

# "I Know an Old Lady" on the Overhead Projector

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It takes only a little time and even less money to create this delightful transparency which moves. Your students will enjoy singing or chanting either of two versions of "I Know an Old Lady," while watching the woman actually "swallow" the whole menagerie. Cut from an ordinary manila folder, the old lady and the animals project as striking black silhouettes.

This fast-paced five or ten minute activity proves ideal for re-capturing lost student attention or putting to work instructional minutes too short for other activities.

## Use

The teacher tells the story the first time or two, perhaps using tweezers to move each creature into the lady's waiting hand which then moves to her cavernous stomach. Subsequently, students can lead the class in singing or chanting the choral lines. Or, the teacher can suggest that a student leader name individuals to give the two lines for one of the nine animals with the whole class joining in on the chorus.

Two text variations increase this activity's usefulness. For an easier version, make the long sentence with the relative clause into two shorter ones by replacing the *who* with *she* and punctuating accordingly. Thus, *I know an old lady who swallowed a fly.* becomes *I know an old lady. She swallowed a fly.* The relative pronoun version can be introduced later, when appropriate.

## Construction

Draw the artwork (see figure one) on a manila folder or use a copier or opaque projector to enlarge the drawing. If desired, the figure can be laminated for better handling and a longer life. Cut out the figures with scissors or a craft knife. The woman can be fastened to a sheet of clear plastic. Her head and arm can be made to pivot with a brass paper fastener.

A strip of clear plastic (about one inch wide and ten inches long) fastened to the right side of the transparency provides a visible "home" for the numbered figures. Before use, each animal is moved out to protrude a bit from the strip, but it is still hidden by the transparency frame beneath it. A pair of tweezers then serves to pick up each creature to move it "on stage." When you are finished, everything stores neatly in a manila folder.

Make it once. Use it forever!



## I KNOW AN OLD LADY



I know an old lady who swallowed a fly.



I don't know why she swallowed a fly. Perhaps she'll die.



I know an old lady who swallowed a spider.



that wriggled and swiggled and tickled inside her.



She swallowed the spider to catch the fly.



I don't know why she swallowed the fly. Perhaps she'll die.



I know an old lady who swallowed a bird.



How absurd to swallow a bird! She swallowed the...

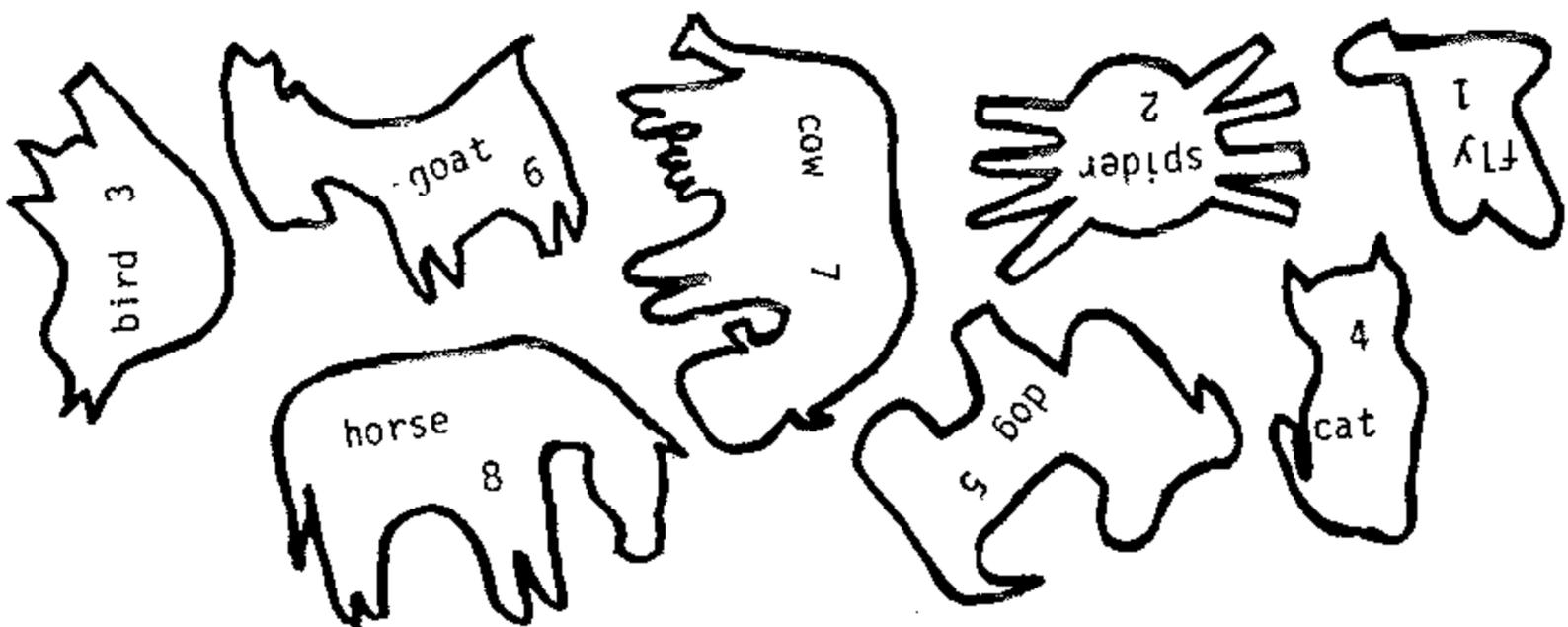
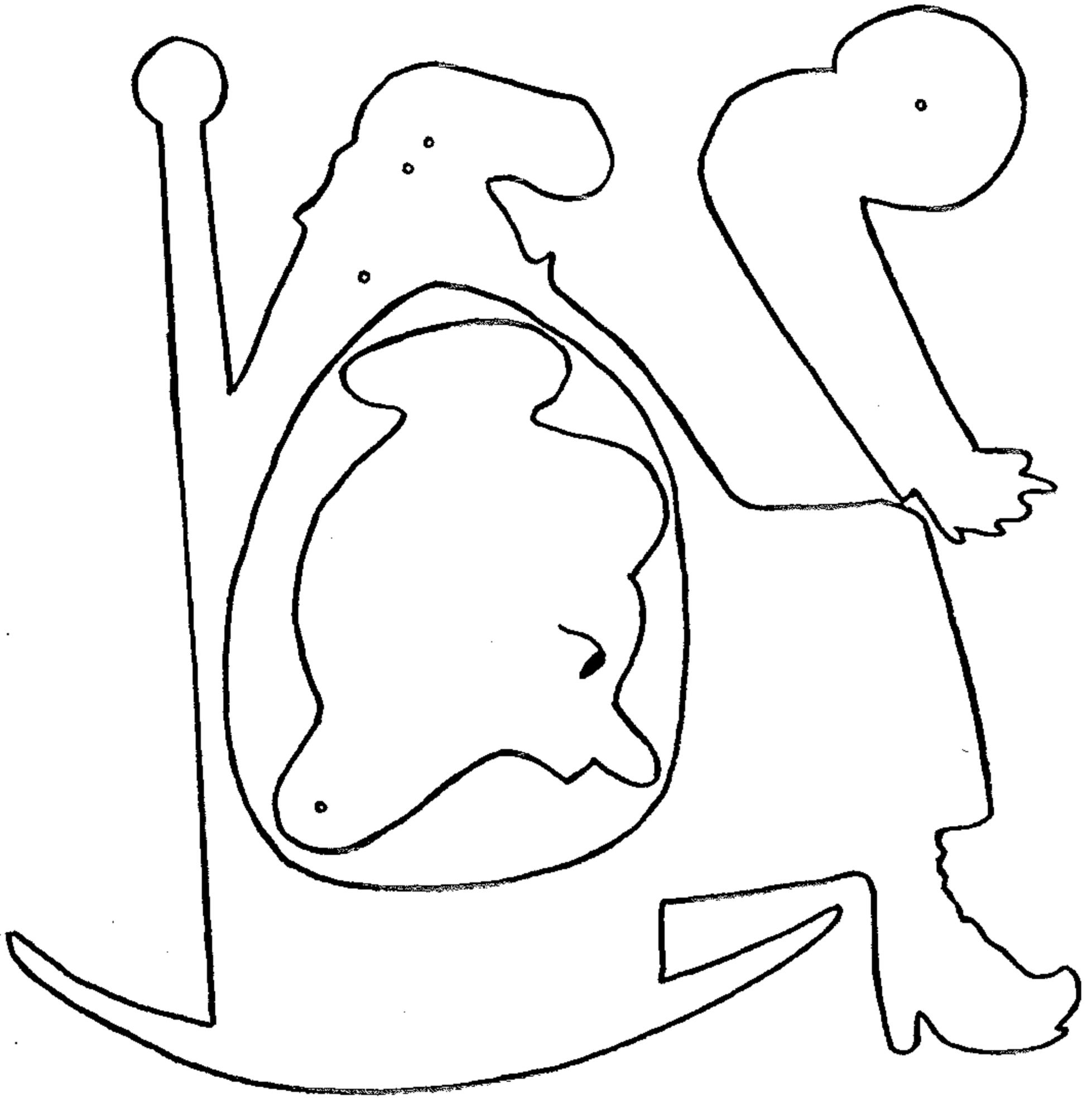


Figure One. Pattern for "Old Lady" Transparency

**"I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly"**

I know an old lady who swallowed a fly  
I don't know why she swallowed a fly  
Perhaps she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a spider  
that wiggled and swiggled and tickled  
inside her.

She swallowed the spider to catch the fly.  
I don't know why she swallowed the fly.  
Perhaps she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a bird.  
How absurd to swallow a bird!  
She swallowed the bird to catch the spider  
that wiggled and swiggled and tickled  
inside her.

She swallowed the spider to catch the fly.  
I don't know why she swallowed the fly.  
Perhaps she'll die.

I know an old lady who swallowed a cat.  
Imagine that! She swallowed a cat!  
She swallowed the cat to catch the bird...

I know an old lady who swallowed a dog.  
She went whole hog and swallowed a dog.  
She swallowed the dog to catch the cat....

I know an old lady who swallowed a goat.  
She just opened her throat and swallowed a  
goat.

She swallowed the goat to catch the dog...

I know an old lady who swallowed a cow.  
I don't know how she swallowed a cow.  
She swallowed the cow to catch the goat...

I know an old lady who swallowed a horse.  
She's dead, of course!