

1941



BILLY BUNTER

THE FATTEST SCHOOLBOY ON EARTH



NOW, BOYS, YOU WILL BE PLEASSED TO HEAR THAT I AM TAKING YOU WITH ME TO A FANCY DRESS PARTY AT POPPLESTON COURT TONIGHT—SO COME ALONG AND GET READY!



HE' HE' A FANCY DRESS PARTY! THAT MEANS GRUB!

1. Billy Bunter is the fattest schoolboy on earth. There is only one thing he likes better than a feed—two feeds! Billy didn't really mind going to school—except for the lessons he got there. He thought they were nothing more than an absolute waste of time. One day, however, he sat up and took notice.

2. Mr. Quelch, the master, was inviting all the boys to a party. Billy blinked happily. A party meant only one thing to him—GRUB and lots of it!



(PUFF!) I'M SORRY I'M LATE. MR. QUELCH! I'LL BE READY AS SOON AS I GET MY BOOTS ON!

YUT! BUNTER! HURRY AND FOLLOW US!



PHOO! AT LAST I'M READY—NOW FOR THAT FEED!

3. It was a fancy-dress party. Billy shuddered a bit at that. He hated dressing and washing himself. Perhaps it was all the grub he ate that made him such a grubby beast. Then he thought of the feed he'd get.

4. By a bit of luck Billy got a Musketeer's outfit. It was made for a man weighing about twenty stones, so it just fitted the fat lad nicely. But by the time Billy got dressed up Mr. Quelch and the others had gone off.



YARROO! HELP! WHO TRIPPED ME UP?



SPLOSH!

5. That made Billy get a move on. He didn't mind missing the others—they were a lot of mean beasts, anyway—but he didn't want to miss the feed. Bunter, however, wasn't used to mucking about in a Musketeer's togs.

6. Somehow his sword got all tangled up with his legs. The slippery snow didn't help matters, either. Ooopsidaisy! Over went the fat lad and buried his schnozzle in the cold, cold snow at the foot of the steps.



7. Billy sat up and looked round. Of course, being the fattest schoolboy in the world, he couldn't help looking round. But what I mean is that he looked round to see where Mr. Quelch and the other boys had got to.



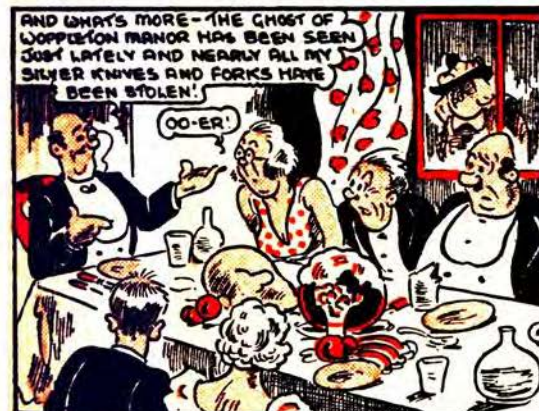
8. Not a soul was in sight. Billy tramped on until the soles of his feet were sore. Poppleton Court was the place he had to get to, and 'twas no good tramping through the snow without knowing where the place was.



9. Coming along the road was old Charlie Chestnut. He'd been a farmer's boy for about fifty years now, and was hoping it would be a steady job. Billy stopped him and asked him the way to Poppleton Court.



10. But Charlie wasn't the local boy who made good. He was a local boy all right, but he made a bad mistake when he told Billy Bunter that the place he was looking for was Woppleton Manor.



11. Woppleton Manor was the hang-out of Sir Timothy Hasbeen. It had everything from a scullery sink to a family ghost. Sir T. was entertaining his guests with a story when Billy Bunter looked in through the window.



12. Sir T. was telling his guests about the ghost of the Moaning Musqueteer. Billy was a Musqueteer and he wasn't half moaning at seeing a lot of grub being scoffed by other people. Suddenly he was spotted.



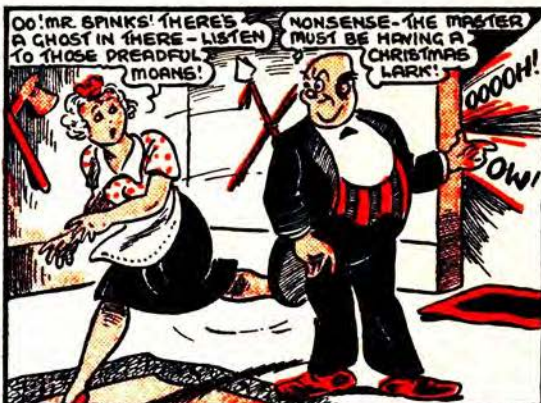
13. Miss Fanny Flapears nearly swallowed her false teeth in a scream. Then as Bunter came barging in, all the others screamed and screamed. These guests guessed that Billy was the ghost but they guessed wrong.



14. That room was cleared quicker than Billy could clear a table of grub. Billy thought something was wrong, but he didn't think for long. Not when there was a free spread waiting to be eaten—and nobody there to eat it.



15. The sight of all that grub spurred Billy on—but the silly chump didn't know that his spur had caught in a curtain. For the second time that evening the fat lad tried his best to dent the ground.



16. KONK! The fat lad walloped himself with a faceful of floor. The moaning groan he gave out would have made the real Moaning Musketeeer sound like a whisper in the fog.



17. All Sir Timothy's servants were in a tiz-woz—except Spinks. He was the butler and he didn't believe in ghosts. So he said, anyway, to Sally the maid, as he made her trot off for her supper.



18. Meanwhile, Billy had dug his chin out of the carpet and got to his feet again. He didn't even think it strange that he didn't see Quelchy and the others there. All he could see was grub, grub and still more GRUB!



19. Tuck, and plenty of it—that suited Bunter down to the ground. The fat lad was in good form for a feed, and he started to sit down on a form at the table. Then another Musketeer came buzzing in.

20. Bunter blinked—then blinked again. This bloke was the blinking limit talking all that tosh about being the Moaning Musketeer. Billy was so surprised he asked him to sit down and have some grub.



21. But the Moaning Musketeer looked like making a meal of the fat lad. He leaped forward, waving his outsize tooth-pick in the air—just as Billy sat down right on the end of the form. For the third time Bunter fell—but it was a lucky third. SMACK! Up came the other end of the form right on the Musketeer's molars. For a few moments the Musketeer swayed backwards and forwards, and then with a gentle sigh, folded up—and sat down.



22. At that moment Sir Timothy came trooping in. With him were his guests armed with pea-shooters, pop-guns, and other weapons. Great was Sir T.'s surprise when he saw who the Moaning Musketeer really was.

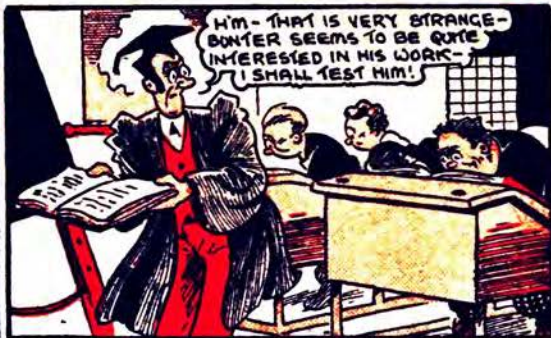
23. Spinks, Sir Timothy's butler, was the silver-snaffer. For bottling up the bad butler Bunter was given the biggest feed of his life. He didn't know yet, that he was in the wrong house—and he didn't jolly well care either!

BILLY BUNTER

THE FATTEST SCHOOLBOY ON EARTH



1. Billy Bunter was fed-up—that meant he was wanting to feed his fat face as usual. His class was having a history lesson, but Billy didn't like dates—unless they were the kind of dates that you eat!



2. To pass the time away until tea-time, Billy read a book about Robinson Crusoe. Suddenly, Bunter blinked at the bit about Crusoe carting home a load of gold and jewels. Coo, you could buy a lot of grub with that!



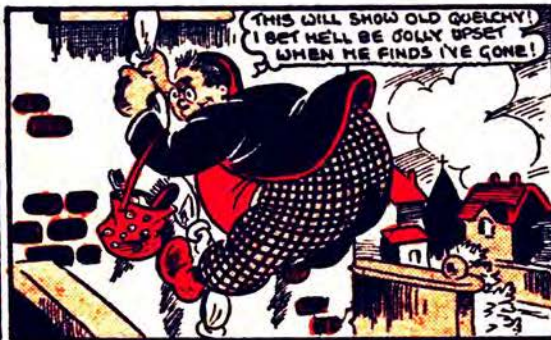
3. But somebody else besides Billy was blinking! Mr. Quelch, the master, was amazed to see the fat lad so interested. To try Billy out, he asked him who won the Battle of Waterloo—and caught the fat lad completely out!



4. The only Waterloo Billy had heard of was the station in London, so the silly buffer began babbling. But whether it was the battle or the station, Billy Bunter was on the wrong line with his answer.



5. So the Battle of Waterloo landed Bunter in the wars with Quelch. When the master found the book about Robinson Crusoe, he grew so angry that he made Bunter stay behind and copy out two hundred pages of history.



6. Hunger and writing that historical stuff nearly drove Billy Bunter hysterical. By the time he'd got to his fiftieth blot he was starving. There was only one way he could see—he'd run off to sea like Robinson Crusoe!



7. Billy didn't stop to think seriously about this sea business. He fairly bounced along the road towards the docks and the bounding main. "Tee-hee!" he tittered. "This life on the briny is a brainy wheeze. That mean beast Quelchly won't half be mad when I've made my fortune!" But before that fortune could be made, Billy Bunter had to find a ship. After an hour's toddle Billy arrived at Splashton Docks. He made for the first boat he saw.



8. Sam Seadogge was the skipper, and his ship was a barque—but Bunter was barking up the wrong tree if he thought he was in for an easy time. Sam Seadogge had one of those sorts of faces that make you seasick to look at!



9. Billy saluted and asked for a job. Sam growled and told him to swab the deck—that meant to mop it. Billy chortled—he was good at mopping up grub, and he thought this would be just as easy. But Billy was in for a surprise.



10. "Oh, a life on the ocean wave!" he warbled, waving his mop over his shoulder. "Oh—oh, corks! What's happened?" As Billy sang, there came a sort of sloshing noise behind him—he'd copped his skipper with the mop!



11. Skipper Seadogge was furious as the mop sloshed across his fizzog. Bunter had put plenty of beef into it, to let Sam see he was willing, but he'd caught his skipper's eye in a way that made him wild instead.



12. Down below to the kitchen Bunter was sent. He didn't mind peeling spuds—anything to do with grub appealed to him. There was also a chance of snaffling a free snack for himself down there as well.



13. There was a pile of spuds waiting to be peeled, but Billy Bunter looked around to see if he could get a roll-and-butter to keep his strength up. He got the roll all right—the ship had started to sail.



14. Like the boy on the burning deck, Billy had begun to think himself a hot kid. But this rolling spoiled everything. Up and down—up and down! He tried to peel the spuds but the ship just wouldn't let him.



15. After an hour had passed, Bunter felt like passing out. Gosh, he'd never been so sick in all his life. His fat face had turned green, and all he wanted to do was to go home. Then came the storm—and what a storm!



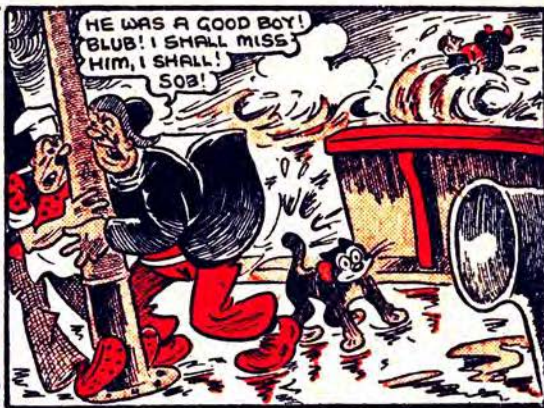
16. But you can't get off a ship and walk home. Billy staggered up on deck, had one dekkko at the waves, then hung on for dear life. He didn't want to be a sailor any more—they could keep their rotten fortunes!



17. Higher and higher rose the waves! Bunter was getting wobblier and wobblier at the knees. Skipper Sam Seadogge, holding fast to a mast, spotted him and called him over. Billy was so wet he waded across.



18. This life on the ocean wave was a wash-out! Suddenly a wave walloped Bunter from the back and washed him overboard. It was the first time he had been washed behind the ears since Quelchy had made him do it.



19. Away went Bunter bounding over the ocean without a notion where he was going. It looked like "Good-bye, Billy!" Cookie cried and Skipper Sam wept—so much that they wetted their feet worse than ever.



20. But Bunter was so fat that he floated. Billy bobbed along until he met another wave going back. Woomph! The waves weren't half playing pitch and toss—one this one tossed our fat hero right back to the ship.



21. Clump! Clomp! Cookie and Skipper Sam suddenly wondered what was happening. It was only Bunter coming back and landing feet first! One boot copped Cookie on the listener, while Sam got the other in the neck.



22. And Billy Bunter got it in the neck from both of them. Skipper Sam called two of his crew, so that was the end of Billy as Robinson Crusoe. Billy was clapped into irons, but there was nothing to clap about.



23. Quelchy was waiting for Bunter when the ship got back. And when Quelchy was through with him, poor old Billy Bunter felt as though he'd been through the battle of Waterloo and a shipwreck, too!

BILLY BUNTER

THE FATTEST SCHOOLBOY ON EARTH



1. "Oho, and a-camping we will go!" chirruped the cheery chaps of Greyfriars when Mr. Quelch took them into the country. Billy Bunter chortled. He was so happy that he didn't hear what old Farmer Giles was saying to Quelch.



2. Why was the fat lad so happy? Because there were no school lessons at camp. More important still, the grub wasn't so well locked up as it was at school! That made it easier for Billy to snaffle a snack when he wanted one.



3. And Billy Bunter was always wanting a snack! But he got a shock instead of a snack when Quelch said that the grub hadn't arrived at the camp yet. The fat lad felt quite faint, until he suddenly had a first class brain-wave.



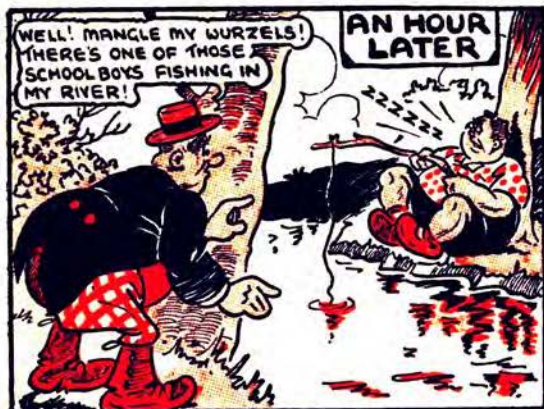
4. He would go fishing! Grabbing a rod, Billy galloped for the river—and that was the very thing that the boys were supposed not to do. But Bunter didn't know anything about that. If there were fish there, it was sufficient for him.



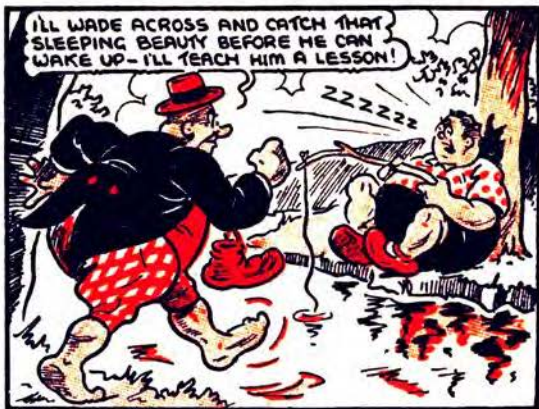
5. Billy's rod was a tree branch, but it was oak-kay with him. The hook was far too small for the fish he hoped to catch, so he fixed a mouse-trap on to the end of the line to make sure. Billy didn't believe in doing things by halves.



6. The fat lad had heard of cat fish, but he hoped to catch a haddock with his mouse-trap. Chortling, he swung his line in the air and cast the trap into the water—Billy could hear that haddock sizzling in the frying-pan already.



7. But the tiddlers thought there was something fishy about that trap. They weren't going to be caught by hook or by crook—or by Billy Bunter's wheeze either. They sheered off, and the fat lad waited so long he fell fast asleep.



8. Billy was dreaming of a haddock as big as a house when along came Farmer Giles. He thought he was dreaming, too, when he saw that a fat boy from Greyfriars had actually dared to fish in his private part of the river.



9. Farmer Giles growled with wrath and felt like wading into the fat lad there and then. But he had to wade across the river first, so off came his corn-covers and into the wet-stuff he went and toddled across the river.



10. The farmer had meant to catch Bunter napping, but got caught himself. CLICK! Billy awoke with a start, thinking he had clicked for a catch. Then he goggled as he saw that his fish trap had got Farmer Giles by the toes.



11. It was hard lines on the farmer and, howling, he grabbed Bunter's line. He pulled, then Billy pulled. It was a tug-o'-war for two ticks, then—oopsidaisy!—over into the wet-stuff fell the fat lad—right on top of the farmer.



12. SPLASH! There was so much of Billy Bunter that the river overflowed its banks. By this time Farmer Giles was overflowing with fury at the fat lad, but Bunter didn't give him the chance to do anything about it.



13. Moving faster than he'd ever done, Bunter scrambled up the bank for safety. But Farmer Giles wasn't letting him get away as easy as that. Bawling like one of his bulls, the farmer came following after him at full speed.



14. Billy Bunter would have been caught, too, if he hadn't branched off through the wood. There was a branch sticking out, and Bunter's huge bulk bent it back as he passed. But the farmer had something coming to him!



15. Farmer Giles had meant to get his own back on Bunter. He got his own back all right when the branch of the tree came whizzing back. Whang! The branch caught him right on the place where he kept his bread-and-cheese!



16. It was a nasty smack, too! Giles had been coming along at the double, and now he doubled up as the branch bonked him a hefty biff. Billy Bunter had got the farmer's goat worse than ever now. And was he mad!



17. Tearing the branch from the tree, Farmer Giles charged into the Greyfriars camp breathing fire and slaughter. Quelchy was bending down, busily engaged in opening a tin of beans.



18. The master got beans all right—from Farmer Giles with the branch. After giving Quelchy a hiding, Giles gave everybody the order of the boot off his land. This landed Bunter into trouble with everybody. And now he can't have a feed of fish without feeling fed-up!

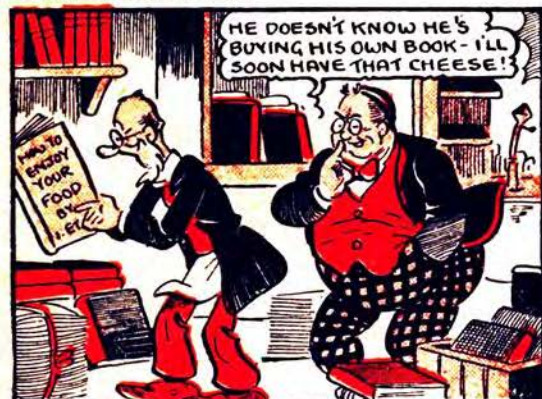
BILLY BUNTER . . . THE FATTEST SCHOOLBOY ON EARTH



1. Billy Bunter doesn't like reading—it's too much like school for him. But when he spotted a book about eating in the Courtfield bookshop, he grabbed it. You can bet Bunter was interested then.



2. There was a nice juicy bit about cheese, and Billy fairly licked his lips as he read all about it. Then he nearly jumped out of his fat skin when the shopkeeper came out and offered to buy the book.



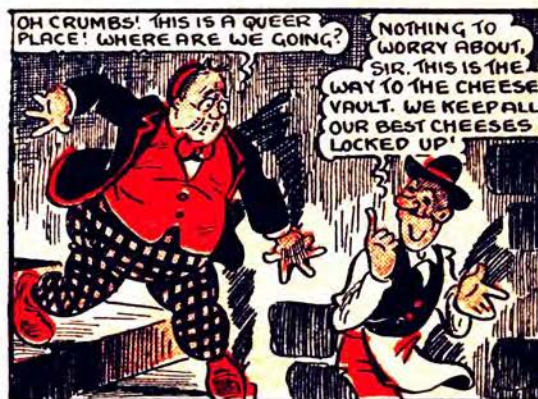
3. Now lots of boys from Greyfriars School sold their old books there, and the man hadn't seen Billy Bunter pick that one up. So when he offered Billy a pound for his own book, Billy said "Yes" at once.



4. It never dawned on Billy to tell the shopkeeper of his mistake. Instead he grabbed the pound note the man offered him and waddled away from the bookshop as fast as his fat legs would take him.



5. But once outside, Billy nearly burst his sides laughing at his luck. It seemed too good to be true, and, remembering what the book had said, he streaked for the best cheese shop that Courtfield sported.



6. Here he asked for a real high-powered chunk of gorgonzola. You know, the kind that smells like last year's eggs—and the shopkeeper led him down a winding staircase to a dim dark dungeon.



7. Dungeon is right, for the cheeses there were so powerful that they would have gone for a walk if they hadn't been kept under lock and key. There was a huge, bolted door barring the way, too! Even Bunter began to get dithery.



8. But once he was inside and got a whiff of prime gorg, Billy was happy again. Although the Keeper of the Cheeses couldn't take it, Bunter whiffed it and liked it. He sorted out the biggest cheese he could find and strolled out of the dungeon with the cheese under his arm.



9. After taking a whiff of pickles to bring himself round, the cheese merchant wrapped up Billy's cheese for him. Away went the fat lad and nearly gassed the whole village. Behind him, the villagers held their handkerchiefs to their noses. After a bit, they began to feel ill.



10. Leaving a trail of swooning people after him, Bunter at last reached school. He would have started on the cheese there and then, but the book said he had got to bury it for a week. So Billy got busy and buried the cheese just outside the school.



11. But even solid earth couldn't hold off that awful whiff. Clouds of cheese gas kept coming from the ground and nearly knocked Quelchy out. He thought the drains were bad. Holding his nose grimly, he dashed back to school and sent for the plumbers.



12. Everybody in the school caught that dreadful draught of gorg., and only Bunter liked it. He was surprised when the plumbers started to unload their tools just outside the school gates and Billy wanted to know what it was all about.



13. At once a gang of men went on the trail of the gorg.—only they thought it was a bad drain. Billy Bunter watched them from behind a bush. He didn't care what the men did so long as they didn't find his cheese.



15. His scheme worked. The workmen sheered off and dug up other parts of the school grounds. By this time the smell was enough to stop a train. But Bunter, knowing that his cheese was safe, only chuckled gleefully to himself.



17. But still Bunter didn't say a word about it. It didn't matter to him how much the others were put about so long as his precious cheese was safe. In fact, he thought it a lark when the boys got classes on the sports field.



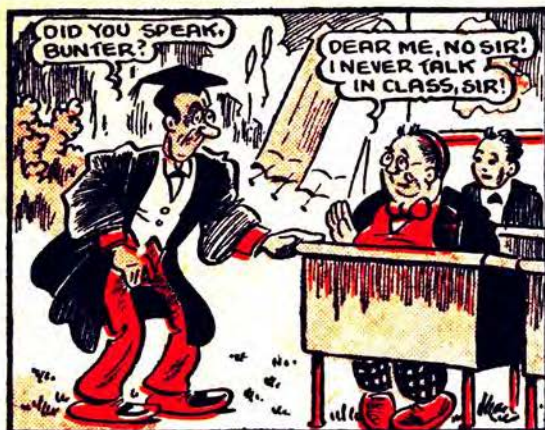
14. Then Billy had a brain-wave. He got a watering can and watered the part of the ground where his precious cheese was buried. He pretended it was the Head's pet part of the garden and told the workmen to clear off.



16. It took the men two days to examine all the drains, but they found them all correct. Poor old Quelch was flabbergasted when the foreman reported this, and he decided to shift all the boys away from the school.



18. Poor old Quelch was in a state. Even in the open air the smell of that gorg, hung like a cloud over everything. To make matters worse, the cow in the next field got into the habit of calling on him during classes.



19. But one day when Quelchy was moaning about that awful smell, Bunter let something slip about his cheese. When the master tackled him, Bunter denied it, but it was enough to make Quelchy suspicious of him.



20. But Bunter was careful after that, and at last the week was up—the time for the cheese to be dug up! Taking a spade, Billy sneaked out after everybody was asleep to have his feed. But old Quelchy was watching him!



21. The master gasped when he saw Billy go into "the danger zone." The smell of that cheese was so powerful now that Quelchy couldn't go any nearer, so he got a telescope and watched Bunter from a safe distance.



22. Chortling, Bunter quickly dug up his buried cheese, and the smell was enough to knock a house down. But Billy liked it, and, cutting a huge chunk, he tucked into that gorg. like anything.



23. But Quelchy was on his trail! The master put on his gas-mask, but the smell was so strong that he wished he'd got a suit of armour as well. However, he managed to catch Bunter before he'd eaten all his cheese.



24. And that was the end of Billy's dream feast. To get rid of the cheese, Quelchy made Bunter row a boat three miles out to sea, drop the cheese overboard into the drink, and then back again for a licking!