

### Crocodile!

'Don't go down to the river today'  
He heard the old women say,  
'Crocodile waits in the shallows  
Watching you if you play.'  
'Don't go down to the river today,'  
He heard them say once more.  
But he was nearly a warrior now,  
And he was strong and sure.

He knew where the fish would be hiding,  
So he took the club and the spear,  
And he went down to the riverside,  
*He would never show any fear.*  
His sister followed him down there,  
She thought he was brave –without fear,  
She hid neath the red gum's branches,  
And watched him lift high his spear.

With one thrust he had the first fish,  
And he tossed it on to the bank,  
Readied himself for the next one,  
Hiding down in the reeds so dank.  
As he lifted the spear up higher,  
She saw the wide ripples spread,  
From the other side of the river  
She called, her heart filled with dread.

Too late, he turned as it hit him,  
The great monster from the deep,  
It grabbed him and pulled him under,  
*Did he hear his sister weep?*  
She ran back to the camp near the hills,  
And told them what she had seen,  
The old men grabbed clubs and spears  
And ran down there to where he had been.

The riverbank was so empty and still,  
Some ripples spread out on the tide  
But no sign of the boy in the water  
Nor on the great rivers side.  
His mother and sister are weeping  
They know he is gone far away,  
He was brave but foolish they whisper  
As they cry in their grief through the day.

So when you hear the old women caution  
That Crocodile waits in the deep  
They know the laws of nature,  
And know what dangers there creep  
Don't you go down to the river,  
Heed well what the old women say!  
They know Crocodile's always hungry  
*SO JUST YOU KEEP WELL AWAY.*