

Riddles Wisely Expounded (Child 1C)

- 1 THERE was a knicht riding frae the east,
 Sing the Cather banks, the bonnie brume
 Wha had been wooing at monie a place.
 And ye may beguile a young thing sune

- 2 He came unto a widow's door, 5
 And speird whare her three dochters were.

- 3 The auldest ane 's to a washing gane,
 The second 's to a baking gane.

- 4 The youngest ane 's to a wedding gane,
 And it will be nicht or she be hame. 10

- 5 He sat him doun upon a stane,
 Till thir three lasses came tripping hame.

- 6 The auldest ane 's to the bed making,
 And the second ane 's to the sheet spreading.

- 7 The youngest ane was bauld and bricht, 15
 And she was to lye with this unco knight.

- 8 'Gin ye will answer me questions ten,
 The morn ye sall be made my ain.

- 9 'O what is heigher nor the tree?
 And what is deeper nor the sea? 20

- 10 'Or what is heavier nor the lead?
 And what is better nor the breid?

- 11 'O what is whiter nor the milk?
 Or what is safter nor the silk?

- 12 'Or what is sharper nor a thorn? 25
 Or what is louder nor a horn?

- 13 'Or what is greener nor the grass?
Or what is waur nor a woman was?'
- 14 'O heaven is higher nor the tree,
And hell is deeper nor the sea. 30
- 15 'O sin is heavier nor the lead,
The blessing 's better nor the bread.
- 16 'The snaw is whiter nor the milk,
And the down is safter nor the silk.
- 17 'Hunger is sharper nor a thorn, 35
And shame is louder nor a horn.
- 18 'The pies are greener nor the grass,
And Cloutie 's waur nor a woman was.'
- 19 As sune as she the fiend did name,
He flew awa in a blazing flame. 40