Having Fun with English

A NEW WAY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH

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When asked to recall childhood memories, very few if any of us, would not include the fabulous tales of Mother Goose, nor would we forget the wonderful nursery rhymes we were able to recite long before we could read or write. These tales and rhymes have stayed with us and many others around the world for years. We have inherited them from our grandparents and will continue to pass them on to future generations.

Although the concept of Mother Goose is a relatively new phenomenon, the world of nursery rhymes and tales has evolved over thousand of years. Based on anthropological evidence, Henry Bett concluded that nursery rhymes and tales "... date from prehistoric times, and have spread over the world with the migrations of races and the forgotten commerce of many thousand of years". This statement has been based on the language used for such rhymes, the variations in rhymes among countries, and because of their depiction of ancient customs and ideas.

Little Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey
Along came a spider,
Who sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

One, two, three, four, five,
Once I caught a fish alive,
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
Then I let him go again.
Why did you let him go?
Because he bit my finger so
Which finger did he bite?
This little finger on the right.

Mary had a little lamb, its fleece as white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went,
the lamb was sure to go.
It followed her to school one day,
which was against the rules.
It made the children laugh and play,
to see a lamb at school.
The itsy bitsy spider went up the water spout.  
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.  
Out came the sun that dried up all the rain.  
And the itsy bitsy spider climbed up the spout again.

THREE BLIND MICE

Three Blind Mice,  
three Blind Mice.  
See how they run,  
see how they run.  
They all ran after the farmer's wife.  
She cut off their tails with a carving knife.  
Did you ever see such a sight in your life,  
As Three Blind Mice?

POP GOES THE WEASEL

All around the mulberry bush  
The monkey chased the weasel.  
The monkey thought 't was all in fun.  
Pop! goes the weasel.

A penney for a spool of thread,  
A penney for a needle,  
That's the way the money goes.  
Pop! goes the weasel.

Up and down the City Road,  
In and out of the Eagle,  
That's the way the money goes.  
Pop! goes the weasel.
Baa, baa, black sheep,
Have you any wool?
Yes, sir, yes, sir,
Three bags full.

One for my master,
One for my dame,
And one for the little boy
Who lives in the lane.

Baa, baa, black sheep,
Have you any wool?
Yes, sir, yes, sir,
Three bags full.

HICKORY DICKORY DOCK

Hickory, dickory, dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down!
Hickory, dickory, dock.

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree.
Merry, merry king of the bush is he.
Laugh, Kookaburra,
Laugh, Kookaburra,
Gay your life must be.

Kookaburra sits in the old gum tree,
Eating all the gumdrops he can see.
Stop, Kookaburra,
Stop, Kookaburra,
Leave some there for me.

ELIZABETH, ELSPETH, BETSEY AND BESS

Elizabeth, Elspeth, Betsey, and Bess,
They all went together to seek a bird’s nest.
They found a bird’s nest with five eggs in,
They all took one, and left four in.