

2 Chapbooks; 3/1237  
THE LIFE

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# JACK SPRAT.

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## JACK SPRAT.

Jack Sprat could eat no fat,  
His wife could eat no lean ;  
And so, between them both,  
They lick'd the platter clean.  
For Jack eat all the lean,  
And Joan eat all the fat ;  
The bone they picked clean,  
Then gave it to the cat.



When neat Jack Sprat was young,  
 He dressed very smart ;  
 He courted Joany Cole,  
 And he did gain her heart.

In fine leather doublet,  
 And an old greasy hat,  
 Oh ! what a smart fellow  
 Was our hero Jack Sprat.



Joan Cole had a hole  
    In her petticoat ;  
Jack Sprat, for a patch,  
    Did give her a goat :

The goat bought a patch,  
    Which stopped Joan's hole :  
" I thank you, Jack Sprat !"  
    Says little Joan Cole.



Jack Sprat the bridegroom,  
 Joan Cole was the bride ;  
 Jack said, from the church,  
 His Joan home should ride :

But no coach could take her,  
 The lane was so narrow ;  
 Said Jack, " Then I'll shake her  
 Home in a wheel-barrow."



Jack Sprat was wheeling  
 His wife by the ditch,  
 Barrow turn'd over,  
 And in she did pitch.

Says Jack—"She'll be drown'd!"  
 But Joan did reply,  
 "I don't think I shall,—  
 The ditch is quite dry!"



Jack brought home his Joan,  
She sat in a chair ;  
When in came his cat,  
That had but one ear.

Says Joan, " I'm come home,  
Puss, how do you do ? "  
The cat wagg'd her tail,  
Said nothing but " Mew."



Jack Sprat took his gun,  
And went to the brook ;  
He shot at the drake,  
But killed the duck :

He brought it to Joan,  
She a fire did make,  
To roast the fat duck ;  
He went for the drake.





The drake was swimming,  
 With his curly tail ;  
 Jack tried to shoot him,  
 But happen'd to fail :

He let off his gun,  
 But, missing his mark,  
 The drake flew away,  
 Crying, " Quack, quack, quack ! "

Jack to live pretty,  
 Now bought him a pig ;  
 Not very little,  
 Nor yet very big ;



Was not very lean,  
 Was not very fat ;  
 Very fine grunter !  
 For little Jack Sprat.

Joan went to market  
 As Jack did propose ;  
 She bought a large frog,  
 And a couple of crows :

The frog was not white,  
 The crows were both black ;  
 “ They’ll never agree, ”  
 Says little Joan Sprat.

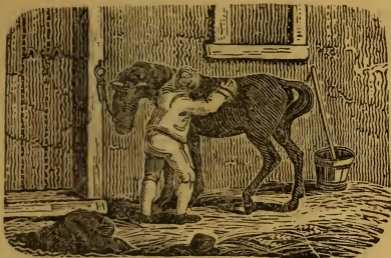


Jack Sprat bought a cow,  
His dear Joan to please,  
For Joan she could make  
Both butter and cheese ;  
Pancakes, or pudding,  
Without any fat ;  
A careful house-wife  
Was little Joan Sprat.



Joan Sprat was brewing  
A barrel of ale,  
She put in some hops,  
It might not turn stale ;

But as for the malt,  
Forgot to put that,  
“ Brave sober liquor ! ”  
Said little Jack Sprat.



Jack went to market,  
And bought him a mare,  
Was lame of three legs,  
And blind, I declare ;  
Her ribs they were bare,  
The mare had no fat,  
“ She’s a fine racer ! ”  
Says little Jack Sprat.



Jack and Joan went abroad,  
Puss took care of the house ;  
When she caught a large rat,  
And a very small mouse :

So she caught a small mouse,  
And a very large rat ;  
“ An excellent hunter ! ”  
Says little Jack Sprat.



I've told you the story  
 Of the famous Jack Sprat,  
 And of little Joan Cole,  
 And the poor one-ear'd cat :

Now Jack has got riches,  
 He has plenty of pelf,  
 If you'd have any more,  
 You must tell it yourself.



When Jack Sprat was young,  
    He was not so big ;  
But now he is old,  
    And fat as a pig.

If Jack Sprat were lean,  
    He would not be fat—  
I think my reader  
    Will not dispute that.