

# I know an old lady who swallowed a fly



<https://riverofsong.uk/>

A cumulative song. Who doesn't know the old lady! – usually through the singing of Burl Ives. The words and music are by Rose Bonne and Alan Mills

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in G major, 8/8 time. The lyrics are integrated into the music with chords indicated above the notes. The chords include F, Gm, C7, and F. The lyrics describe the old lady swallowing various creatures: a fly, a spider, a bird, a horse, and a cow. The score includes a repeat sign and a section labeled 'Repeat as necessary'.

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 jiggle and tickled in - side her. She swallowed the spider, to catch the fly, I don't know why she swallowed a 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 wriggled and jiggle and tickled in - side her. She swallowed the spider, to catch the fly, I don't know why she swallowed a fly. Perhaps she'll die.

**Last verse**

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



I know and old lady who swallowed a fly.

I don't know why she swallowed a fly.

Perhaps she'll die.

I know and old lady who swallowed a spider,  
That wiggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.

She swallowed the spider to catch the fly,

I don't know why she swallowed a fly.

Perhaps she'll die.

I know and old lady who swallowed a bird,

How absurd to swallow a bird!

She swallowed the bird to catch the spider,  
That wiggled and jiggled and tickled inside her.

She swallowed the spider to catch the fly,

I don't know why she swallowed a fly.

Perhaps she'll die.

I know and old lady who swallowed a cat,

Just fancy that! She swallowed a cat.

She swallowed the cat to catch the bird...

I know and old lady who swallowed a dog,

What a hog to swallow a dog!

She swallowed the dog to catch the cat...

I know and old lady who swallowed a goat,

She opened her throat and swallowed a goat.

She swallowed the goat to catch the dog,

I know and old lady who swallowed a cow,

I don't know how but she swallowed a cow.

She swallowed the cow to catch the goat,

I know and old lady who swallowed a horse

She's dead, of course!