the exception of the last passage, the narrator's role is simple, a departure from most scripts. This is thus a good opportunity for a more tentative reader to assume the narrator's role. For more involvement on the part of the other characters and a resounding finish, the other characters and the audience could join in with the narrator during the reading of the last passage.

Staging could be formal, with the narrator and woman dominating the stage. An alternative is to have the minor characters step forward or stand up during their readings. For a more involved production, the characters could be in order from left to right across the stage. The woman could walk up to each character as they have their exchange, facing sideways to the audience. For the finale, all characters could face forward.

### Props

Each character could be challenged to determine an appropriate prop. Suggestions include a hat for the narrator, an apron or bonnet for the woman, a collar or leash for the dog, a walking stick for the stick, wood for the fire, flowing ribbons for water, a bell for the ox, a butcher's hat or table knife for the butcher, rope for the rope, a rubber mouse or whiskers for the rat, a collar or catnip toy for the cat, and a bell or bucket for the cow.

### Delivery

The many roles offer opportunities for interesting voices. Challenge the students to determine appropriate

voices. Suggestions include a whiney voice for the woman, a barking voice for the dog, a sharp voice for the stick, a crackling voice for the fire, a flowing voice for the water, a deep voice for the ox, a rough voice for the butcher, an undulating voice for the rope, a squeaky voice for the rat, a meowing voice for the cat, and a mooing voice for the cow. The audience could join in as the rhyme accumulates.

### **Related Books**

Kent, Jack. *The Fat Cat*. New York: Scholastic, 1971.

Rockwell, Anne. *The Three Sillies and 10 Other Stories to Read Aloud*. New York: Harper & Row, 1979.

### **Characters**

Narrator Fire Rope

Woman Water Rat

Dog Ox Cat

Stick Butcher Cow

## **THE OLD WOMAN AND HER PIG**

**Narrator:** An old woman was sweeping her house. She found a coin.

**Woman:** What good fortune! I will go to the market and buy a little pig.

**Narrator:** The old woman bought the pig. They came to a little fence, called a stile. The pig wouldn't go over the stile. She went on a bit farther, feeling vexed. Soon she met a dog.

**Woman:** Dog, dog! Bite pig! Piggy won't go over the stile, and I won't get home tonight.

**Dog:** I won't bite pig.

**Narrator:** The woman went a bit farther and met a stick.

**Woman:** Stick, stick! Hit dog! Dog won't bite pig. Piggy won't go over the stile, and I won't get home tonight.

**Stick:** I won't hit dog.

**Narrator:** The woman went a bit farther and met a fire.

**Woman:** Fire, fire! Burn stick! Stick won't hit dog. Dog won't bite pig. Piggy won't go over the stile, and I won't get home tonight.

**Fire:** I won't burn stick.

**Narrator:** The woman went a bit farther and met water.

**Woman:** Water, water! Put out fire! Fire won't burn stick. Stick won't hit dog. Dog won't bite pig. Piggy won't go over the stile, and I won't get home tonight.

**Water:** I won't put out fire.

**Narrator:** The woman went a bit farther and met an ox.

**Woman:** Ox, ox! Drink water! Water won't put out fire. Fire won't burn stick. Stick won't hit dog. Dog won't bite pig. Piggy won't go over the stile, and I won't get home tonight.

**Ox:** I won't drink water.

**Narrator:** The woman went a bit farther and met a butcher.

**Woman:** Butcher, butcher! Kill ox! Ox won't drink water. Water won't put out fire. Fire won't burn stick. Stick won't hit dog. Dog won't bite pig. Piggy won't go over the stile, and I won't get home tonight.

**Butcher:** I won't kill ox.

**Narrator:** The woman went a bit farther and met a rope.

**Woman:** Rope, rope! Hang butcher! Butcher won't kill ox. Ox won't drink water. Water won't put out fire. Fire won't burn stick. Stick won't hit dog. Dog won't bite pig. Piggy won't go over the stile, and I won't get home tonight.

**Rope:** I won't hang butcher.

**Narrator:** The woman went on a bit farther and met a rat.

**Woman:** Rat, rat! Chew rope. Rope won't hang butcher. Butcher won't kill ox. Ox won't drink water. Water won't put out fire. Fire won't burn stick. Stick won't hit dog. Dog won't bite pig. Piggy won't go over the stile, and I won't get home tonight.

**Rat:** I won't chew rope.

**Narrator:** The woman went on a bit farther and met a cat.

**Woman:** Cat, cat! Kill rat! Rat won't chew rope. Rope won't hang butcher. Butcher won't kill ox. Ox won't drink water. Water won't put out fire. Fire won't burn stick. Stick won't hit dog. Dog won't bite pig. Piggy won't go over the stile, and I won't get home tonight.

**Cat:** If you go to the cow and bring me a bowl of milk, I will kill the rat.

**Narrator:** The woman went a bit farther and met a cow.

**Woman:** Cow, cow! I need some milk.

**Cow:** If you get me some hay, I will give you some milk.

**Narrator:** So the old woman got some hay. After the cow had eaten, it gave the old woman some milk. She took the milk to the cat. The cat drank the milk and began to kill rat. The rat began to chew rope. The rope began to hang butcher. The butcher began to kill ox. The ox began to drink water. The water began to put out fire. The fire began to burn stick. The stick began to hit dog. The dog began to bite pig. The pig was so scared it jumped over the stile. And the old woman got home that night.