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*Tales
For Picture Books*

*Owen - James Owen
2835 North Highway A1A - 903
Indialantic Florida 32903
407 - 777- 1901*

Tales

Alligator Foo
Elephante'
Top Hat Wombat
Coo - Coo - Kookabura
The Great Gray Ghost
A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing
Leggety - Peggety - Bird
Bunny Squirrel
Crocodyle Kyle
Penthouse Pussycats
Alley Cat
Sea Turtle
Dingo Dog
Kira
Gofor' Turtle
Minnie
Right-On Whale
Ol' Dog
Wilson
Pitty-Pat
Snicker-Snake
Tale of a Tail
Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

Alligator Foo

Who's our favorite in the zoo -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Who dines on one before he eats two -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Who's ol' hide is tougher than shoe -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Who chomps up bears like Winnie the Pooh -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Who has rows of teeth to chew and chew -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

And - who'd like to dine on me and you?

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator

And a Foo To You *Too!*

[Picture]

Elephante'

Trippin' through the jungle - free - happy and gay

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Stoppin' to munch on trees and leaves and hay

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Captured by a mean ol' nasty ol' Rick O'Shay

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Sailin' o'er the ocean - trumpetin' anchors away

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Sailin' away - today - goin' a long - long way

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Anchoring off San Francisco - way out in the bay

Big ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Walkin' to the Zoo - cold - lonely and gray

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Locked up in chains - no longer happy - or gay

Big' Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Top Hat Wombat

Spending his nights on the town
A dapper marsupial - at that
He's fat - and furry - and round
Debonair Wombat - in the top hat -

[Picture]

Where kangaroos hop up and around
Top Hat Wombat scampers low and fast
Where cute koalas like to hang upside down
You'll find our Top Hat Wombat -

[Picture]

Where platypus swims in a blue billabong
Top Hat Wombat digs holes in the ground
Where kookaburra laughs a crow caw song
Top Hat Wombat makes nary a sound -

[Picture]

Livin' in Australia - a bonzer place
Top Hat Wombat is the wizard of Oz
Where wallabies bounce with speed and grace
Top Hat Wombat twirls a cane - 'cause -

[Picture]

Top Hat Wombat struts his stuff downtown
And smiles as he tips his too-tall top hat
Top Hat Wombat is a friend - an Aussie clown
Everyone loves Top Hat Wombat - in -

[Picture]

Top Hat - Hat - Top Hat - Hat - Top Hat - Hat - Top Hat

Coo - Coo - Kookaburra

Our tired swagman falls asleep

Under a coolibah tree

And awakes to mad laughter

Ha-Ha Ha-Ha wild and free -

[Picture]

Coo-Coo Kookaburra

High above on one tree limb

Cocks her head to one side and

Looks down - down at him -

[Picture]

Coo-Coo Kookaburra

Flutters down from high on her perch

And flies around and around his head before

Landing with a lurch -

[Picture]

Coo-Coo Kookaburra

Perches on our swagman's knee

And sings - "Laugh my Aussie mate and

You'll laugh along with me" -

[Picture]

Coo-Coo Kookaburra

Laughs out her crow caw

Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha

[Picture]

The Great Gray Ghost

When you hear **Bumpity - Bumpity - Bump**

On a cold and windy - moonless night

Who's that goin' **Lumpity - Lumpity - Lump**

Around the corner - out of sight -

[Picture]

Could it be your - imagination

Or just the wind in the trees

Or could it be - ***The Great Gray Ghost***

A-crawling in on his knees -

[Picture]

The Great Gray Ghost hides in your toy box

And swims on top - above your pool

The Great Gray Ghost hides under your table

Ol' Gray Ghost knows how to fool -

[Picture]

The Great Gray Ghost hides 'round a-corner

The Great Gray Ghost hides under your bed

The Great Gray Ghost hides in the morning

And jumps out - at night - instead -

[Picture]

Remember -

The Great Gray Ghost can't live in sunlight

The Great Gray Ghost's afraid of Mother's broom

The Great Gray Ghost will run away from Father

It only knows how to loom -

[Picture]

If you see a gray aberration

A-comin' out of the gloom

Hurry - and duck under your covers

The Great Gray Ghost has entered your room

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing is a hairy hunch

Growlin' when he's 'round and about

Tryin' to catch us for lunch - with

A-Whoop' - A-Holler' - And A-Shout!

[Picture]

Can't shoo him away with whisper

Or scare him away with shout

Or calling for help from Mother

Or runnin' away with a pout

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing shakes and shakes

When the dog barks

And runs from a pussy cat's meow

He covers his ears from

The song of a lark

And his eyes from the milk of a cow -

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing can't find us

When we're safely in our bed

When we hide under the covers

Ol' Hairy Red Thing has to play dead -

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing can't give us a fright

If we keep our eyes shut tight -

[Picture]

Oh my

We mustn't peek out -

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing

Will jump out

and

Grab us by our snout!

[Picture]

Leggety - Peggety - Bird

Brave little one leggety peggety bird
All alone - no friends at your side
Hoppin' alone - away from your herd
Climbin' sand dunes - avoidin' the tide -

[Picture]

Balancing on one leggety - peggety
Hoppity - hoppity - over the sand
Ahead of each wave - leggety - peggety
All alone - least of the sandpiper clan -

[Picture]

One hop - Two hop - Three hop - A
Four hop - Five hop - Six hop - B
Seven hop - Eight hop - Nine hop - C
Ten hop - Eleven hop - Twelve hop D -

[Picture]

Hoppity - hoppity - stoppin' to see
Peck - peck - peckin' at the sand
Fly - fly - fly - fly away free
One up - Two down - followed by Three -

[Picture]

Fly - fly - fly - fly away high
Swoop - swoop - swoop - down toward the sand
Skim - skim - skim - skim waves blue as sky
Brave little one leggety - peggety - friend -

Bunny Squirrel

Sits in the dew
Her tail's only
An inch or two -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Scampers up our Oak tree
With all four feeter
On our bird feeder -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Stuffs her cheeks - with
'Nough seed for weeks -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Swings 'round and around
Her friends are downtown -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Smiles at Pretty Missy
Sits up all prissy -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Twitches a pointy nose
Dances on her toes -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Sees Snicker Snake slither
Under the garden gate
Pretty Missy does too
And she says shoo -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Gives her tail a twirl
As Snicker Snake slithers
Away from these dithers -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Runs through the flowers
Twirls her tail for hours -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Wearin' a wild flower crown
She's climbin' down -

Bunny Squirrel
Curls up in her nest
For a long night's rest -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
With Stubby and Myrl
Her tail she does a-twirl
A-happy - happy - Bunny Squirrel

[Picture]

Crocodile Kyle

.: Floating silently with cunning and guile
Deep down - in one black stump - billabong
Searching for dinner with a sharp tooth smile
Crocodile Kyle glides - glides quietly along -

[Picture]

Motionless - floatin' - out in the bush
Crocodile Kyle hides a sneaky snoot smile
Waiting for wallaby - or a playful platypus
One stomach clock ticks in crafty ol' Kyle -

[Picture]

Dining on duck - under one hot sun bake
Searching for fish - for a second course
Cleaning his teeth with one garden rake
Kyle's hungry enough - to eat one horse -

[Picture]

Dingo dog - wanders by for one drink
Kyle glides over to billabong's edge
Eyes popping up - with nary a blink
He braces his feet on an underwater ledge -

[Picture]

Billabong boils as Kyle pushes off
Jaws open wide - to snatch one dingo dog
But dingo dodges with a-bark and a-scoff
As Crocodile Kyle chomps down on one log

[Picture]

Penthouse Pussycats

Penthouse Pussycats - way up in the sky

Oh My - Oh My -

[Picture]

Sigh - oh - me

Two - not three

Penthouse Pussycats do I see

Not Alley Cats three -

[Picture]

Two Penthouse Pussycats

Not wistful Alley Cats

Chase after one mouse

Up in their penthouse -

[Picture]

They might be him-a-layin

But I'm not a-sayin'

What country they're from

'Cause they're too much fun -

[Picture]

Top of the mark Penthouse Pussycats

Not wily ol' Alley Cats

Live up in the sky

Oh My - Oh My

[Picture]

Alley Cat

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
All covered with soot
From head to her foot -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
Takes her catnap
On Pretty Missy's lap -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
Ruffles her fur
And rumbles a-purr -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
Chin whiskers - this
Chin whiskers - that -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
White feet and underbelly
Furry soft - not smelly -

[Picture]

Alley Cat- Alley Cat
Arches her back high
It's the fourth of July -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Thinks Pretty Missy

Is perky and prissy -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Leads Pretty Missy's Band

A baton in her hand -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Scampers though the crowd

Meowing - out loud -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Leads Pretty Missy's Band

Into the Grandstand -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Sits on Pretty Missy's Lap

To a drummer's - Rat-a-Tat-Tat -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Rat-a-Tat-Tat

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Rat-a-Tat-Tat

[Picture]

Sea Turtle

A great green movin' reef
With flippers - tail and head
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

[Picture]

Swimmin' back to Florida sands
Resting underwater - sunup to sunset
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

Swimmin' - swimmin' toward her nest -

[Picture]

Stayin' offshore till midnight
Climbin' a dune in the moonlight -

[Picture]

Stopping - floppin' - high on the dune
Diggin' - diggin' - down deep - a nest
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

No time to rest -

[Picture]

Coverin' - coverin' - eggs under sand
Flipper prints amblin' out to the surf
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

Swimmin' free -

[Picture]

Baby turtles hatch under the sand dune
And crawl out - scamperin' toward the moon
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

[Picture]

Baby turtles swim - swim away free
To the safety of the sea
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead

[Picture]

Dingo Dog

Douglas Dingo whistles an Outback - tune

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Trotting under an Alice Spring's - moon

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Lookin' for tucker to feed to his - pack

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Stubs his paws on a jolly swagman's - sack

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Swagman laughs - "Matilda's tucker for two"

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

"I'll share my tucker with dingo dog - too"

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

"Not enough for your pack - dingo dog"

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

"Hardly enough for a black stump frog"

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Douglas dingo barks - a happy thank you

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do

[Picture]

Takes tucker home for his family of two

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do

Kira

Happiest marsupial - high up in a coolibah tree

Kira Koala Bear sleeps in - way after three

[Picture]

And then wakes up for a eucalyptus leaf snack

After eatin' her tucker - takes a practice nap -

[Picture]

Kira rests in a tree - above a billabong - deep

As a jolly swagman's song lulls her back to sleep

[Picture]

He's resting in the shade of Kira's coolibah tree

And picking up sticks to cook his billy-boil tea -

[Picture]

This jolly swagman takes a rest from everyday toil

Lightin' a camp fire to cook his - billy-boil

[Picture]

Kira's nose twitches - "What's that on the breeze"

Kira sniffs - at smoke floatin' up in her tree -

[Picture]

Kira drops one branch down on the swagman's toes
The jolly swagman looks up - scratching his nose

[Picture]

He squints upward - high into Kira's coolibah tree
"Why'd you drop that coolibah branch down on me" -

[Picture]

Kira twitches her nose at smoke from his fire
He slaps his leg - "Didn't know it was dire"

[Picture]

He opens his sack and sings to Kira up her tree
"Why don't you come a-waltzin' Matilda with me"

Gofor' Turtle

Is large and round - and round
Along the edge of the palmetos
She is found - found - found -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle
Lives deep - deep - deep and warm
Inside her cozy - cozy burrow
Hidin' from - harm - harm - harm -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle
Around and about ten - every day
Sticks out her nose to see if she'll
Come outside or stay - stay - stay -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle
Crawls up - up - up out of her burrow
And looks around - around for Aunt Myrtle
A round - round - round - gopher turtle -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle
Naps under the mornin' sun - sun - sun
Wakes to Aunt Myrtle's nudge - nudge - nudge
It's time for gopher turtle fun - fun - fun -

Gofor' Turtle

Ambles over to Mr. Frog's bog - bog - bog
Doin' a-zig - zig and a-zag - zag and a-zog
By Mr. Frog - perched on his log - log - log -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle

Nudges Mr. Frog on his log - log - log
Mr. Frog clears his throat - throat - throat
Jumps down - lets out a croak - croak - croak -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle

Hears Old Dog's bark - bark - bark
Pulls in her tail and toes - toes - toes
Sniffs the air with her nose - nose - nose -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle

Smells vanilla and spies Pretty Missy
And pucker - pucker - puckers' up
For Pretty Missy's kiss - kiss - kissy -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle

And Aunt Myrtle

Are all starry eyed

And flirtle

Minnie

Tiniest manatee in her family

Finnin' and strokin' 'round

Middlin' Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Swimmin' under river and sea

Seven hundred pounds of clown

Munchkin Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Pokin' her head above water to see

Boats sailing round on the sound

Mindful Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Grazin' on sea grass free

Doesn't see the boat comin' down

Muddled Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Tumblin' spinnin' and flee

From the propeller's grindin' sound

Mangled Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Boaters runnin' fast and free

Mindless mass of sub-humanity

Floating motionless on the sea

Mauled Minnie Manatee

Right-on Whale

Divin' down - down deep under the sea

Searchin' for anchovies and krill -

[Picture]

Frolickin' - rollin' - spinnin' with glee

Happy - Oh Happy - Oh Happy - Right Whale -

[Picture]

Swimmin' up - up - to the top of the sea

Bubblin' bubbles frothy as uncapped ale -

[Picture]

Spoutin' a stream of water - high up to the sky

Happy - Oh Happy - Oh Happy - Right Whale -

[Picture]

Soundin' - shiverin' - air turnin' frosty

Snow's blowing in - on a noreast gale -

[Picture]

It's time - oh time - to migrate southward

Happy - Oh Happy - Oh Happy - Right Whale -

[Picture]

Swimmin' south - dodgin' one cruise ship

And an occasional boat - under sail -

[Picture]

Looking for others to share her migration

Happy - Oh Happy - Oh Happy - Right Whale -

[Picture]

Wallowin' in solitaire off Cape Canaveral

Lonely as a caged bird - locked up in jail -

[Picture]

Whalers have taken all her family -

Woebegone - Oh Woebegone - Oh Woebegone

Right Whale

Ol' Dog

Ol' Dog scratches and scrunches

And eats Pretty Missy's lunches

Then sleeps like a log

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog rolls round and round on the floor

And scratches and scrunches some more

Then trots out the door

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog jumps into a puddle of water

And splashes the neighbor's daughter

Then wags his tail

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog jumps a jog near Mr. Frog's bog

Mr. Frog jump - jump - jumps away

Doesn't want to get in Ol' Dog's way

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog nudges Mr. Frog's nose - legs and toes

Mr. Frog jump - jump - jumps into his bog

Ol' Dog follows him in - clear up to his chin

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Mr. Frog jumps - jumps - jumps out of his bog

With a croak - croak - croak in his throat

Dog paddles - dog paddles in Mr. Frog's bog

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog's all mucky and messy and barky and fessy

Tails hangin' down - his muzzle in a frown

Slinks away home for a pat and a comb -

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Dog barks at the door and stares down at the floor -

Needs a pucker up kissy from Pretty Missy

Pretty Missy does fess - "Ol' Dog you're a mess" -

"You're a silly Ol' Dog" -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog gives Pretty Missy
A pucker up wet kissy
Missy doesn't mind
Ol' Dog's being kind
He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Pretty Missy scratches his ears
Laughs until tears
'Cause
He's a silly Ol' Dog

[Picture]

Wilson

Wilson Wallaby's a miniature 'roo

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Wearing glasses to look at the moon

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Wilson Wallaby jumps to a digery do

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Waltzes around a Matilda or two

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

A winsome marsupial on a walkabout

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Bouncing to never - never 'round and about

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Not a great boomer 'rooer loutish sort

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Wilson Wallaby just loves bein' short

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

A Wallaby with glasses will do just fine

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

'Cause Wilson Wallaby is one of a kind

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Pitty-Pat

Gliding underwater in a blue billabong
You'll find our duckbilled web footed lass
An oviparous Aussie mammal in song and tale
Pitty-Pat Platypus - chock full of sass -

[Picture]

Pitty-Pat Platypus goes paddlin' along
Duckbill in front
Beavertail at end
Pitty-Pat Platypus is wet - sleek and long
In her altogether
A three part blend -

[Picture]

Lookin' for clams to crunch in her bill
Pokin' under stones and rocks - pretty lass
With billabong tucker she'll eat her fill
Then nap deep down in green billabong grass -

[Picture]

Pitty-Pat Platypus wakes up for a bo-peep
A pack of dingo dogs stop by for a drink

[Picture]

She swims and dives down - deep - deep -

[Picture]

Pitty-Pat Platypus - a careful - cautious lass
Waits for dingo dogs to drink their fill
Then sleeps deep in the green billabong grass

Snicker-Snake

Slithers in
Slithers out
Lookin' for squirrels
To snatch in his snout -

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake
Glides through the grass
With ease
As squirrels chatter
"Where are your knees"

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake
Sees Pretty Missy
Coils up in fright
At the sight
Of Pretty Missy cryin'

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake
His forked tongue flyin'
Didn't mean to scare
A single hair -

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake

Uncoils and hisses

Some sneaky snake kisses -

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake

Slither - slither - slither

Slither - slither - side winds

Under Pretty Missy's garden gate -

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake

Can't hardly wait

To hiss to his mate

About his escape -

[Picture]

Slither

Snicker - Snicker - Snicker - Snicker - Snicker-Snake

Tail of a Tail

What a wonderful thing is a monkey's tail

Held high in the air when runnin' around

[Picture]

Or - used as a whip to knock over a pail

[Picture]

Or - to keep ones hind end off the wet ground -

[Picture]

Wouldn't it be fun

If we had one -

[Picture]

We could snatch a pencil from teacher's desk

[Picture]

Or - write a letter while we're at rest -

[Picture]

A tail would be great to chase

When we've nothing to do all alone

[Picture]

Dizzily spinnin' 'round second base

[Picture]

Or - gallopin' freely toward home -

[Picture]

We could balance on a balance beam

[Picture]

Or - swing on uneven bars

[Picture]

We could tumble about with speed and grace

[Picture]

Or - even open Mother's jars -

[Picture]

But - a monkey's tail

Under our coat or - dress

Would stick out

Now - wouldn't that be a mess

[Picture]

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

Wearing a monocle making quite a to-do

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Lording it over all the animals in the zoo

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Takin' his tea every afternoon - at three

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

And sometimes a crumpet - for you and - me

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Singin' his song in a language called 'Strine

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Bouncin' to Brisbane - takin' his jolly old time

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Boundin' around the Outback - escapin' from a zoo

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Tall - handsome a great gray - boomer kangaroo

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Removin' his monocle for a bo-peep - or two

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

No worries mate - just a harrumph - or two

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

FIN

Owen - James Owen