

## Zipper Rhymes and Songs

(Grades K-5)

A lesson plan to compliment the storytelling of Bill Harley.

Prepare:

- *Sitting Down to Eat* by Bill Harley book (CD also available)
- Learn the tune to *Sitting Down to Eat* – Your music teacher may be of help reading the music, or you can find the recording by the author Bill Harley as well.
- Display of Lyrics on large format cards, easel paper, slide show, or just a list of the animals.
- Obtain other picture books using the same zipper rhyme or song format (see list below).

Share:

Zipper songs have a pattern using different words. Think of the story *There was an Old Lady that Swallowed a Fly*. As you sing through each verse and the children give you the next verse make a chart that shows how the song “zips” all the additional animals inside each successive verse. Each verse has a consistent part and a part that changes. Ask the class if they know other zipper songs , rhymes, or stories.

Read the picture book *Sitting Down to Eat*. Try letting the students guess the next animal that will arrive on each page!

Teach and Sing the Song:

Using the display of lyrics or the list of animals you can then teach the class the song.

Extensions:

- Let students write more verses to the song adding stranger animals and following the pattern.
- Examine other zipper rhyme books and do a comparison chart or venn diagram.
- Write their own zipper story without emphasis on rhyming so as not to hinder their writing or creativity.

Books	Audio
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The Wheels on the Bus</i> by Mary-Alice Moore</li><li>• <i>Bear's All Night Party</i> by Bill Harley</li><li>• <i>There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly</i> by Simms Taback</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Car Songs</i> by Dennis Buck</li><li>• <i>There's a Pea on My Plate</i> by Bill Harley</li><li>• <i>Early Childhood Classics</i> by Hap Palmer</li></ul>