

Swinging on a Star

by Johnny Burke and Jimmy Van Heusen

Recorded by Bing Crosby*, 1944 (#1 for 9 weeks) and from the 1944 movie "Going My Way," Academy Award Winner, Best Song Crosby's version of this song, which remained on the charts for a full 28 weeks after being recorded in February of that year, featured backup vocals by a group called The Williams Brothers. The high tenor of that group was a then-13-year-old who went on to have a reasonably successful career as a solo singer. His name is Andy.

Chorus

Edim7 Em7 A7 D7
Would you like to swing on a star?
Dm7 G7 C
Carry moonbeams home in a jar?
Edim7 Em7 A7 D7
And be better off than you are
Dm7 G7 C F C Dm7
Or would you rather be a mule? pig? fish?

Ending Chorus

Edim7 Em7 A7 D7
And all the monkeys aren't in a zoo
Dm7 G7 C
Every day you meet quite a few
Edim7 Em7 A7 D7
So you see it's all up to you
Dm7 G7 Edim7 A7
You can be better than you are,
Dm7 G7 C F C
You could be swingin' on a star.

C F C F
A mule is an animal with long funny ears,
C F C Bb C /
Kicks up at anything he hears.
D7 Am7 D7 G
His back is brawny but his brain is weak,
Am7 D7 Am7 D7 G Bm G7 /
He's just plain stupid with a stubborn streak.
C F C Gm7 A7 /
And by the way, if you hate to go to school,
Dm7 G7 C F C Edim7
You may grow up to be a mule.

C F C F
A pig is an animal with dirt on his face;
C F C Bb C /
His shoes are a terrible disgrace.
D7 Am7 D7 G
He's got no manners when he eats his food,
Am7 D7 Am7 D7 G Bm G7 /
He's fat and lazy and extremely rude;
C F C Gm7 A7 /
But if you don't care a feather or a fig,
Dm7 G7 C F C Edim7
You may grow up to be a pig.

C F C F
A fish won't do anything, but swim in a brook;
C F C Bb C /
He can't write his name or read a book.
D7 Am7 D7 G
To fool the people is his only thought,
Am7 D7 Am7 D7 G Bm G7 /
And though he's slippery, he still gets caught;
C F C Gm7 A7 /
But then if that sort of life is what you wish,
Dm7 G7 C F C Edim7
You may grow up to be a fish.