

Footnotes

2. **Old sow:** A sow is "an adult female hog".
3. **Three little pigs:** This story uses the classic number three found in many fairy tales. Most variations of the tale also employ three animals.
4. **Seek their fortunes:** Fairy tale characters, especially the male characters, leave home to seek their fortune at the beginning of fairy tales. In other words, the characters are leaving their families and homes behind in hopes of earning their own livings as adults for the first time.
5. **A bundle of straw:** Straw is a plant fiber used for making baskets and hats. Straw is often a key ingredient in brick making, the substance which stands up against the wolf's attack.
6. **To build a house:** Shelter, along with food and clothing, is one of the basic needs for survival. The pigs require adequate shelter from the elements and more importantly predators as the story will show.
7. **Wolf:** The wolf is a common fairy tale villain, perhaps most famous for this tale and *Little Red Riding Hood*. Other versions of the tale offer other animals as the predator with a fox as the second most popular choice.
8. **Knocked at the door:** The knocking at the door adds a bit of comedy. The wolf is essentially knocking to be admitted to eat the pig in its own home.
9. **Little pig, little pig, let me come in:** The following dialogue between the wolf and the pigs is repeated three times and it is the most popular element of the story.
10. **No, no, by the hair of my chiny chin chin:** The first two pigs may be foolish about their building materials, but they know a mortal threat when they see it. They do not intend to become the wolf's next meal.
11. **Then I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in:** The modern classic, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka explains the huffing and puffing as the wolf's affliction with a cold.
12. **Ate up the little pig:** In the earliest versions of the tale, the pigs pay for their ignorance and laziness with their lives. Later versions often spare the pigs' lives. Either they run away to stay with the pig in the brick house or they are cut from the belly of the wolf at the end of the story.
13. **A bundle of furze:** Furze is a "very spiny and dense evergreen shrub." Most modern versions of the tale replace furze with sticks or twigs.
14. **A load of bricks:** A brick is a "rectangular block of clay baked by the sun or in a kiln; used as a building or paving material".
15. **Well, he huffed, and he puffed, and he huffed and he puffed, and he puffed and huffed; but he could not get the house down:** The wolf's huffing and puffing provides suspense and/or comedy depending on how the story is presented. This scene is usually comical in illustrated and animated versions of the tale.
16. **Little pig, I know where there is a nice field of turnips:** Many later versions of the tale skip this section of the story. The story is then resumed with the wolf climbing down the chimney.
17. **I have been and come back again, and got a nice potful for dinner:** This pig is a trickster. He continually outsmarts the wolf and thus saves his own life.

18. **Apple tree:** Pigs are often cooked whole and served with an apple in their mouths. Perhaps the wolf has visions of a similar meal.
19. **Shanklin:** There is a small town of Shanklin on the Isle of Wight.
20. **This afternoon:** Their previous two appointments have been in the early morning. Note the wolf's reluctance to wait yet another day for his meal. Perhaps he hopes moving their next meeting to an earlier time will prevent the pig from outsmarting him.
21. **A butter-churn:** A butter churn is a vessel in which milk or cream is stirred, beaten.
22. **Told him how frightened he had been by a great round thing which came down the hill past him:** Joseph Jacobs' references a similar plot device in an Indian tale, titled "Lambikin".
23. **Get down the chimney:** This wolf is not Santa Claus. He is not welcome in the pig's house and is not smart enough to anticipate a warm reception of a different kind.
24. **A blazing fire:** In times past before stoves and central heating, fireplaces and chimneys were used for cooking food in most homes, not just for warmth.
25. **Ate him for supper:** Pigs are not very discerning in their eating. The irony of this story is that the pig ends up eating the wolf. The prey eats the predator which is not the normal order of life. However, the story serves as inspiration to the underdog.
26. **Lived happy ever afterwards:** Happily ever after belongs to the pig with wits and industry. The wolf and the other two pigs, however, are dead and will not be living happily ever after in fairy tale fashion.