

## Hush Little Baby—Traditional chain song (question and answer format) (also Mocking Bird Song or Southern Lullaby)

**C C G G**  
 Hush little baby don't you say a word  
**G G C C**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a mockingbird  
**C C G G**  
 And if that mockingbird don't sing  
**G G C C**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a diamond ring  
**C C G G**  
 And if that diamond ring is brass  
**G G C C**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a looking glass  
**C C G G**  
 And if that looking glass is broke  
**G G C C**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a billy goat  
**C C G G**  
 And if that billy goat won't pull  
**G G C C**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a cart and bull  
**C C G G**  
 And if that cart and bull fall over  
**G G C C**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a dog named Rover  
**C C G G**  
 and if that dog named Rover won't bark  
**G G C C**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a horse and cart  
**C C G G**  
 and if that horse and cart fall down  
**G G C C**  
 you'll still be the sweetest little baby in town

**C C G G**  
 Hush little baby don't say a word  
**G G C C** **MOUNTAIN chords**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a mockingbird

**C Am7 Dm7 Dm7**  
 Hush little baby don't say a word  
**G G7 C C** **FOLK chords**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a mockingbird

**Cma7 C#dim7 Dm7 Dm7**  
 Hush little baby don't say a word  
**G9 G9#5 Cma7 Cma7** **JAZZ chords**  
 Poppa's gonna buy you a mocking bird

I—V progression or I—VIIm—IIIm—V7 progression

Chord	Root	3 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>		Purpose
C	C	E	G			Dominant I
Cma7	C	E	G	B		Substitution Ima <sub>7</sub>
C#dim7	C#	E	G	B $\flat$		Walk-up transitional
C		C	E	G		
Am7	A	C	C	G		Related minor VI
G	G	B	D			Related major V
G7	G	B	D	F		Transitional major V <sub>7b</sub> to I
G9	G	B	D	F	A	Transitional to the I
G9#5	G	B	D#	F	A	Transitional to the I
Dm7	D	F	A	C		Related minor II (sub for IV)

(Non-traditional versions by Bo Diddley, Inez and Charlie Foxx,  
Carly Simon and James Taylor, Janis Joplin)

Bo Diddley  
Inez and Charlie Foxx  
Carly Simon and James Taylor  
Janis Joplin

## MOCKINGBIRD

Artists: Carly Simon and James Taylor (peak Billboard position # 5  
in 1974)

Words and Music by Inez and Charlie Foxx with additional lyrics  
by James Taylor

Adapted from the same traditional folk lyrics as was the song "Bo  
Diddley"

Previously charted by the Foxxes at # 7 in 1963 and Aretha  
Franklin at # 94 in  
1967.

Mock (yeah)  
ing (yeah)  
bird (yeah)  
yeah (yeah)  
Mockin'bird, now

Everybody have you heard  
He's gonna buy me a mockingbird  
And if that mockingbird don't sing  
He's gonna buy me a diamond ring  
And if that diamond ring won't shine

He's gonna surely break this heart of mine  
And that's why I keep on tellin' everybody  
Say yeah, yeah whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, uh, oh

Hear me now and understand  
He's gonna find me some piece of mind  
And if that piece of mind won't stay  
I'm gonna find myself a better way  
And if that better way ain't so  
I'll ride with the tide and go with the flow  
And that's why I keep on shoutin' in your ear  
Say yeah, yeah whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, uh, oh

Now, everybody have you heard  
She's gonna buy me a mockingbird  
Yeah if that mockingbird don't sing  
She's gonna buy me a diamond ring  
And if that diamond ring won't shine  
Yes, it'll surely break this heart of mine  
And there's a reason why I keep on tellin' everybody  
Say yeah, yeah no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no

Listen now and understand  
She's gonna find me some piece of mind  
Yeah if that piece of mind won't stay  
I'm gonna get myself a better way  
I might rise above, I might go below  
Ride with the tide and go with the flow  
And that's the reason why I keep on shoutin' in your ear...

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, now, now. baby

Two types of formula songs are usually distinguished: chain songs and cumulative songs. In the former, the verse is expanded either by starting each new line with the last words of the previous one or in a question-response form. In the

latter, having a meaningful structure, each stanza repeats the previous one and has a new line added containing its own plot. Consequently, the last stanza, with the whole song included, becomes the longest one.