

Tom, Tom the pipers son

Bodley Head - Tom, Tom, The Piper's Son (Learnt to Play)



Description: -

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Notes: Originally published, New York, McGraw-Hill, 1964.

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Thanks and Acknowledgements The first illustration and the first version of the rhyme come from Kate Greenaway's Mother Goose or the Old Nursery Rhymes 1881. D'Urfey's and Gay's versions both refer to lovers, while Farquhar's version refers to fleeing overseas to join the army. Sharing nursery songs and rhymes like Tom, Tom the Piper's Son with kids is actually more important than many people realise.

Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son (film)

It's the rhyme sung by Pigling Bland in Beatrix Potter's story as he went off to market: Tom, he was a piper's son, He learnt to play when he was young. And all the tune that he could play Was 'Over the hills and far away'; Over the hills and a great way off, The wind shall blow my top-knot off.

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The second illustration, the score and the tune all come from The Baby's Opera by Walter Crane 1877 , with a little graphic editing from Mama Lisa. Tom with his pipe did play with such skill That those who heard him could never keep still; As soon as he played they began for to dance, Even pigs on their hind legs would after him prance. It is a romantic dream of escape, with no military references.

Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son

Tom with his pipe made such a noise, That he pleased both the girls and boys, They all stopped to hear him play, 'Over the hills and far away'.

Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son (1969)

The words have changed over the years, as can be seen in the versions below. As Dolly was milking the cows one day Tom took out his pipe and began to play; So Doll and the cows danced the Cheshire cheese round, Till the pail was broke and the milk spilt on the ground.

Tom, Tom, The Piper's Son

The pig was eat And Tom was beat, And Tom went crying Down the street. Over the Hills and O'er the Main, To Flanders, Portugal and Spain, The queen commands and we'll obey Over the Hills and far away.

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King George commands and we obey Over the hills and far away. This version was also recorded by who played in the series. Tom, Tom the Piper's Son, like most other nursery rhymes were passed down orally from parents to their children for many, many years before anyone thought to write them down.

Tom, Tom, The Piper's Son (Learned to Play)

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