

Learning possibilities

Text: Adams, P (ill.) 1973, *There was an old lady who swallowed a fly*, Child's Play (International) Ltd, Purton, Wilts, England.

Engage

- Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.
- Step 2. Read/watch the story and encourage your child/children to join in.
- Step 3. Invite your child/children to recall the characters in the story.
- Step 4. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.
 1. Show me the first creature that the old lady swallowed.
 2. What creatures did the old lady swallow?
 3. Which animal makes this noise: moo/bark/buzz?
 4. I wonder if this story could really happen? Why/Why not?

Respond

Encourage your child/children to retell the story making the characters with playdough or to act it out.

Extend

- Talk about the foods that people like to eat and discuss your child/children's favourite foods, likes and dislikes. Invite your child/ children to paint or draw a picture of themselves and talk about the foods that they like to eat. Write their comments below their painting or drawing to model writing for a purpose.
- Try using the following text variation for *There was an old lady who swallowed a fly* when your child/children are having a fruit snack.

There was an old lady

There was an old lady who swallowed some fruit
It tasted so good, it made her feel beaut,

She swallowed a berry that was not a cherry
Raspberry, strawberry, but NOT a cherry.

There was an old lady who swallowed a pear
That pear though delicious, but NOT a square,

There was an old lady who swallowed a plum
Oh boy, that plum was surely NOT yum,

There was an old lady who swallowed a seed
Oh my, look now, she's growing a weed!

Resources

Video

[Animated] *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly! Read Aloud Books for Children!* (YouTube, Pink Penguin)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3ee7Tj8qZo>

I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly - Nursery Rhymes for Kids - Kids Songs - The Learning Station (YouTube, TheLearningStation – Kids Songs and Nursery Rhymes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNwmzDlyCt8>