On the Nickel

Words and Music by
Tom Waits

Sticks and stones will break my bones, al-ways will be
Bet-ter bring a buck-et there's a hole in the

true.
pail.

And when your ma-ma's dead and gone, I'll sing this
If you don't get my let- then you'll

LUL- la- BY   JUST FOR YOU.   WHAT BE-COMES- OFALLTHE LIT-TLE BOYS
KNOWTHATI'M   IN   JAIL.   WHAT BE-COMES- OFALLTHE LIT-TLE BOYS

WHA NEV-ER COMB THEIR HAIR?   THEY'RE THEY FINE- UP ALL A-
WHO NEV-ER SAY THEIRPRAYERS?   THEY'RE THEY SLEEP-ING- LIKE A-

ROUND   THE BLOCK   ON THE NICK -EL,   O-   VER THERE.
BA-   BY   ON THE NICK-EL,   O-   VER THERE.

Lyrics (measures 29–35):

And if you chew to-bac-co_
So ring a-round the ros-y,-

And wish up-on a
Sleep-ing in the

Star,
Rain.

You'll find out where the
You're -ways- late for

Scare- crow sits,
Sup- per

Just like punch lines
And you let me down

Be-tween- the cars.
A- gain.

37

And I know a place where a
And I thought I heard a

38

Ab   Db   A

mf

Roy- al flush   can nev- er beat a pair.
Mock- ing bird,   Roo- se-velt knows where.

BbBN

41

Db   Ab   Fm

And e- ven Thom--as-Jef- fer- son   is on the Nick- el,   o- ver
Well, I'm whist-ling past the grave- yard, and they're on the Nick-   o- ver_

THERE.   THERE.

B   Bb

E

AND WHAT BE-COMES- OF ALL THE

Eb

LIT-TLE BOYS   THAT RUN A- WAY FRO HOME?

THE WORLD JUST KEEPS   GET- TING BIG- GER.- ONCE YOU GET OUT ON   YOUR-

57 OWN. SO HERE'S TO ALL THE LIT-TLE BOYS,

60 THE SAND-MAN-TAKES YOU WHERE YOU'RE SLEEP-ING WITH A

63 PIL- LOW OF MAN-- ON THE NICK- EL,... O- VER THERE.

66 SO CLIMB UP THROUGH THAT BUT-TON HOLE AND FALL RIGHT UP THE

STAIRS. AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE THE SHORT DOGS GROW,_ ON THE NICK-EL,

O- VER THERE.