

THE BOY WHO HATED TO GO TO SCHOOL

*A little boy named Tommy Shields
Hated to go to school;
He loved to roam the woods and fields
And fish the shining pool.*

*He stayed away from school one day;
His teacher whipped him sore,
Said he, "I just will run away,
And go to school no more."*

*He started for a gypsy camp,
Two miles outside the town;
So hot the day and long the tramp,
Half way he sat him down.*

*And as he rested, came along
Some of the gypsy band;
He asked them if he might belong,
And with them roam the land.*

*That night the gypsies went away,
And Tommy he went too.
They worked him hard, to his dismay,
And sorely beat him too.*

*Oh, how he longed for home again—
He even longed for school—
Escape he tried, but all in vain,
From gypsies' cruel rule.*

*Months passed; his father came one day;
Poor Tommy jumped for joy;
He took him home, and people say
He's now a different boy.*