



I Know a Shy Fellow Who Swallowed a Cello

By Barbara Garriel

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This shy fellow, a wallflower, swallows a cello, followed by many more musical instruments, until at last he burps, belches, and bellows. Imagine how the instruments make music this way. Using her love of words and music, Barbara S. Garriel has created a zany and wild new look at an old favorite, *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*, and added a surprise ending. John O'Brien's wacky and imaginative illustrations bring the read-aloud book to life.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 2-This goofy adaptation of "I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly" begins, "I know a shy fellow.../...who swallowed a cello./I don't know why he swallowed a cello./Perhaps he'll bellow." The instruments the man guzzles come from a wide variety of venues, including a sax from a jazz ensemble, a fiddle from a rockabilly band, and a kazoo from a child's birthday party. When he imbibes "the teeniest, tiniest, petite cascabel," his belly finally rebels and out of his mouth "jingled the bell," "buzzed the kazoo," "tooted the flute," etc., until "...last but not least,/out cha-chaed the cello!" This is a high-spirited and amusing story, and most of the rhythms work well. O'Brien's dynamic cartoons, highlighted with energetic pen-and-ink lines, vibrate with color and action. The main character continually changes shape to reflect the proportions of each instrument he consumes, and his antics are a good match for this silly but enjoyable romp.-*Shelley B. Sutherland, Niles Public Library District, IL*

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From [Booklist](#)

PreS-Gr. 2. As the title indicates, this takeoff is based on the familiar cumulative song, "The Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly." In this case, a shy fellow with an appetite for music gulps down a cello, harp, sax, fiddle, cymbal, flute, kazoo, and cascabel. Then he coughs up each instrument, producing an eclectic musical ensemble. The bouncy narrative injects fresh imagery and energetic language into the traditional ditty. The elongated, goofy-looking characters, especially the fish-faced "shy fellow," amplify the silliness. The busy, frizzy illustrations, filled with musical foliage, are too detailed for groups, but the story is a surefire read-aloud, and kids will enjoy examining the pictures afterward. *Linda Perkins*

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About the Author

Barbara S. Garriel has written songs and published 14 nonfiction and fiction books for elementary and middle school readers, and resource manuals for teachers. Using her background as an educator and her gift for storytelling, she inspir

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