

## **Churning Song**

(as collected in Eastern Kentucky)  
Sing to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell"

Churn churn churn, this is churning day,  
Til the golden butter comes the dasher must not stay.

Pat pat pat, make it smooth and round,  
Now the golden butter's done won't you buy a pound.

## **Churning**

(as sung by Jean Ritchie)

Copyright 1955 by Jean Ritchie *Singing Family of the Cumberlands*

Churn, churn, make some butter for my little girlie's supper...  
Jean's mad, and I'm glad and I know what to please her—  
A bottle of wine to make her shine and pretty little boy to squeeze her!  
A bottle of likker to make her snicker and Poppy come home to tease her!  
A bottle of corn just sure as you're born and a pretty little boy to squeeze her!  
A bottle of red to suit her head and Poppy come home to tease her!  
Churn, churn, make some butter for a little bad girl's supper....

*This song was sung to Jean Ritchie as small child by her mother, who was "punishing" her by making her churn butter after she had broken a screen door. She sat on her mother's lap and, in fact, the "punishment" was mother's way of calming her little girl. Teachers may be interested to hear this version, though the text is likely inappropriate for children in school.*

## **Among the Little White Daisies**

1. Lucy is her first name, first name, first name,  
Lucy is her first name, among the little white daisies.
2. Wilson is her last name, last name, last name,  
Wilson is her last name, among the little white daisies.
3. George is his first name....
4. Sims is his second name....
5. Poor George is dead and gone....
6. Left poor Lucy a widow....
7. Twenty-four children at her feet....
8. One, two, three, four (counting in speaking voice)

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Directions: During the first and second verse, children join hands and walk around “Lucy” (use name of child who is “it”) in center. Change direction at third verse (Lucy chooses a person of opposite sex to name). On verse 5, rest head on hands and on verse 6 shake head in sorrow. Stretch out hands at verse 7, and as children count (speaking) up to twenty-four, Lucy taps children’s hands as she counts around the circle. The person on whom she lands last, becomes the next “it”.

## The Swapping Song

1. When I was a little boy I lived by my self,  
And all the bread and cheese I got I kept upon a shelf

**Refrain (after each verse)**

Wing, wang waddle,  
To my Jack-straw straddle,  
To my John fair faddle  
To my long way home.

2. The rats and the mice they led such a life,  
I had to go to London to buy me a wife

3. The lanes were so long and streets were so narrow,  
I had to bring her home on an old wheel barrow.

4. The wheel barrow broke and my wife got a fall,  
Down came the wheel barrow, little wife and all.

5. Swapped my wheel barrow and got me a horse,  
Then I rode from cross to cross.

6. Swapped my horse and got me a mare,  
Then rode from fair to fair.

7. Swapped my mare and got me a mule,  
Then I rode like a dag-gone fool.

8. Swapped my mule and got me a cow,  
In that trade, I just learned how.

9. Swapped my cow and got me a calf,  
In that trade I just lost half.

10. Swapped my calf and got me a sheep,  
Then I rode myself to sleep.

11. Swapped my sheep and got me a hen,  
Oh, what a pretty thing I had then.

12. Swapped my hen and got me a rat,  
Put it in the hay stack away from the cat.

13. Swapped my rat and got me a mole,  
Dag-gone thing ran straight for its hole!

## **Foolish Jack (The Swapping Boy)**

Copyright 1958 *Old Greasybeard: Tales from the Cumberland Gap*

Once upon a time there was a boy named Jack and he lived with his mom. They lived in a poor part of the country and didn't have much to eat and wear and didn't have much to live on because his mother was a widder. So one day, the mother called Jack in from his play and she says, "I want you to go over to my kinfolks who live on the other side of two mountains and I want you to borrey some money for us."

So Jack said, "Yes, Mom, I'll go."

And now Jack was noted throughout all the community as Foolish Jack because he did such foolish things. So Jack took off and put his knapsack on his back and went off to the kin folks to borrey some money. So when he got the relatives (and they were quite rich) they said, "Why, sure, Jack, we'll give you some money if you are having a hard time." And they give him a big bag of gold.

As he was going along and he was up the first big mountain and on top of it, he met a man with a beautiful white horse, and the man said, "Why hello, Jack!" Where are you going?"

Jack said, "Well, I'm going home."

The man said, "Why, where have you been?"

Jack said, "I've been over to my people to borrey some money."

The man said, "How would you like to have this horse I've got here, Jack?"

Jack said, "Boy, I sure would like to have that horse. Would you trade it for my bag of gold?"

The man said, "Why of course, Jack, -it will be an even swap." So he give Jack his horse and Jack give him the money.

So Jack went on riding his big fine horse and got about halfway down the first hill and he met another man and this man was leading a cow. It was a great big brown beautiful Jersey cow. Jack said, "Why, hello, buddy!"

"Why, hello, Jack. Where are you going?"

"I'm going home."

"Well, where have you been?"

"I've been to my people to borrey some money and I traded it for this horse." He said, "Say, that sure is a purty cow you have there."

"It sure is. It gives milk and I think-I think-would you like to have this cow, Jack?"

Jack said, "Why yes-would you trade it for my horse?"

"Why yes-you could have some real milk with this cow."

So Jack said, "Well, I'm glad to get shet of this horse anyway. It wouldn't let me ride on it and it was a stubborn mean thing."

So Jack took the cow and went on down in the valley and he stopped to get some milk from the cow and the cow kicked him, knocked him 'way back. Well, he was getting real mad. So he met a man with a sheep and the man said, "Hello, Jack!"

And Jack said, "Why, hello, there."

The man said, "Where are you going?"

Jack said, "Why, I'm going home. I been over to my people to borrey some money. And they give me some gold and I traded it off to a man that had a horse, and the horse wouldn't let me ride it. So I traded it off to a man that had a cow and the cow wouldn't give any milk and she kicked me. Would you trade that sheep to me for this cow?"

The man said, "Why sure, Jack!" And the man chuckled up his sleeve and said, "That would be a real easy swap."

So Jack took the sheep and the man took the cow and he went on a little farther up the other mountain and he met a man that had a pig. And he said, "Hello Jack. Where have you been?"

"I've been up to my people to borrey some money and they give me some gold and I traded it off for a stubborn old horse and I traded the stubborn old horse for a cow that kicked me and wouldn't give me any milk. And I got this sheep and stopped to let it pick grass and I set down and it butted me. I want to get shet of it. Would you trade your pig for it?"

"Why sure, Jack, I would like to trade my pig." And he chuckled up his sleeve too. So he give Jack the pig and Jack give him the sheep. And Jack started on and he come to where there was a man sorter in a village and the man was whetting on a whetrock. Jack said, "Why hello there, Mister Man."

The man said, "Why hello, Jack. Where have you been?"

"Oh, I've been on a long journey over two mountains to borrey some money for my mom."

"Where is your money, Jack?"

"Well, I traded it off to a horse and it wouldn't ride me, so I traded it off to a cow and the cow wouldn't let me milk her, so I traded it off for a sheep and the sheep butted me, so I traded it off to this pig. And this pig has run me all over these parts and I just can't keep up with it a-tall."

The man said, "Well, well, Jack. I believe I'll help you out. You are a nice boy. Would you like to trade this pig that runs all over the place for this nice smooth whetrock?"

"Boy, you sure are good to me," said Jack. "Yeah, man, I'll change."

So he took the whetrock and went on and by that time it was getting real late and dark coming on. When he was just about home he passed a pond that had frogs in it. And the frogs were hollering and they kept hollering and it annoyed him very much and he said, "You all, you all down there in that pond, you hush." And they didn't hush. They just griped and griped and went on and on. Jack said, "I told you all to hush. If you don't hush I'm going to throw this whetrock at you." So they didn't hush and went on croaking and griping. And he said, "I told you." And he drawed the rock back over his head and throwed it down in the pond. The frogs hushed for a minute. And he said, "Well, I guess I fixed you."

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So he went on home. And his mommy was sitting by the fire, hoping he would hurry back so they would have time to go somewhere and trade a little gold for some flour or meal or something to make for supper. And Jack called to her and said, "Why hello, Mommy. See I'm back and I'm about the smartest boy you ever had."

She said, "You are? Why Jack, where's the money?"

He said, "Why Mommy, they give me a big bag of gold and I didn't want to carry it so I traded it off to a man that had a great big fine white horse."

She said, "Where's the horse?"

He said, "Well, that horse would let me ride it so I got sorter mad and a man come along with a cow and I-I traded horse to his cow."

And she said, "Ho, Jack, where's the cow?"

He said, "Well, I was going along and I got kindly thirsty and that man said the cow would give me some milk and I tried to milk her and she kicked me, and after that I didn't like that cow."

So she said, "You mean you traded the cow off?"

"Yes, I traded it to a sheep."

"Oh, Jack, where's the sheep?"

"Why I traded it off to a pig because it butted me and the pig run all over the place, and Mom, I traded it off to a whetrock."

And she said, "A whetrock! Where's the whetrock?"

Jack said, "You know, Mom, you allas said—told me never to let anybody make fun of me. Well, I was coming along by a pond and the frogs was hollering at me and griping and I just throwed it in the pond—and buddy, I fixed them, I did."

And with that Jack's mother fainted. And that was natural, for she allas did faint a lot because her son was allas doing such foolish things.