

Off By Heart

Grace Nichols - Alligator

**If you want to see an alligator
you must go down the muddy slushy end
of the old Caroonny River.**

**I know an alligator
who's living down there.
She's a-big. She's a-mean. She's a-wild.
She's a-fierce.**

**But if you really want to see an alligator
you must go down to the muddy slushy end
of the old Caroonny River.**

**Go down gently to that river and say
'Alligator Mama
Alligator Mama
Alligator Mamaaaaaaa.'**

**And up she'll rise
but don't stick around
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE.**