



## **INTRODUCTION FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE WORKSHEET**

There were ten minutes left at the end of my lesson with a class of ten 7-year-olds. They were not “my” class, I was substituting another CAMPANIA ELT teacher, a specialist in teaching young learners who works in our Centres of Excellence team in the Italian state schools.

What could we do in ten minutes so that the kids would leave the classroom with smiles on their faces? I didn't want them to mess around, it had to be a positive activity that would make them remember the lesson. I asked them what English songs they knew. Blank faces. They knew the chants from their course book, and they'd listened to a number of songs. But they couldn't sing one for me.

So I said I would sing a song. They giggled. The song was the first one that came into my head, “London Bridge is Falling Down”.

London Bridge is falling down,  
Falling down, falling down,  
London Bridge is falling down,  
My fair lady.

The class then sang it with me. I mimed the bridge falling down with my hands. I found myself worrying about meaning, and especially because I myself did not know who “My fair lady” was. What could I say if they asked?

They didn't. But in ten minutes they were singing the song perfectly – it sounded right. They left the classroom singing it with a smile.

I had been worried about meaning, forgetting that **what we adults mean by meaning is quite different from what children perceive as meaning**. We adults are concerned with dictionary meanings, with definitions, and with what words and word groups refer to beyond their apparent meaning. We are self-conscious about it, we are full of doubt when presented with an unfamiliar word.

## **SOUND, RHYTHM, INTONATION, ACTION AND PICTURES**

Children are not concerned at all. The season of doubt has not yet set in. Meaning for them is sound, rhythm, intonation, and the association of these with actions and pictures. So here's a song which is very much for children and intimately associated with actions and pictures: Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf in Walt Disney's 1932 cartoon “The Three Little Pigs”. You can find it on YouTube or at [www.tuneintoenglish.com](http://www.tuneintoenglish.com).

The dialogue is mostly made up of the song itself. Children can therefore follow the story as they follow and later sing the song. The following are some suggested steps.



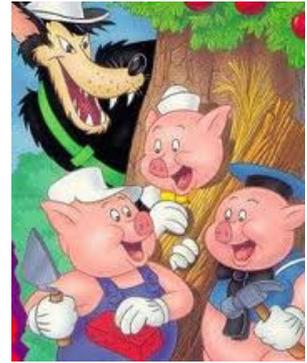
## Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Wolf? – Suggested Steps



### Step 1

Teach the class to sing the refrain:

Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?  
Big bad wolf, big bad wolf?  
Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?  
Tra-la-la-la-la.



### Step 2

Show them the video on YouTube. Every time the three little pigs sing the refrain, encourage the kids to sing it with them. They feel they are participating in the action.

### Step 3

Play a rhyming game. Speak groups of words that appear in the song and ask the class to identify and speak the rhyming words. Don't write them up on the board.

GROUP 1: hay / day / flute / hoot

GROUP 2: twigs / diddle / jigs / fiddle

GROUP 3: bricks / dance / chance / mix

GROUP 4: sore / door / play / day

GROUP 5: word groups: I'm a poor little **sheep** with no place to **sleep**

open the door and let me **in**  
Not by the hair of my **chinny-chin-chin**  
You can't fool us with the old sheep **skin**  
I'll **huff** an I'll **puff** and I'll blow your house **in**

### Step 4

As the class watch the video again, they listen for the rhyming words. Pause the video when they hear a rhyme.

### Step 5

If you know the children's parents, explain the procedure to them. Their children can watch "The Three Little Pigs" at home, say the words they know, and sing the refrain: Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?

### **MEANING IS SOUND**

It is for children. They sing "Jingle Bells" without thinking about what jingling bells are. They don't care about "Hey, hokey-cokey-cokey" not having a dictionary definition. Its meaning is what it sounds like and what you do as you sing it. And it's the same with "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in".



## Who's Afraid Of The Big Bad Wolf? – Complete



### First little pig

I build my house of straw  
I build my house of hay  
I toot my flute  
I don't give a hoot  
And play around all day

### Second little pig

I build my house of sticks  
I build my house of twigs  
With a hey-diddle-diddle  
I play on my fiddle  
And dance all kinds of jigs

### Third little pig

I build my house of stone  
I build my house of bricks  
I have no chance  
To sing and dance  
'Cause work and play don't mix

### First and Second little pigs

He don't take no time to play  
Time to play, time to play  
All he does is work all day

### Third little pig

You can play and laugh and fiddle  
Don't think you can make me  
sore  
I'll be safe and you'll be sorry  
When the wolf comes through  
your door

### First and Second little pigs

Who's afraid of the big, bad wolf?  
Big, bad wolf? Big, bad wolf?  
Who's afraid of the big, bad wolf?  
Tra-la-la-la-la

(knock, knock)

### First Pig

Who's there?

### Wolf

Open the door and let me in.

### First Pig

Not by the hair of my  
chinny-chin-chin.

### Wolf

I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll  
blow your house in!

### Wolf

"Curses! Well, they're too  
smart for me, guess I'll go  
home."

### First and Second little pigs

He's gone

Who's afraid of the big,  
bad wolf?

Big, bad wolf? Big, bad  
wolf?

Who's afraid of the big,  
bad wolf?

Tra-la-la-la-la

(knock, knock)

### Pigs

Who's there?

### Wolf

I'm a poor little sheep with  
no place to sleep.

Please open the door and  
let me in.

### Pigs

Not by the hair of our  
chinny-chin-chin.

You can't fool us with that  
old sheep skin!

### Wolf

I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll  
blow your house in!

### Third pig

See, I told you what would  
happen

When that big wolf came  
around

Only bricks and stones are  
wolf proof

Now at last you're safe  
and sound

### The three little pigs

Who's afraid of the big,  
bad wolf?

Big, bad wolf? Big, bad  
wolf?

Who's afraid of the big,  
bad wolf?

(Knock, knock)

### Third little pig

Who's there?

### Wolf

I'm the new brush man, I  
work my way through  
college

### Third little pig

Thank you

### Wolf

By the hair of your chinny-  
chin-chin.

I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll  
blow your house in!

### The three little pigs

Who's afraid of the big,  
bad wolf?

Big, bad wolf? Big, bad  
wolf?

Who's afraid of the big,  
bad wolf?