

**1818**  
**OVER THE HILL AND OVER THE DALE**  
**John Keats**

**Keats, John (1795-1821) - Widely regarded as the most talented of the English romantic poets, Keats, whose work was poorly received during his lifetime, could not have foreseen his later recognition. Ironically, he wrote for his own epitaph: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water." Over the hill and over the dale (1818) - Written while Keats was in Devon nursing his sick brother, Tom. Opening lines: Over the hill and over the dale, / And over the bourn to Dawlish...**

**OVER THE HILL AND OVER THE DALE**

Over the hill and over the dale,  
And over the bourn to Dawlish  
Where gingerbread wives have a scanty sale  
And gingerbread nuts are smallish.

Rantipole Betty she ran down a hill  
And kicked up her petticoats fairly;  
Says I'll be Jack if you will be Gill  
So she sat on the grass debonairly.  
Here's somebody coming, here's somebody coming!  
Says I 'tis the wind at a parley;  
So without any fuss any hawing and humming  
She lay on the grass debonairly.  
Here's somebody here and here's somebody there!  
Says I hold your tongue you young Gipsej;  
So she held her tongue and lay plump and fair  
And dead as a Venus tipsy.

O who wouldn't hie to Dawlish fair,  
O who wouldn't stop in a Meadow,  
O who would not rumple the daisies there  
And make the wild fern for a bed do!

**THE END**