

Ten Little Hikers

Ten lively hikers walking in a line;

Along came a copperhead, and then there were nine.

Nine active hikers feeling strong and great;

The rain loosed a howler, and then there were eight.

Eight healthy hikers feeling ~~strong~~ just like heaven;

They walked along a railroad track, and then there were seven.

Seven happy hikers climbing over sticks;

They crossed a deep and dismal swamp, and then there were six.

Six sickly hikers just about alive;

They forded a deep and rapid stream, and then there were five.

Five tired hikers asking if there's more;

They walked along a narrow cliff, and then there were four.

Four despondent hikers leaning on every tree;

One found a rattlesnake and then there were three.

Three weary hikers wishing they were through;

They trampled on a farmer's crop, and then there were two.

Two sobbing hikers wishing they were done;

They leapt across a deep crevasse, and then there was one.

One exhausted hiker maddened by the sun;

A black widow Reel an him, and then there were none.