

I Gave My Love a Cherry

English Folk Song

$\text{♩} = 72$



I gave my love a cher-ry that has no stone,
I gave my love a chi-cken that has no bone,
I gave my love a stor-y that has no end,
I gave my love a ba-by with no cry-in'.

2. How can there be a cherry that has no stone?
How can there be a chicken that has no bone?
How can there be a story that has no end?
How can there be a baby with no cryin'?

3. A cherry when it blossoms, it has no stone,
A chicken in the egg, it has no bone,
The story of our love, it has no end,
A baby when it's sleepin' has no cryin'.



tradition

This is an example in the folk music tradition of a riddle song. These were shared with friends to try to trick each other, just as we do today! This can also make a sweet lullaby.

I would share the first two verses with my students on one day and then send them home to talk with friends and their family to try to figure it out. When we got back together I'd have them share their ideas, and then sing the last verse to see if they'd gotten it right! They always loved this.

Older students might enjoy setting another riddle to a folk sing or pentatonic tone set following this same pattern as a composition activity.