

1876

ACROSTIC: MAIDENS! IF YOU LOVE THE TALE

Lewis Carroll

Carroll, Lewis (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) (1832-1898) - English novelist, poet, photographer, and mathematician, best known for his fantastical childrens' classics. He was a mathematical lecturer at Oxford. Acrostic: Maidens! if you love the tale (1876) - An acrostic is a poem in which certain letters in the lines (often the first) taken in order form a name, a word, a motto, or an alphabetical sequence. Opening lines: "Maidens! if you love the tale, / If you love the Snark,...

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(To the Misses Drury.)

“MAIDENS! if you love the tale,
 If you love the Snark,
 Need I urge you, spread the sail,
 Now, while freshly blows the gale,
 In your ocean-barque!

“English Maidens love renown,
 Enterprise, and fuss!”
 Laughingly those Maidens frown;
 Laughingly, with eyes cast down;
 And they answer thus:

“English Maidens fear to roam.
 Much we dread the dark;
 Much we dread what ills might come,
 If we left our English home,
 Even for a Snark!”

Apr. 6, 1876.

THE END