

Warning

When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.

I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

– *Jenny Joseph*

When I Am an Old Woman, I Shall Wear Purple

Jenny Joseph (b. 1932)*

SSAA with Piano

Ruth Watson Henderson

Solemnly ♩ = 60

p

When I am an old wom-an, I shall wear

p

Solemnly ♩ = 60

p

5

♩ = 72

mf

pur - ple with a red hat which does - n't go, and

mf

♩ = 72

mf

The musical score is arranged for Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Piano. The first system (measures 1-4) is in 4/4 time, marked 'Solemnly' with a tempo of ♩ = 60. The vocal parts (S and A) begin with a rest, then enter with a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line of quarter notes in the left hand. The second system (measures 5-8) changes to 6/8 time and a tempo of ♩ = 72. The vocal parts continue with the melody, and the piano accompaniment features a more active bass line with eighth notes and chords. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and mezzo-forte (*mf*). There are fermatas over the final notes of the vocal lines.

Duration: 3:00

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8

does - n't suit me. And I shall spend my pen - sion on

mp

mp

11

bran - dy and sum - mer gloves and sat - in san - dals,

mf

mf

mf

14

and say we've no mon - ey for but - ter.

mp

mp

mp

mf

17 *meno mosso p*

meno mosso p I shall sit down on the pave - ment when— I'm tir - ed—

meno mosso p

20 *mf a tempo*

— and gob - ble up sam - ples in shops and press a -

mf a tempo

a tempo

23 *f*

larm bells— and run my stick a -

f *mf*

f *mf*

26 *mp*

long the pub - lic rail - ings and make up for the so - bri - e - ty

mp

mp

29 *mf*

of my youth. I shall go out in my slip-pers— in the rain

mf

mf

32 *mp* *rit.*

and pick the flow-ers in o - ther peo - ple's gar - dens

mp *rit.*

mp *rit.*

♩ = ca. 78
f

35

and learn to spit.

f

♩ = ca. 78
f staccato

37

f

You can wear ter-ri-ble shirts and grow more

f

39

fat and eat three pounds of sau-sa-ges at a go