

## There is a Boarding House

The musical score is written on four staves in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple, using eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: F (F major) and C7 (C dominant seventh). The lyrics are written below the notes.

There is a board- ing house, far, far a way,  
Where they have ham and eggs, three times a day.  
Oh, how the boarc- ers yell, When they hear that din - ner bell.  
They give that land - lord hell, Three times a day.

There is a boarding-house, far far away,  
Where they have ham and eggs, three times a day.  
Oh, how the boarders yell,  
When they hear that dinner bell.  
They give that landlord hell  
Three times a day.

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"There is a Boarding House" is a parody by Mark Twain of the hymn tune "Happy Land". It appears in his novel **The American Claimant** (1892).

In Laura Ingalls Wilder's book **By the Shores of Silver Lake** Laura recounts railroad men singing the "shocking" lyrics of what is evidently Mark Twain's parody and notes that they stopped when they saw Ma.