

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A TROUT

by Terri Sloat



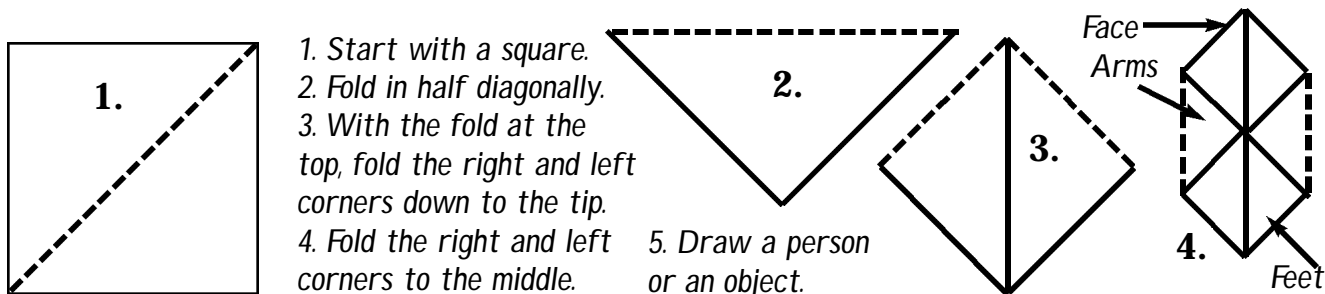
Activities:

① After reading this story, read *There Was an Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly* and other versions listed below. Students can choose two of these and compare them using a VENN diagram or other method.

② Divide the class into groups of five or six students. Students in each group choose another character and some items this character might swallow. Without trying to add rhyme, students should tell a simple story of the order in which their character swallows the items, what happened, and a conclusion. After they have written the story they can each choose one of the items to draw and color (large enough for the class to see easily). When the items are finished, the group should practice reciting what they have written. They can take turns speaking a part of the story, try saying it in unison, or do some of both. When all groups have finished, they can take turns presenting their versions to the class. As the story is told, each student should hold up his or her item at the appropriate time.

Variation: Instead of the main character being a woman, it could be a girl or boy, an animal, or even an inanimate object.

③ Share the book, *This is the House That Jack Built* or a variation of it. Bring in some nesting dolls or something similar to show the students. Students can make their own set of nesting dolls or objects by folding squares of paper of gradually smaller sizes. These can be decorated and then hidden inside each other. Unfolding one will reveal the next smaller one.



④ Read the book *The Old Woman and Her Pig* by Eric Kimmel. This is different cumulative tale because animals or objects lead from one to another. After reading the tale, let groups of students think of animals or objects they could substitute for the ones in the story so they can create their own tales. After they write these stories, they can draw large pictures of the animals or objects to use as props when they share their tales with the rest of the class.

Related Books:

Here Is the Arctic Winter by Madeleine Dunphy

The Book That Jack Wrote by Jon Scieszka

The Old Woman and Her Pig by Eric Kimmel (another IRA Conference speaker)

The Jacket I Wear in the Snow by Shirley Neitzel

This is the House That Jack Built by Pam Adams

This is the House That Jack Built by Simms Taback