Grandma Grunts

Informant/Performer:
Clarice Burleson and Joe Powles
Crossmore, NC, 1940

Source:
Jan P. Shinhan
The Frank C. Brown Collection of North Carolina Folklore, Vol V.

Chorus: (whistle)

Grandma Grunts said a curious thing: Boys can whistle, but girls must sing.

That is what I heard her say, 'Twas no longer than yesterday.

Boys can whistle Girls must sing tra la la la.

2. Boys can whistle, of course they may;
   They can whistle the livelong day.
   Why can't girls whistle too, pray tell,
   If they manage to do it well?

3. Grandma Grunts says it wouldn't do,
   Gives a very good reason, too;
   Whistling girls and crowing hens
   Always come to some bad end.

4. I asked my papa the reason why
   Girls couldn't whistle as well as I.
   He says to me, 'It's the natural thing
   For boys to whistle and girls to sing.'

Verses from Vol. III of The Frank C. Brown Collection of North Carolina Folklore

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