

# OLD MOTHER HUBBARD

Full text of 1895 edition

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Old Mother Hubbard  
Went to the cupboard,  
To give the poor dog a bone;  
When she came there,  
The cupboard was bare,  
And so the poor dog had none.

She went to the baker's  
To buy him some bread;  
When she came back  
The dog was dead!

She went to the undertaker's  
To buy him a coffin;  
When she came back  
The dog was laughing.

She took a clean dish  
To get him some tripe;  
When she came back  
He was smoking his pipe.

She went to the alehouse  
To get him some beer;  
When she came back  
The dog sat in a chair.

She went to the tavern  
For white wine and red;  
When she came back  
The dog stood on his head.

She went to the fruiterer's  
To buy him some fruit;  
When she came back  
He was playing the flute.

She went to the tailor's  
To buy him a coat;  
When she came back  
He was riding a goat.

She went to the hatter's  
To buy him a hat;  
When she came back  
He was feeding her cat.

She went to the barber's  
To buy him a wig;  
When she came back  
He was dancing a jig.

She went to the cobbler's  
To buy him some shoes;  
When she came back  
He was reading the news.

She went to the sempstress  
To buy him some linen;  
When she came back  
The dog was spinning.

She went to the hosier's  
To buy him some hose;  
When she came back  
He was dressed in his clothes.

The Dame made a curtsy,  
The dog made a bow;  
The Dame said, Your servant;  
The dog said, Bow-wow.

This wonderful dog  
Was Dame Hubbard's delight,  
He could read, he could dance,  
He could sing, he could write;  
She gave him rich dainties  
Whenever he fed,  
And erected this monument  
When he was dead.



## Unusual Mothers in History No. 27

### Old Mother Hubbard



Old Mother Hubbard  
went to the cupboard  
to fetch her poor dog a bone.  
But when she got there,  
the cupboard was bare,  
and so the poor dog had none.

She went to the fishmonger's  
to buy him some fish,  
but when she came back  
he was licking the dish.

She went to the grocer's  
to buy him some fruit,  
but when she came back

he was playing the flute.

She went to the cobbler's  
to buy him some shoes,  
but when she got back  
he was reading the news.

She went to the hosier's  
To buy him some hose.  
When she came back  
He was dressed in his clothes  
and composing some prose  
and picking his nose  
with his toes. (Yo-ho.)



## Discussion Questions

1. Back in the 1500s, when this heart-stopping tale was concocted, did **NONE** rhyme with **BONE**? Or is **BONE** a typo and Mother Hubbard was actually looking for a **BUN**?
2. Why didn't Mother H just put the fish in the dish? Did she eat the fish herself? Baked or fricasseed?
3. Inasmuch as dogs neither eat fruit nor play the flute, which of these alternative scenarios is more credible: "She went to the grocer's to buy him some **KIBBLE**, but when she got back he was playing the **FIDDLE**"; or "She went to the butcher's to get him a **BONE**, but when she got back **HE WAS JOEY RAMONE**"?
4. The plot twist whereby Mother H begins shopping for footwear rather than food has intrigued scholars for centuries. There is evidence that the original version read, "She went to the cobbler's to buy him some **BIRKENSTOCKS**, but when she got back **HE WAS EATING HIS NERDY SOCKS**." Of **COURSE** he was. Would **YOU** wear socks with Birkenstocks? Would you let your **DOG**? Why or why not?
5. Is it time for Mother Hubbard and her dog to go live with her son and daughter-in-law in Prospect Heights?
6. Why can't every mother be just exactly like
7. **YOU**?

Happy Mothers' Day!