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Jack and the Robbers

One time when **Jack**— was about twelve his Ma got to fussing at him about every little thing. One day **Jack**— decided that he'd had about enough of this. He thought, "Reckon it's time fer me t'leave home and **seek my fortune**—."


So, early next morning, just as the sun came up, off he went down the road. 

He'd only gone a little way when he met up with an old **horse**—.

"Howdy," he neighed. "Where ye bound?"

"Goin' t'**seek my fortune**— 'cuz my Ma's been fussin' at me so," said **Jack**—.

"My farmer's fussin' at me too 'cause I cain't carry him far n'more. Kin I come with ye?" asked the **horse**—.


"Sure 'nuf, the more the merrier," and off they went down the road: **Jack**— and the **horse**—. 

They'd only gone a little way when they met up with an old **ox**—.

"Howdy," she bellowed. "Where ye bound?"

"Goin' t'**seek my fortune**— 'cuz my Ma's been fussin' at me so," said **Jack**—.

"My farmer's fussin' at me too 'cause I cain't pull my plow deep n'more. Kin I come with ye?" asked the **ox**—.


"Sure 'nuf, the more the merrier," and off they went down the road: **Jack**—, the **horse**—, and the **ox**—. 

They'd only gone a little way when they met up with an old **hound dog**—.

"Howdy," he bayed. "Where ye bound?"

"Goin' t'**seek my fortune**— 'cuz my Ma's been fussin' at me so," said **Jack**—.

"My farmer's fussin' at me too 'cause I cain't track possum good n'more. Kin I come with ye?" asked the **hound dog**—.

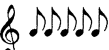
"Sure 'nuf, the more the merrier," and off they went down the road: **Jack**—, the **horse**—, the **ox**—, and the **hound dog**—. 

They'd only gone a little way when they met up with an old **cat**—.

"Howdy," she meowed. "Where ye bound?"

"Goin' t'**seek my fortune**— 'cuz my Ma's been fussin' at me so," said **Jack**—.

"My farmer's fussin' at me too 'cause I cain't catch mice good n'more. Kin I come with ye?" asked the **cat**—.


"Sure 'nuf, the more the merrier," and off they went down the road: **Jack**—, the **horse**—, the **ox**—, the **hound dog**—, and the **cat**—. 

They'd only gone a little way when when they met up with an old **rooster**—.

"Howdy," he crowed. "Where ye bound?"

"Goin' t'**seek my fortune**— 'cuz my Ma's been fussin' at me so," said **Jack**—.

"My farmer's fussin' at me too 'cause I cain't crow loud 'nuf n'more. Kin I come with ye?" asked the **rooster**—.

"Sure 'nuf, the more the merrier," and off they went down the road: **Jack**—, the **horse**—, the **ox**—, the **hound dog**—, the **cat**—, and the **rooster**—. 

Well now, as they went along it got dark so they looked for a place to stay. They saw a path leading to a deserted-looking house with a fallen-down fence around it. The door was open so in they went. Before **Jack**— went to sleep he asked his friends to keep watch at different places just in case: the **ox**— outside the gate, the **horse**— inside the gate, the **hound dog**— outside the door, the **cat**— beside the hearth, the **rooster**— up on the roof.

What they didn't know was that some **robbers**— had hidden their money in that old house and were heading back to get it that very night! It was real dark when they got there so the **robbers**— sent one fellow in to make sure no one was there. He crept up to the gate right past the old **ox**—, who had fallen asleep. He crept into the yard right past the old **horse**—, who had fallen asleep. He crept up on the porch, right past the old **hound dog**—, who had fallen asleep. He crept into the house right under the **rooster**—, who had fallen asleep. And he crept up to the hearth, where the old **cat**— had not fallen asleep. Her eyes were wide open and staring as the robber came over to the hearth to light a fire. When he bent down he thought the cat's eyes were left-over coals so he blew on them real hard.

Before you could say "scatter-wumpus" the **cat**— let out a yowl and scratched his face something awful. He went reeling toward the door where the **hound dog**—, who had woken up, growled real loud and bit him a good one on the leg. This made him tumble off the porch where the **horse**—, who had woken up, gave a big old whinny and kicked him head-over-heels clean out to the fence where the **ox**—, who had woken up, gave a bellow, stuck her horns into his behind and pitched him clean out to the road. Then the **rooster**—, who had woken up, began crowing like two suns were coming up.

Hearing all that racket, the **robbers**— put out from there fast as they could. When the one they'd sent in caught up they asked him, "What in tarnation happened in thar?"

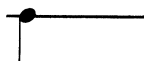
"Ooooh, I'm kilt, I'm a-dyin," he moaned. That house is plumb full of mean men. I went t'blowin' on some coals t'git the fire goin' and a man raked over m'face with his two-inch fingernails, hollerin' too. Then a man by the door tore up my leg with his butcher knife. As I was a-stumblin off the porch two giants sent me flyin' across the yard with blows t'my back. Then a'fore I knows it this feller with a giant pitch fork digs it into m'beehind and slings me clean out t'the road. T'top it off the leader was a'hollerin' from the roof, 'chunk him up he-e-e-re, chunk him up he-e-e-re.' Ain't no use'n us never goin' there agin."

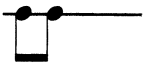
So the **robbers**— all ran off down the road to never come back.

Come morning, **Jack**— took a good look around and found the robbers' money. He was so pleased that he went to town and bought a whole wagon load of food for his friends— oats for the **horse**—, hay for the **ox**—, bones for the **hound dog**—, milk for the **cat**—, and ground corn for the **rooster**—. And they all lived happily there the rest of their lives. All except **Jack**—. He'd found his fortune all right, but he'd gotten mighty hungry for his Ma's biscuits. So, he went on back home and you know, he got along fine with her from then on.

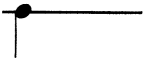


CHARACTER SPECIAL EFFECTS


Jack  wood block

Hound Dog  conga drum


Seek My Fortune  glockenspiel

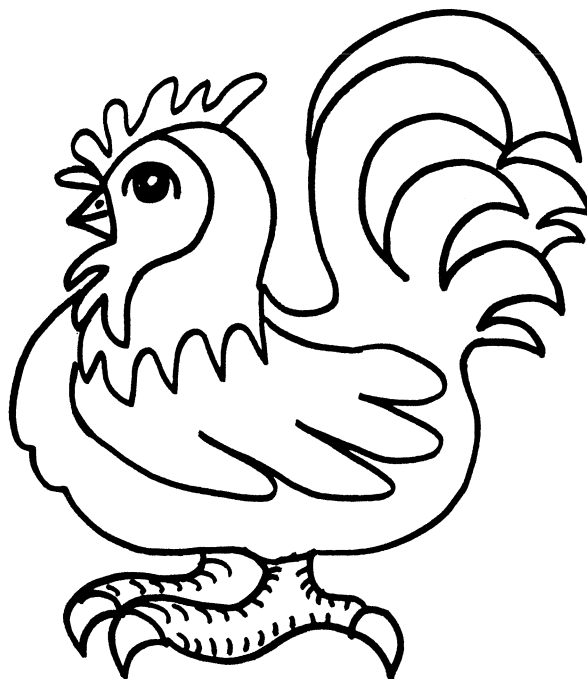
Cat  finger cymbal

Horse  sleigh bells

Rooster  vibraslap

Ox  cow bell

Robbers  temple blocks



Wanna Come Along?

Lyrics by Linda High

Melody adapted from "Cripple Creek"

Intro ♩ = 96

1 2 4

Verse

5 V

1. Jack set out at break of day. Don't want to stay here;
2+ That old horse* went neigh, neigh*. Can I come a - long with

8 V

go - in' a - way. Jack set out at break of day.
you to - day? That old horse* went neigh, neigh*.

11 V

Gon - na find my for - tune, find it my way.