



Old Grumbler

by Marilyn Winter

(Inspired by a workshop presented by Annette Coffin)

Old Grumbler *by Marilyn Winter*

Old Grumbler was dead and lay un-der the ground, un-der the ground,
un-der the ground. Old Grumbler was dead and lay un-der the ground. Way high up!

Verses:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Old Grumbler was dead and lay under the ground.... | 5. There came an old lady a-pickin' them u |
| 2. Three apple trees grew right over his head.... | 6. Old Grumbler got up and he gave her a l |
| 3. The apples grew ripe and were ready to drop.... | 7. It made the old lady go hippety hop.... |
| 4. The east wind came a-blowin' them off.... | 8. Old Grumbler lay down with a smile on h |

Verses:

1. Old Grumbler was dead and lay under the ground
2. Three apple trees grew right over his hear
3. The apples grew ripe and were ready to drop
4. The east wind came a-blowin' them off
5. There came an old lady a-pickin' them up
6. Old Grumbler got up and he gave her a knock
7. It made the old lady go hippety hop
8. Old Grumbler lay down with a smile on his face

Activities

1. Sing Verse One
2. Discuss what repeats
3. Sing the whole song as if telling a story
4. Antiphon the whole song
5. While singing the song, students close their eyes and imagine the story

- as if they were seeing a movie in their eyelids.
6. Recollect the sequence of events
 7. recollect the characters

Discussion: (Possible points of discussion)

- What time in history did the story take place? Why do you say that?
- What were the old lady's circumstances?
- What do apple trees look like in the spring?
- What do they look like when they are ripe?
- What time of year did the story take place. Why was that answer given?
- What did each character look like? What does it mean, "under the ground way high up"?
- How did Old Grumbler get his name? Did his parents give him that name?
- What circumstances caused Old Grumbler to line under the ground?
- How did the old lady feel when Old Grumbler gave her a knock? What was she thinking?
- How does an east wind feel Is it a cold wind or a warm one?
- What did the trees look like when the east wind came?

Process:

- While singing the song, students close their eyes and imagine the story from the perspective of one of the characters.
- In groups, according to the character you were, describe what you imagined.
- Act out the story (in small groups In one large group with everyone being each character

Extensions:

- Write the words of each scene and illustrate them.(Having children illustrate in pairs can be a very rich experience)
- Write new verses. (Add words at the beginning, in the middle or at the end)
- Illustrate new verses. (act them out)
- Interview the characters.
- Compile a newspaper.
- Write a story from the perspective of one of the characters.