

## A POEM

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This is an excerpt from Gardner's 1969 book *Never Make Fun Of A Turtle, My Son* (Simon and Schuster, illustrated by John Alcorn).

### **Slowpoke**

Slowpoke, slowpoke,  
Coming home from school,  
Walking like a snail or a lazy old mule;  
Kicking up the pebbles,  
Sitting down to rest,  
Watching a mockingbird build her nest.

Slowpoke, slowpoke,  
Soaking in the tub,  
Dreaming you're the captain of a nuclear sub.  
You picked up the soap  
Ten minutes ago,  
And all you have scrubbed is your left big toe.

Slowpoke, slowpoke,  
Going off to bed,  
Dragging your feet like two lumps of lead.  
If you don't hurry,  
My pokey little pup,  
You won't get to bed 'til it's time to get up!