

# Woody Guthrie, Talking Fish Blues

I went down to the fishing hole  
And I set down with my fishing pole  
Something grabbed my hook and it got my bait  
And it jerked me out in the middle of the lake  
Some jump, I got sunk  
Baptized on credit

Fishing down on the muddy bank  
Felt a pull and give a big yank  
I hauled out three old rubber boots  
And a Ford radiator and a Chevrolet coupe  
Handed it in for National Defence

Settin' in a boat with a bucket of beer  
And I hadn't caught nothin' but I didn't much care  
I guess I was pretty well satisfied  
I had my little lady right by my side  
Takin' it easy, just a-waitin'  
Worm been gone off that hook for couple hours

When you go fishin', I'll tell you what to do  
You go set down by the grassy slough  
Take a piece of string and tie it on your pole  
And throw it way out in the middle of the hole  
Find you a good shade tree and then just set down  
Go to sleep, forget all about it

Jumped in the river and went down deep  
There was a hundred pound catfish lying there asleep  
Jumped on his back and rode him into town  
Saddled him up and I come to town  
People came runnin', lookin'  
Dogs a-barkin', kids a-squallin'

Stagnate water's a stinkin' thing  
Slick on top and all turned green  
When the water goes bad, the fish all run  
Sit all day and not catch a-one  
'Cept ???, ???  
Few little suckers

I waded out to a sandy bar  
And I caught myself a big alligator gar  
Brung him home across my back  
Tail was dragging a mile and a half  
Flippin' and floppin'  
Sold him for a quarter  
Shot craps, got in jail

Early one mornin', I took me a notion  
To go out a-fishin' in the middle of the ocean  
Threw out my line, I caught me a shark  
I didn't get him home 'til way past dark  
He a man-eater, tough customer  
Just wasn't quite tough enough

Late last night I had me a dream  
I was out fishin' in a whiskey stream  
Baited my hook with apple-jack  
Threw out a drink and bring a gallon back  
Done pretty good 'til the creek run dry  
So I gave my fish back to the finance company