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**Poem Summaries**  
**vol. 3**  
**Lear and Blake**



# Edward Lear

*There was an old man, who when little ...*

Due to the strange circumstances of his youth, a man spends his life in a tea kettle.

*There was a young lady of Greenwich ...*

A young woman provokes a harmless herbivore and pays the price.

*There was an old person of Wilt ...*

A Wiltshire man bedazzles his prosthetic legs and his friends.

*There was an old man of Jamaica ...*

A senior citizen from an island nation finds out it is not religion but race that distresses his marriage.

*There was an old person of Bude ...*

By means of garish neckwear, an unpleasant man from Cornwall chooses to confuse rather than offend.

*There was an old person of Hove ...*

A senior citizen finds peace studying in the woods among birds of different sizes.

*There was an old person of Bar ...*

Another senior citizen trapped in a container uses an unlikely color to disguise her suffering.

*There was an old person of Woking ...*

An old man of unsound mind and disposition uses a bucket for a hat.

*There was an old person of Fife ...*

A senior citizen is cured of ennui with lettuce and song.

*There was an old person of Wick ...*

A senior citizen utters percussive syllables.  
Wittily!

*There was an old man of Dunluce ...*

An old man uses a large bird for a short but  
pleasant aquatic outing.

*There was an old man in a Marsh ...*

A senior citizen understood only by a frog  
bursts into didactic song.

*There was an old man of Dunrose ...*

The attack of a domestic bird is rendered inconsequential when a senior citizen learns its name.

*There was an old person in black ...*

A harmless insect lands on and then terrifies a senior citizen.



# **William Blake**

## *Introduction*

A cloud-dwelling youngster somehow convinces a piper to change his profession and become a children's author—which he thoroughly enjoys.

## *The Lamb*

In a state of reverie, a man confuses himself with a lamb. And in an even greater reverie, a god does the same.

## *Little Boy Lost*

Parental neglect leads to a crying child getting messy, which in turn causes a strange weather event.

## *Little Boy Found*

The previous situation (all but the crying of course) resolved through the ministrations of a benevolent deity.

## *Spring*

A man is so intoxicated by the season and the charm of children that he throws a party for a lamb!

## *Infant Joy*

An infant graciously introduces himself and receives an appropriate response.

### *The Clod and the Pebble*

A little rock and a bit of mud enjoin each other to theological discussion.

### *The Sick Rose*

A nocturnal worm affectionately nibbles at a flower—but this turns out poorly.

### *The Fly*

An eighteenth-century anticipation of a well-known monster movie has an ambivalent, yet positive ending.

## *The Tyger*

Many questions are addressed to a predatory beast, not the least of which is who his parents were and what were they thinking?

## *Ah! Sun-flower*

A floral enthusiast suffuses the actions of a plant with his own unconscious ideas.

## *London*

For a tourist of rural origins, a trip to a European capital has taken a turn for the worse: overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle of the big city, this man finds the faces in the crowd are losing their charm. As it turns out, this neurotic should have canceled his vacation!



**[ mufa :: poema ]**