

The Ballad of Crossing the Brook

Oh, the dainty, dainty maid to the borders of the brook
Lingered down as lightly as the breeze ;
And the shy water-spiders quit their scurrying to look ;
And the happy water whispered to the trees.

She was fain to cross the brook, was the dainty,
dainty maid ;
But first she lifted up her elfin eyes
To see if there were cavalier or clown a-near to
aid,—
And the water-bubbles blinked in surprise.

The brook bared its pebbles to persuade her dainty
feet,
But the dainty, dainty maid was not content.
She had spied a simple country lad (for dainty maid
unmeet),
And the shy water twinkled as it went.