

THANKSGIVING/Thanksgiving Day (Poem). Print. Read the poem. p.1.

Thanksgiving Day (The New England Boy's Song About Thanksgiving)

1st stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way,
To carry the sleigh,
Through the white and drifted snow.

2nd stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house away!
We would not stop
For doll or top,
For 'tis Thanksgiving Day.

3rd stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood,
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes,
And bites the nose,
And over the ground we go.

4rd stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood,
With a clear blue winter sky,
The dogs do bark,
And children hark,
As we go jingling by.

Lyrics or words to a popular Thanksgiving song by Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880), first published in 1845.

If you know the tune for this song, sing it after reading the poem.

THANKSGIVING/Thanksgiving Day (Poem) cont'd.

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5th stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play -
Hear the bells ring
Ting-a-ling-ding,
Hurra for Thanksgiving Day!

6th stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood -
No matter for winds that blow;
Or if we get
The sleigh upset,
Into a bank of snow.

7th stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood,
To see little John and Ann;
We will kiss them all,
And play snow-ball,
And stay as long as we can.

8th stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood,
Trot fast, my dapple gray!
Spring over the ground,
Like a hunting hound,
For 'tis Thanksgiving Day!

THANKSGIVING/Thanksgiving Day (Poem) cont'd.

p.3.

9th stanza:

Over the river and through the wood,
And straight through the barn-yard gate;
We seem to go
Extremely slow,
It is so hard to wait.

10th stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood,
Old Jowler hears our bells;
He shakes his pow,
With a loud bow-wow,
And thus the news he tells.

11th stanza:

Over the river, and through the wood,
When grandmother sees us come,
She will say, Oh dear,
The children are here,
Bring a pie for everyone.

12th stanza:

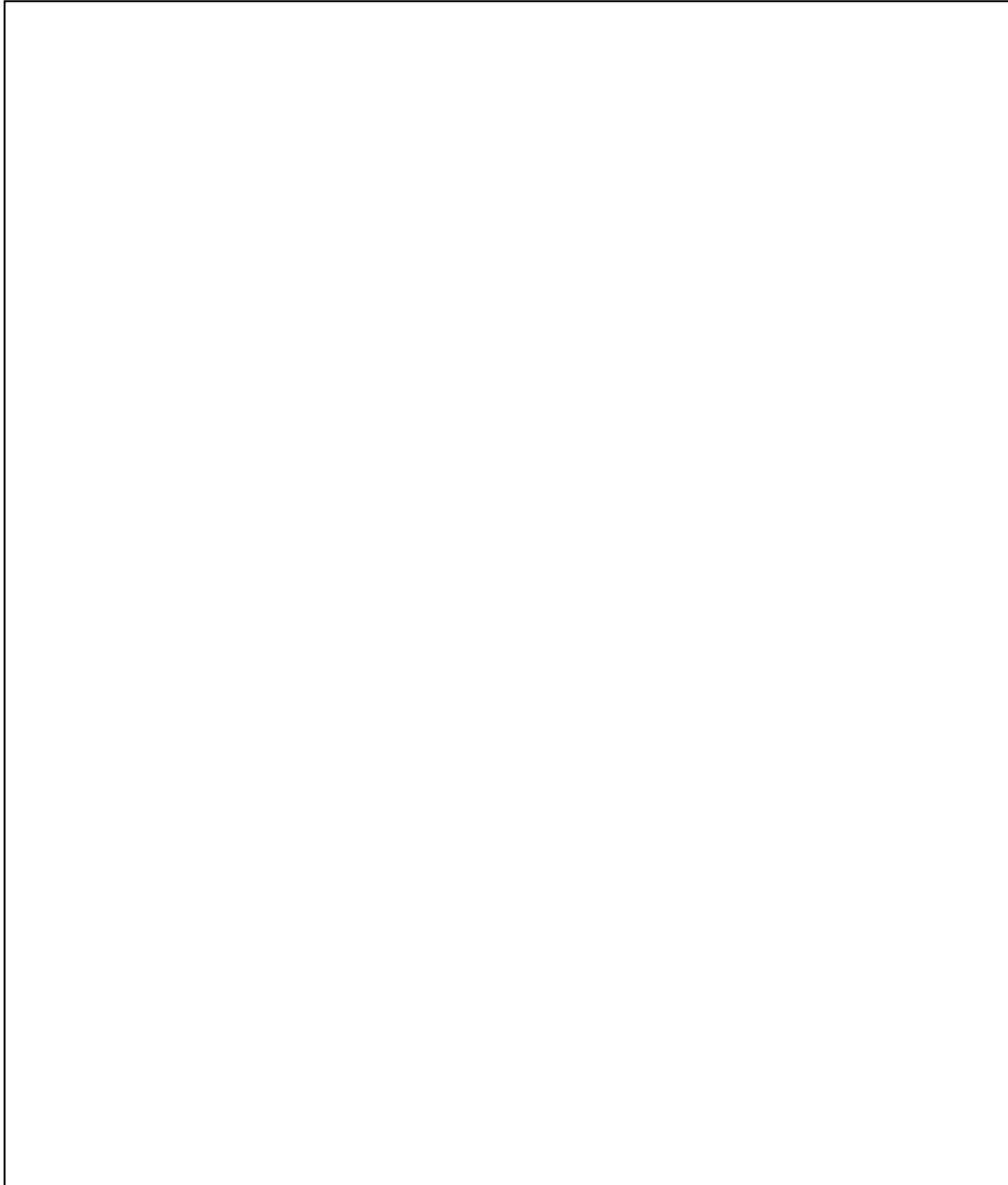
Over the river and through the wood,
Now grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurra for the fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurra for the pumpkin pie!

- Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880)
American writer & poet, and campaigner against slavery.

THANKSGIVING. Thanksgiving Day (Poem) cont'd. Print. Read the poem. Illustrate the part you like best.

p.4.

NAME _____



THANKSGIVING. Thanksgiving Holiday and Vocabulary.

p.5.

The Thanksgiving holiday traces its origins to 1621, the year the Pilgrims celebrated their first successful harvest. Their governor, William Bradford, asked the Pilgrims to set aside a day to give thanks for their blessings and to share their bountiful crops with the neighboring Native Americans who had helped them survive in their new land.

Vocabulary

dapple gray - *n.* a spotted gray horse. (Line 2, 8th stanza.)

hark - *v.* listen. (Line 4, 4th stanza.)

pow - *n.* An old-fashioned word meaning "head." (Line 3, 10th stanza.)

spy - *v.* see. (Line 2, 12th stanza.)

upset - *v.* To turn or tip over accidentally. (Line 4, 6th stanza.)

THANKSGIVING. Questions - Understanding the Poem.

p.6.

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Questions - Understanding the Poem

Read every question and "X" the best answer. Read the poem, "The New England Boy's Song about Thanksgiving Day" as you work.

1. In the 1st stanza, what does the horse know?

- () the way to the next door neighbor's house
- () how to pull a sleigh through the snow
- () how to get across a river
- () the way top carry the cart

2. In the 6th stanza, what does the word "upset" mean?

- () turned over
- () crying
- () angry
- () sad

3. In the 7th stanza, what game is the narrator going to play with John and Ann?

- () soccer () football () basketball () snow-ball

THANKSGIVING. Questions - Understanding the Poem cont'd. p.8.

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rhyme pattern: Every poem has a rhyme pattern. Each line is given a letter in the alphabet. When two lines rhyme, the letter is the same. For example, the song's 1st stanza has a rhyme scheme of abccb. This means that the second line rhymes with the 5th, and the 3rd line rhyme with the 4th:

<u>Line</u>	<u>rhyme pattern</u>
(1) Over the river, and through the wood,	a
(2) To grandfather's house we go ;	b
(3) The horse knows the <u>way</u> ,	c
(4) To carry the <u>sleigh</u> ,	c
(5) Through the white and drifted snow .	b

1. Write you own stanza to this song keeping the abccb rhyme scheme. Fill in the blanks with your own words.

<u>Line</u>	<u>rhyme pattern</u>
(1) Over the river, and through the wood,	a
(2) Oh, how the horse does neigh !	b
(3) The day is _____,	c
(4) The snow is _____,	c
(5) Hurrah for Thanksgiving _____!.	b

NAME _____

2. Draw a picture to go with your stanza or another part of the poem.

