Woody Guthrie's Children's Songs

sung by Logan English

Build A House

Woody Guthrie
SIDE 1
1. Make a Blobble (1:41)
2. I Want It Now (2:26)
3. Bling Blang (1:39)
4. Needle Sing (3:16)
5. Ocean Go (2:48)
6. Merry-Go-Round (1:43)
7. I'll Write 'N Draw (2:20)

SIDE 2
1. Pick It Up (3:28)
2. The Mailman (1:37)
3. The Little Seed (1:45)
4. My Dolly (4:12)
5. Wild Aminul (2:08)
6. Sleep Eye (2:35)

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43 W. 61st ST., N.Y.C., U.S.A.
This is an album of songs
for
children.
It is not an album of songs
about children;
to children;
or
at children—
it is a fun-singing record
of needle sewing, seed sewing,
bilingual hammering, sawing,
and picking 'em up and setting 'em down
dolly dressing, merry-go-round riding,
bleach making,
ocean going, mailman and vitamin drop—
sleepy eyed, writing and drawing,
wild animal, jingaling, singing, ice-cream songs
for
children!

Bedahs! As Uncle J.J. would say.

Well, that's no great matter,
you say—
but it is.

It matters because Woody Guthrie
didn't write cute songs about children
for grown-ups.

Woody was a great, rambling, jalopy driving,
hitch-hiking hero of a man
who never let the best part of himself
grow up,
but, rather —out. And for that and other reasons
became, or was, a genius.

Genius?
Yes, bedahs, a genius!

And let me tell you—in spite of
what the newspapers, magazines, the tee-view
and the radio say about
rocky rollers and folky rockers, paint brushes
and splashers, book writers and football coaches,

stock market dealers and dealers,
bride builders and song builders—
genius don't grow like grapes—in bunches.

I've known, maybe, three
in my whole life
and Woody Guthrie was one of them.

Well, you say,
that's pretty much putting your head
on the block:
and you're right. And I certainly hope
it doesn't take one to know one
because, if it does,
you can go and get the basket right now.

Head on the block! Yes! It certainly is,
so I might as well cut the room or,
at the very least, fish out half
and begin by saying: that men and women
and boys and girls who make things—
makes pictures with paint and ink and pencil
and cameras,
makes jars and bowls and pots with clay and metal
and stone,
makes songs and stories out of words and music—
people who make things to look at, to listen to,
to think about, to live in, to play with and
to work with —people who make things to sing
about
are called (when they are good at it)
craftsmen; or artists; or, in a few cases,
genius.

They're all important people; and, mostly,
good people —but different in some ways.

How? How, indeed! It isn't easy;
but let's try and begin by making an animal
—not a real one—but a picture of one;
or, maybe, whistle one; or make one with
your hands out of mud; or, best of all—
makes a song about one.

Now, I look at it this way:
if you are a craftsman you can,
with your tools, show us six sides
of a pig, and we would see those six sides.
of that very definite pig and say: Yes!
That's a pig alright. A porker as
sure as you're born. No doubt about it!

Then, if you, as a craftsman, can do a few steps
farther —you become an artist:
if you are an artist you can,
with your tools, show us six sides
of a pig —and fifteen or twenty
other sides, of that very definite pig,
that most folks don't take the trouble
to see.

And then —if you're really good,
you can show us a dozen or so things that
the pig could be.

'I caught me a wild animal;
line, line, line-line-line-line;
I caught me a white-tailed deer,
I caught me a heron in Alaska,
I caught me a honey looper,
I caught me a rich rider,
4 lizard and a salamander,
And a big legged spider.'

But then, if you're a genius —then you are something
super special because:
as a genius you can,
with your tools, show us six sides
of a pig; and fifteen or twenty other sides
we didn't take the trouble to see;
nd show us as well,
a dozen or so things the pig could be
—and then, show me why it all fit so such a way
that makes it as clear and as simple as
'sleep with them all together.'
But that's just part of it. A lot of artists can go that far.

Your real test, as a genius, is whether you can, with your tools, make something as it is — rather than how you want it to be.

When a person sees something as it is or could be, we call that a kind of dream or vision; but when someone wishes and wishes and wishes for something so badly that he or she can't think straight — we call that an obsession.

Now, as a genius, you can, at times, have either or both: but you have to know which is which and you have to keep them separate.

Geniuses are simply not allowed to exist without using up their visions with their obsessions. Their could-be's with their wishful thoughts.

Truth is, that most children don't get the two confused. One thing at a time.

But grown-ups, for some reason, do it all the time — except, of course, gentiles.

Suppose you want a banana — are really hungry for a banana:

'I want my banana and I want it now.
Want my banana and I want it now;
Lone and yellow, a great big green banana;
I want my banana and I want it now.'

You suppose you are making your animal — but, at the same time, can't get your mind off a banana ...

'I came to a wild animal,
Jinny, Jinny, Jim — banana,
I want my jinny, jinny — banana and I want it now;
I came to a whindoodle and I want it now;
I came to a wild banana and I'll yell and I'll squall 'til you bring me my reechicker. I want my newy — banana, a green and a yellow Big legged spider, a long legged banana
I want my banana, my banana, my banana, banana
And I sleep with it all together.'

Well, that might be funny — and it's kind of silly, too.

But, as I said, there's truckloads and boxcars and oceans full of grown-ups who do it all the time — some of them even call it art! when, in fact, it's just plain dumb. And it's just this same kind of mixing things up that keeps a lot of artists out of the genius class.

In other words: you've got to have a pretty tough head to be a genius.

I have an old friend whose name is Ed McCurdy. And Ed is fond of saying that "it is perfectly possible to be child-like without being childish."

I believe he's right. The best part of a genius, or any one else, grows out — not up.

But still and all, there's a need of all of us that needs to grow...
Make a Bubble

1. Oh my little baby, if you don't make a bubble,
   You'll swell up your tummy like a big balloon;
   You'll fly so high in the clouds and sky,
   If you don't make a bubble.
   Make a bubble, pretty soon.
   Pat-pat-pat-pat-pat, pat-pat-pat-pat-pat,
   Peter put a snake, mask, blow a bubble soon.
   Pat-pat-pat-pat-pat, pat-pat-pat-pat-pat-pat,
   Peter put a snake, mask, blow a bubble soon.

2. You'll fly across the ocean,
   You'll fly across the sea,
   If you don't make a bubble, just wait you'll see;
   All the people'll see you
   Fly up to the moon,
   Like a big balloon, like a big balloon pretty soon
   (Chorus)

I Want it Now

1. I want my bottle, and I want it now,
   Want my bottle, and I want it now,
   Want my bottle, and I want it now,
   I want my bottle, and I want it now.

2. I want my bath and I want it now,
   Let it rain, let it pour, let me swim, let me float;
   I want my bath and I want it now.

3. I want my cod-liver oil and I want it now,
   I'll stick it small till you bring me my oil;
   I want my cod-liver oil and I want it now.

4. I want my vitamins and I want it now,
   I want my vitamins and I want it now.
   I want my vitamins and I want it now.

5. I want my banana and I want it now,
   I want my banana and I want it now;
   Long and a yellow, a great big green banana;
   I want my banana and I want it now.

6. I want my apple and I want it now,
   I want my apple and I want it now.
   Big apple, little apple, and I want to go to bed;
   I want my apple and I want it now.

7. I want my head in my bed and I want it now,
   I want my head in my bed and I want it now;
   Somebody make my bed, blue, green, yellow and red;
   I want my head in my bed and I want it now.

(Chorus)

Hit the Slope

1. You get a hammer and I'll get a nail,
   And you catch a bird and I'll catch a snail.
   You bring a board and I'll bring a saw
   And we'll build a house for the baby-o.
   Sling bang hammer with my hammer
   Sling bang saw with my saw.

2. I'll grab some mud and you grab some clay
   So when it rains it won't wash away.
   We'll build a house that'll be so strong
   The wind will sing my baby a song.

3. Rub brick rocks and I'll bring bricks,
   A nice pretty house we'll build and fix.
   We'll jump inside when the cold wind blows,
   And kiss our pretty little baby-o.

4. You bring a ladder and I'll get a box,
   Build our house of bricks and blocks.
   When the snowbird flies and the hogs nose comes,
   We'll feed our baby on honey in the comb.

(Chorus)

Merrily Go Round

1. Oh, come and see the merrily-go-round,
   The merrily-go-round, the merrily-go-round.
   Come and see the merrily-go-round!
   Go round and round and round.

2. Come let's rub the pony's hair,
   Come let's rub the pony's tail,
   Lots of ponies that we can ride
   Round and round and round.

3. Now let's climb on the pony's back,
   Now let's climb on the pony's back,
   Pull up my reins and hold my straps,
   And round and round and round.

4. It's faster now my pony runs
   Up to the moon and down to the sun:
   My pony runs to the music and drums
   Round and round and round.

5. How he runs as fast as the wind
   And gallops and trots and dances a jig.
   Pony's tired and he wants to lie down
   Round and round and round.

6. The pony stops and off I climb,
   Off I climb, off I climb.
   I'll come back and ride some other time
   Round and round and round.

(Chorus)

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I'll write and I'll draw and I'll spell you a word,
A big 'A' and a little 'A' and a middle size 'A';
I'll make you a number, a two, six and a one;
Swish 'em around and see them run.

1. I'll drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
And put it back on my shoulders.

2. I see the sailor man
Molly ann sailor man
I see Mister sailor man
Waiting down my street

3. I'll drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
And put it back on my shoulders.

4. I see the sailor man
Molly ann sailor man
I see Mister sailor man
Waiting down my street

5. I'll drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
And put it back on my shoulders.

6. I see the sailor man
Molly ann sailor man
I see Mister sailor man
Waiting down my street

7. I'll drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
And put it back on my shoulders.

8. I see the sailor man
Molly ann sailor man
I see Mister sailor man
Waiting down my street

9. I'll drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
I drop my head,
Pick it up, pick it up,
And put it back on my shoulders.

10. I see the sailor man
Molly ann sailor man
I see Mister sailor man
Waiting down my street

Little Seed

1. Take my little hoe dig a hole in the ground,
Take my little seed and I plant it down;
Tooty tooty tooty tooty tidaa
Oh we'll all dance a round and see my little seed grow.

(Chorus)
Tooty tooty tooty tooty tidaa
Tooty tooty tooty tooty tidaa
Let's all dance around and see my little seed grow.

2. The rain it come and it water my ground;
I thought my little seed was going to drown;
I watered it and I splashed it and I carried my seed;
I planted it again on some higher ground (Chorus)

3. The sun got hot and my ground got dry;
I thought my little seed would burn and die;
I carried some water from a watering can;
I said, "Little seed, you can drink your fill,"

(Chorus)
Mr Dolly

1. I put my dolly's dress on I put my dolly's pants on
I put my dolly's hat on and she looks like this.
I put my dolly's stockings on I put my dolly's shoes on
She sits just like a clown and she looks like this.
(Chorus)
Oh well she looks like this, oh, oh well, she looks like this.
Oh Tral-la-la-la-la-lo and she looks like this.

2. My dolly talks to me, she
My dolly talks to me, she
My dolly talks to me, and oh, she looks like this.
My dolly sings a song, song,
My dolly she can dance, dance.
When my dolly sings and dances, oh, she looks like this.
(Chorus)

3. Dolly says I want to eat, eat,
Dolly says I want to drink, drink,
When dolly eats and drinks, oh well, she looks like this.
Dolly plays with all the toys, toy,
She plays with girly and boy, boy.
When dolly runs and skips, oh well, she looks like this.
(Chorus)

4. I know my dolly loves me,
And, I know my dolly loves me,
When dolly hugs and kisses me, oh, she looks like this.
My dolly's getting tired now,
My dolly wants to lay down,
When dolly goes to sleep, oh well, she looks like this.
(Chorus)

Wild Animal

1. I caught me a wild animal, Jing Jing Jing a Ling,
Caught me a wild animal, Jing Jing Jing a Ling,
I caught me a wild animal, Jing Jing Jing a Ling.
(Chorus)
Jing Jing Jing a Ling, Jing a Ling,
Jing Jing Jing a Ling, Jing a Ling,
Jing Jing Jing a Ling, Jing a Ling.

2. I caught me a winged animal,
Jing Jing Jing a Ling,
I caught me a winged animal,
A bird and a snake,
And a fly and a spider.
Jing Jing Jing a Ling. (Chorus)

3. I caught me a juicy sweet,
Jing Jing Jing a Ling,
I caught me a juicy sweet,
A lizard and a lizard,
And a little green spider,
Jing Jing Jing a Ling. (Chorus)

Sheep Eye

1. Go to sleep, go to sleep,
Go to sleep, little sleep eye,
Close eye, close eye,
Close eye, close eye,
One eye closed and two eyes closed,
Go to sleep, little sleep eye.

2. Kyesie close, kyesie close,
Kyesie close, kyesie close,
One hand asleep and two hands asleep,
Go to sleep, little sleep eye.

3. Dream a dream, dream a dream,
Dream a dream, little dream, little dream,
Go to sleep, little sleep eye.

4. Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep,
Sleepy, sleepy, little sleep eye,
Sleep, sleep, sleepy, sleepy, sleepy, sleepy, sleepy, sleepy,
Television:

LAND OF PROMISE: a semi-documentary on the American labor movement. Produced on the ABC network. I was the musical director and was responsible for getting Woody Guthrie and his music recognized—for the first time—on network TV. The music and direction was nominated for an Emmy.

Appeared (1965) NBC 4th of July Special—a semi documentary on the American Revolution. The show was nominated for an Emmy.

Also the background music for an NBC Special, American folk art. Produced by N.Y.'s Whitney Museum of Art.

4 appearances on NBC's SING OUT—a folk music variety program hosted by Oscar Brand.

Concerts include:

2 appearances in N.Y.'s Carnegie Hall
2 appearances in N.Y.'s Town Hall
Solo concert in the United States Pavilion of the New York World's Fair.

Colleges and Universities—coast to coast.

I directed and performed with the American Footstool Festival for six months. One sighter at Midwestern and Eastern colleges and universities.

Night Clubs include:

Garde's, Folk City, N.Y. For many years this was my home base, singing there at least twice a week. I organized and directed the first commercial 'Hootenanny' there in 1957. These 'Hoots' are not meant to be compared with the non-commercialized Footstool organized by Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie and the Almanac Singers much earlier.

Other Clubs:

Galax NY
Village Gate NY
Bitter End NY
Fifth Pret Phila.
Fifth Peg Chi.
Cosmo Alley LA

hangry 1 SF

This material is very sketchy but it is all I have available as much of the clippings and other info—dates, places, etc.—are in storage in New York.

My writing includes:

A full length play completed; a full length play partially completed and commissioned by The Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky.

Published poems

I was invited and accepted to perform my own songs and read my poetry at the National Convention of State Poetry Societies in Louisville, Ky., in 1975, and was awarded the Jesse Stuart Commendation for excellence.

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