

Alpha, Bravo, Charlie: Storytime About the Military

Jan Marry
Williamsburg Regional Library
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Advertised as: All ages are invited to join librarian and military spouse Jan Marry as she presents books and songs about life in a military family.

The words for the songs are listed below the plan. These songs are known in many variations and I adapted the words of some of them. You can see them all being performed by searching on Youtube. Out of interest, I originally learned three of them at Brownies in the 1970s in New Zealand.

Plan for Storytime

Book: *Alpha, Bravo, Charlie* by Chris Demarest.

Song: The Grand Old Duke of York

Book: Ask if anyone knows anyone in the military and choose that branch's book from the Capstone Press non fiction series.

For example:

Sailors of the U.S. Navy by Jennifer Reed

Marines of the U.S. Marine Corps by Jennifer Reed

Airmen of the U.S. Air Force by Lisa M. Bolt Simons

The U.S. Army by Matt Doeden

Song: My Ship Sailed from China

Book: *Hero Dad* by Melinda Hardin

Song: Do Your Ears Hang Low

Book: *Captain Cat* by Syd Hoff

Song: The Ants Go Marching

Books: More of the non fiction Capstone Press books (depending on interest)

If there is time for more books, and depending on the ages of the participants:

Book: *Baby I'm Watching Over You*

Book: *My Red Balloon* by Eve Bunting

Book: *Red White and Blue Goodbye* by Sarah Wones Tomp

Book: *Night Catch* by Brenda Ehrmantraut

Song Lyrics

The Grand Old Duke of York

The grand old Duke of York,
He had ten thousand men;
He marched them up to the top of the hill,
And he marched them down again.

And when they were up, they were up,
And when they were down, they were down,
And when they were only half-way up,
They were neither up nor down.

My Ship Sailed from China

This is an action song where you sit down with your legs straight out and sway to show that you are on the sea. The song repeats and each time you “come to a storm” you add an action like waving your arms from side to side or crossing your legs. You usually end up getting in a tangle!

My ship sailed from China
With a cargo of tea,
All laden with presents
For you and for me.
We came to a storm,
Just imagine my bliss

When I found myself going

Like this, like this, like this, like this....

Do Your Ears Hang Low

Do Your Ears Hang Low?

Do They Wobble to and Fro?

Can You Tie Them in a Knot?

Can You Tie Them in a Bow?

Can You Throw Them Over Your Shoulder Like a Continental Soldier?

Do Your Ears Hang Low?

Do Your Ears Hang High?

Do They Reach Up to the Sky?

Do They Droop When They're Wet?

Do They Stiffen When They're Dry?

Can You Throw Them Over Your Shoulder Like a Continental Soldier?

Do Your Ears Hang Low?

Do Your Ears Hang Wide?

Do They Flap From Side to Side?

Do They Wave in the Breeze?

From the Slightest Little Sneeze?

Can You Throw Them Over Your Shoulder Like a Continental Soldier?

Do Your Ears Hang Low?

The Ants Go Marching

The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah

The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah

The ants go marching one by one,

The little one stops to play the drum

And they all go marching around the town, into the ground, through the drain, and up in the rain

The ants go marching two by two, hurrah, hurrah

The ants go marching two by two, hurrah, hurrah

The ants go marching two by two,

The little one stops to tie his shoe

And they all go marching around the town, into the ground, through the drain, and up in the rain

The ants go marching three by three, hurrah, hurrah

The ants go marching three by three, hurrah, hurrah

The ants go marching three by three,
The little one stops to climb a tree
And they all go marching around the town, into the ground, through the drain, and up in the rain

The ants go marching four by four, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching four by four, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching four by four,
The little one stops to shut the door
And they all go marching around the town, into the ground, through the drain, and up in the rain

The ants go marching five by five, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching five by five, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching five by five,
The little one stops to check the hive
And they all go marching around the town, into the ground, through the drain, and up in the rain

The ants go marching six by six, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching six by six, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching six by six,
The little one stops to pick up sticks
And they all go marching around the town, into the ground, through the drain, and up in the rain

The ants go marching seven by seven, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching seven by seven, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching seven by seven,
The little one stops to pray to heaven
And they all go marching around the town, into the ground, through the drain, and up in the rain

The ants go marching eight by eight, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching eight by eight, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching eight by eight,
The little one stops to shut the gate
And they all go marching around the town, into the ground, through the drain, and up in the rain

The ants go marching nine by nine, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching nine by nine, hurrah, hurrah
The ants go marching nine by nine,
The little one stops to tie the line
And they all go marching around the town, into the ground, through the drain, and up in the rain

The ants go marching ten by ten
AND THAT'S THE END!

Another good song would be Yankee Doodle