



Romp In The Swamp

Lyrics Sheet

Romp In The Swamp

Go romp, romping in the swamp
Go romp, romp, romp romp
Go romp, romping in the swamp
Go romp, romp, romp

CHORUS

Go romp in the swamp!
Go squish, not stomp!
Wear pants and shoes!
You'd better get set
to get a little wet
and to use some bug juice.

Walk right in; life abounds.
Shut your mouth and listen to the sounds.
epp, epp, quack, quack
cattails bouncing
off your back.

CHORUS

Watch where you walk, don't step on a nest.
Thick green grass many mamas like best.
Little muskrats, baby northern pike,
swamps are what those mamas like.

CHORUS

I wouldn't go there with my bathing suit on.
Mosquitoes so bad it wouldn't take long.
They'd light and bite.
You wouldn't have a chance.

They'd make you do the mosquito dance.
One, two, three, four, I can't stand it anymore!

CHORUS

Webber and Maude McMallard

Oh, Webber McMallard
knew migrating time had come.
He was looking for a hen,
and winter was nearly done, it was nearly done.
Now a hen they called Maude
thought Webber looked O.K.
She said, "Fly by my side
if you're heading my way, if you're heading my way"

CHORUS

So they took off together
with their common goal,
heading for the Great Plains
and the prairie pot holes.

In a farmer's field they found
their honeymoon spot.
It was shallow and small
and they liked it a lot, well, they liked it a lot.

To the deeper pot holes
they'd fly from time to time
to get a good bath
and where the eating was fine,
where the eating was fine.
They spent their time together
Then Maude made a nest
in a fence line nearby,
and each day she left a new egg there,
then back to Webber she'd fly,
back to Webber she'd fly.
And when twelve eggs were laid,
Maude said, "It's time to sit, to keep my eggs warm"
and Webber said, "Well, I guess that's it."
and the Ol' Mallard split.

CHORUS

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Cont. (Webber and Maude McMallard)

*Maude sat on those eggs
for twenty-six days,
hoping that the dogs and fox
and the raccoons stayed away,
that they all stayed away.
And when the little ducklings
cracked out of their eggs,
Maude took 'em to the deeper pothole
on their little legs, on their little legs.
They waddled off together
So, if you're in the "Duck"otas
or somewhere nearby
if it's spring you might see
the McMallards flying by, flying by.
In a dip in a field
where a little water collects
The McMallards will mate
as the sunset reflects, as the sunset reflects*

The Alligator

*I move my tail side to side.
Through the water I slowly slide.
My four feet moving, count on surprise,
under the surface except my nose, ears and eyes.*

*A quick move, I got my prey
a careless critter, it should have been quicker to
say "See you later,
you hungry alligator."
AAHHH yum yum yum.*

*Down in the swamp in my 'gator hole,
the swamp gets dry, it's where all the critters go.
I don't move much and I might look slow,
but I can be fast, don't be the last to know.*

Cont. (The Alligator)

*A quick move, I got my prey.
With a snap of a tail I spin,
twisting off a chunk or a limb.
I do it over and over until I've done it in, AAHHH yum
yum yum.*

*Watch out! Here comes the poacher man. He'll catch
me and kill me if he can.
He wants my tail or maybe my skin.
He's looking for me, and I'm looking out for him.
(Hey, alligator, come here. I won't hurt you.)*

*With her mouth, feet, and tail
a mama 'gator makes her nest,
pushing sticks, carrying grass to a pile of mess.
She hangs around with maternal interest.
To keep your distance the Mom will strongly
suggest.*

*With a quick move, she protects her eggs.
And all the egg eaters
better know how to treat her
they get too close,
it'll be them that feed her.
AAHHH yum yum yum.*

Do the Dragonfly

*CHORUS
Do the Dragonfly, Do the Dragonfly
To do the dragonfly
you've got to have 60,000 eyes.
And, man, you've got to fly
to catch those insects you devour
up to 30 miles an hour.*

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Lyrics Sheet

Cont. (Do the Dragonfly)

*That's fast.
Your six legs hang,
ready and bent just right.
Like a basket under you
they'll catch your prey in full flight.
I got you, you mosquito!
I got you, you bluebottle fly!
I got you, you big bumblebee!
and I'll eat you while I fly.
Do the dragonfly, Do the dragonfly
dragonflies lay eggs in the water
eggs hatch out comes sons and daughters
they live in the water for four or five years
at the end of life they appear
above the water, they grow wings and fly
eat bugs, mate, lay eggs and die
paleontologist figure
there was never an insect bigger.
Oh, yes, they have the fossils
to prove it was colossal.
with a two and a half foot wingspan
You wouldn't want it flying 'round you, man.
CHORUS
On your thin neck,
your head moves all around
to see your prey up ahead
and your predators diving down.
Watch out for the green heron!
Watch out for the blue jay!
Watch out for the big bullfrog!
or you'll be their meal today.*

Snake Song

*Through the grass
I slowly slide, to a great big stone
the sun is shining I am warm*

Cont. (Snake Song)

*and I hope I'm left alone
I need the sun's heat to warm my blood
like each and every reptile.
I only hunt things smaller than me,
but still some people get riled.
Some people try to hurt me.
I don't know what evil they see.
With scalelike plates on my belly,
I can move ahead.
But when I move fast, or through the water,
I use my s-shaped wiggle instead.
My forked tongue darts in and out
collecting molecules.
It tells me what's going on,
but some people are fooled.*

*My teeth curve in so what I catch
can not escape my bite.
One side of my jaw pulls my catch in
while the other side holds it tight.
My jaws unhinge and swing wide open
as I swallow my prey.
I eat to live like all animals.
But some people don't see it that way*

*When I lie out on the road,
people swerve to squish me.
With all the rats and mice I eat,
Aww, why not let me be?
I can not jump or roll like a hoop,
and my skin is smooth and dry (not slimy).
I bite people only when I'm scared
so I don't know why.*



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Lyrics Sheet

Mr. Muskrat

*Mr. Muskrat moves across the mud.
His tail leaves a trail that leaves no doubt
of who's been waddling where.
With his dark brown or greyish hair.
Munching on cattail roots, weeds and grass
he might make a pile so his supply lasts.*

*In a marsh, he builds a hut.
In streams, he digs holes.
He makes more than one;
it gives him places to go.
It doesn't matter how he feels.
If he hangs around he becomes a meal.
It might be a fox, or maybe a mink,
an otter, an owl, why aren't muskrats extinct?!
because babies, lots of babies –
three or four litters a year
Babies, muskrat babies.
The reason for survival is clear.*

*But when the population gets high
the mood gets low.
They get mean and nasty
don't let the little ones grow.
It's brutal population control.
Even disease will take its toll.*

*Only so many muskrats
in one place can live.
There's only so much food
a watery spot can give.*

*In winter, life's tough.
In spring, they love and fight.
In summer, they take it easy.
In fall, they make their homes tight.
Swimming through the struggle and strife,
each day living that muskrat life.*

Wild Wetlands

*Mrs. Mosquito she's been flying all day
looking for blood for the eggs she will lay,
Eggs she will lay. she's hungry all day,
eggs she will lay. What do mosquitoes say?
She spots the nose of an otter and then zeros in,
but a fish catches her as the otter eats him.*

*Where the tall grass bends
and the swamp trees stand,
it's the food and the shelter
of the wild wetlands.*

*There sits the owl. He's been sleeping all day.
He waits for the night then he hunts his prey
Hunts his prey, hunts the night away,
hunts his prey. What does the owl say?*

*With thick wide wings, he silently flies,
looking through darkness with powerful eyes.*

*Here come the ducks. They've been flying all day.
They're tired and looking for a place to stay.
A place to stay, a place to hide away,
a place to stay. What do the ducks say?*

*The flock spots water and circles around'
cupping their wings, they let the earth
pull them down.*

Pull of the Moon

*Around the bay where the cordgrass grows
sea life breeds, and birds feed on those.
it's the pull of the moon and the sun each day,*

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Lyrics Sheet

Cont. (Pull of the Moon)

*tides roll in and roll away, roll away, in the bay
roll away*

*Daybreak at low tide and the mud flats glisten.
A young crab moves, but the sea gulls miss him.
Oysters are buried and the clapper rail listen
by the tidal ebb and flow.*

*Big fish come in with the high tide.
Swim by the grass in search of small fry.
Insects and snails move up the green stems.
When the tide's out, they move down again.*

*Moonlight at high tide, and the grass undulates
with the force of each wave as it dissipates.
It's the rhythm and the roll of the water and its
weight by the tidal ebb and flow.*

The Crab Step

*Around the world there are crabs
of every size and type with big claws to grab
whatever's in sight. And when they grow
out of their old shell, their new shell is soft.
They hide for a spell, get hard and take off...*

*Doing the crab step on land or in the depths,
moving sideways to get where they get.
If danger appears, they try to hide,
but if they can't, they'll face it
with their claws open wide, open wide.*

*The back legs are paddles for swimming
through the depths and the dregs
or on the surface skimming
paddling forward, paddling back*

Cont. (The Crab Step)

*paddle side to side, retreat or attack
Jump back, crab attack, jump back, crab attack
Don't worry, it's a cinch, just keep your feet moving
and you won't get pinched*

*Go to the salt marsh, and you will find
crabs all around in the grassy brine
and the mud underground. And if they spot you,
with their extended eyes,
then they'll start to move as you realize that they're...*

*Doing the crab step on land or in the depths,
moving sideways to get where they get
the joints of their legs point to the side.
And if danger appears, the claws open wide,
open wide.*

*They're doing the crab step on land or in the depths,
moving sideways to get where they get
And if danger appears they try to hide,
but if they can't they face it with
their claws open wide, open wide.*

All Across the U.S.A.

*Well, all across the U.S.A.
you can hear the people say,
"There's so much algae in our lake.
When I swim I take a rake,
and when it stinks to high heaven,
it ain't for heaven's sake. PU!!
Yes, the fish swim belly up,
and if you put some
of that lake in a cup
and drank it,*

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Lyrics Sheet

Cont. (All Across the U.S.A.)

you'd swim that way too."

*Farmers in the country,
homeowners in suburbs,
lose topsoil and fertilizer
in streams and over curbs.*

*Topsoil and fertilizer runs
into the river when the rains come.
The river then carries it's heavy load
down to the lake
where the algae grows, and grows
and grows and grows*

*But when there's a swamp
that the river runs through,
there's a lot that pot of peat can do.
Thick green growth is a fine strainer,
topsoil and fertilizer retainer.*

*The Mighty Magnificent Marsh.
It will take what the lake would think harsh.
It will hold on to what the river brings through
that mighty magnificent marsh.*

*When the building sides are gone
on lakeshores and riverbanks,
they drain swamps and pull the plug
on a long-time nutrient tank.
Then the nutrients and the phosphates run...*

Upriver

*Rain will fall. Snow will melt.
Where water runs, it's gonna be felt,
and I hope you're not surprised
when the rivers rise.*

Cont. (Upriver)

*Floodwaters can bring damage and death,
leave a washed out scene
where people must do their best.
So they spend lots of money
building dikes or dams
without checking out upriver for wetlands.*

*Upriver – there are wetlands being drained.
Upriver – concrete's not the same.
Upriver – wetlands can act like a sponge,
Upriver – and the plants slow the river's run.*

*Wetlands are thick with all kinds of plants
which lay down when they die
to give other plants their chance.
All of those dead plants leave layers kind of deep,
which is where the excess water can seep*

*So next time you hear about a really bad flood
with damage in the billions
everybody's speaking of,
if you've got the time, check the river's history
for just how many wetlands there used to be.*

The Bog Jog

*There are places, deep bodies of water
that stand very still with nowhere to flow,
and as plants die, they sink to the bottom,
the oxygen drops and the sphagnum moss grows
It grows. Oh, how it grows.
It's a living carpet of thick green moss
growing on the water top. Nature's own waterbed
and if you walk upon it, you suddenly stop*

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Lyrics Sheet

Cont. (The Bog Jog)

*because the bog jogs with every move you make
Yeah, the bog jogs. It will make your body shake
The bog jogs, it puts rhythm in your knees
The bog jogs if you jump up and down or sneeze.*

*Up in New England or in the Carolinas,
out in the Midwest, all across Canada,
pockets of sphagnum, water and plants
it might look solid, but it will make you dance.
Make you dance. Oh, it makes you dance.
Cranberries and the cedar trees
and the venus-flytraps.
If a moose or a bear appear there,
then the stillness suddenly snaps.*

*... it grows right across
that surface of the water,
that's what makes it a
great big water bed, yeah
so as you walk across
all that sphagnum moss
it feels like jello under you
but don't jump to hard
or you could punch on through
and people would say
oh he was just right here
but when we turned around
he had disappeared,
vanished, gone, into thin air
but you would just be under the sphagnum moss
swimming around somewhere,
yeah in that bog, that jogging bog*

Food Chain

*That ol' sun lets those green plants grow
high in the sky and in the ocean below.*

Cont. (Food Chain)

*Solar power is what the green plants need
to make the food to grow so the creatures know
just where they can feed*

*Links in the food chain.
The threads in the food web.
The links in the food chain.
The threads in the food web.
web, web, web.*

*Many bugs and animals of every type and size
eat only plants and fruits in order to survive.
Munch, munch, munch, gobble, gobble, gobble,
turn around and eat some more.
If a diet's complete without eating any meat,
you're talking about a herbivore.*

CHORUS

*Well, pounce and snarl, and bones that crunch.
Stalking through weeds and springing from a hunch.
Eating other creatures, and when hungry
they'll eat more. They use their skill
and eat their kill and they're called carnivores.*

CHORUS

*Omnivores eat any kind of food –
depends, on where it is, their situation and mood.
It might have hunted, raised or maybe grown.
An omnivore might buy it at a store or
order it on the phone.*

*All animals poop, and all living things die.
Dead bodies and poop hit the soil, decompose
then fertilize. Then a young seed sprouts
and grows up towards the sky.*



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Lyrics Sheet

Dawn in the Marsh

*The dawn brings soft light to a marsh
A lily pad turns slowly round
the frog sits on it's floating leaf
it's flower blooms without a sound
above, of course
mosquitoes dance in swarms
they sense their food
if it's nearby and warm
the frog (redeleap) with his tongue
that's sticky long and fast
will catch insects as they come flying past*

CHORUS

*And the rising sun throws it's light
through mist over the marsh.
Where the thick green growth
and wildlife together play their part.*

*They play and they work
they swim and they fly
they sprout and they flower
they hunt and die
lay eggs and give birth
just look around
and watch for movements
and listen to ... the sounds*

*The dragonfly's wings catch the light.
They shimmer purple, red, and blue.
The marsh hawk circles overhead.
The spider web hangs in the dew.
In the shallows, the minnows dart and steal
away from those searching for a meal.
The Great Blue Heron is standing by a log.
He stalks for fish, a snake, or a bullfrog*

Cont. (Dawn in the Marsh)

CHORUS

*The fox moves slowly through the grass.
He has a mallard in his sight.
A raccoon's raiding someone's nest.
Cattails shake from the muskrats bite.
Redwing blackbird's flitting 'round her nest,
watching a mink with concerned interest .
The snapping turtle submerged
in search of prey
He snaps and eats
whatever comes his way*

CHORUS