

Think and Do!

Nursery Rhyme Home or School Experiences

The 143 'Think and Do' experiences below are based on the 89 rhymes in our collections 'Mother Goose Visit' and 'Father Goose Visit,' though many of these rhymes also appear in our Volland and Jerrold collections of nursery rhymes. Children can cue audio for each home experience by clicking on the stars beneath the titles on the tables of contents for 'Mother Goose Visit' and 'Father Goose Visit'.

ABCDEFG

FGV 16

[1] When you see the letters with the rhyme are they big capital letters or are they smaller lower case letters? Can you write the letters a different way? Can you say all the letters out loud? Can you say a skipping alphabet? Try saying one letter out loud, then the next letter silently in your head, the next out loud, the next silently, and see if you can do the whole alphabet while skipping one letter each time.

[2] You might have a first name, a second name, and a third name. What letter does each name begin with? Listen to the song and raise your hand when you hear a letter one of your names begins with. Do you know the letters that begin the names of people in your family or friends or pets? Raise your hand when you know someone whose name begins with that letter.

[3] Can you start with the letter Z and write the letters of the alphabet backwards? Can you write Your name backwards?

ABC Birds in the Tree

MGV 17

[1] The letter C rhymes with 'tree'. How many other words can you list that rhyme with C and 'tree'?

[2] The main characters in the rhyme are animals. Can you name all the animals in the rhyme? Pick an animal to draw and draw the place where the animal is. The place is what we call the 'setting'. The setting tells us where something happens.

A, B, and C, Worms are Blind and Can't See

MGV 20

[1] Did you ever wonder what it would be like to be blind? Did you ever sit down and close your eyes and have someone hand you things so you could try to guess what they are? Can you name all the animals in the rhyme? Draw one animal from the rhyme.

[2] Can you make a new rhyme by finding a rhyming sound for the letter?

A, B, C, D: I dreamed about you and _____.

You might say: 'the tree' or 'me' or 'your knee' or 'Lee' or something else. Now try to find a rhyme for :

E, F, G, H, I: Can you see the _____.

J, K, L, M, N: Tell me about the _____.

O, P, Q, R: I don't want to hear about _____.

S, T, U, V: I'll never forget the _____.

W,X, Y and Z Please give me a _____.

A Diller, A Dollar

FGV 11

[1] Scholar is an old fashioned word for student. Does 'scholar' sound a little bit like 'school'? What time are you supposed to come to school? What time do you think the child in the rhyme was supposed to come to school? What time did the child come? Can you tell how late the child was? Why do you think the child might have been late?

[2] Can you draw two round clock faces on a piece of paper and then write in the numbers? See if there is a clock in your home or a watch you can use as a model. On the first clock's face can you make the clock's hands point to 10:00? On the second clock's face can you make the clock's hands point to 10:00?

Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

MGV 25

[1] Have you ever seen a real sheep? Have you ever seen a black sheep? Wool is the long hair that grows on a sheep, and people called shearers cut it off the way a barber cuts people's hair. What do you think people might make from this sheep's wool? Can you name one person who would get a bag of wool from the black sheep?

Bye Baby Bunting

MGV 46

[1] Look at the rhyme words and find all the upper case 'B' letters and all the lower case 'b' letters. How many of each did you find? Can you think of other words that begin with a 'b' sound? Draw a picture of a word that begins with a 'b' sound.

Diddle Diddle Dumpling

FGV 38

[1] Did you know that 'trousers' is one word for pants? Do you know another word that means the same as pants and 'trousers'? Have you ever gone to bed without taking off your stockings? Do you ever wear shoes without stockings? Why do you think people wear stockings? Can you find and write 3 words from the rhyme that have the letter "o" in them?

Ding Dong Bell

FGV 10

[1] A well is a deep hole in the ground with water at the bottom. Have you ever seen anyone use a Bucket to pull up water from a well? Would you rather use a well or a faucet to get your water? Can you remember the names of any people in the rhyme? Who was put in the well? Who put her there? Who pulled her out? Can you draw a picture with the people in the rhyme and write a sentence about each person from the rhyme?

[2] Are Little Johnny Green and Little Tommy Stout the same in any way? How are they different? How did they treat the cat? What would you do if you found an animal that had been treated badly or hurt?

Eensy, Weensy Spider

FGV 24

[1] Do you know what the words 'eensy weensy' mean? What do you think they mean? Ask someone if you don't know. Do you know what a water spout is? Many houses and buildings have gutters at the edge of the roof, long pieces of metal that are open on top for rain to drip from the roof when it rains; these connect to round tubes like very, very long empty cans to bring the rain water down to the ground. The bottom part where the rain comes out is called a spout. Why do you think the spider went up the water spout?

[2] Do you like spiders? What do spiders make? Why do spiders make them? What do spiders like to eat? Do you know how many legs a spider has? If not, maybe you can ask someone, or maybe you can count a spider's legs in a picture. Draw your favorite part of the rhyme.

[3] What happened when the spider climbed up the water spout? Why do you think the spider climbed up? Do you think the spider was thirsty? What happened to the spider when it rained? What happened when the sun came out? Do you think the spider was happy then? Why?

Elsie Marley

MGV 27

[1] The word 'Fine' can mean more than one thing. In this rhyme 'fine' has an old-fashioned meaning, that Elsie wants people to think she is much better than everyone else. What word rhymes with 'fine'? Did you know 'swine' is another word for 'pig'? Why do you think Elsie wouldn't feed the swine? Can you think of more than one reason?

[2] What do you think pigs or swine might do to help Elsie get up in time to feed them? What might the pigs or swine do if Elsie still doesn't get up to feed them? What would you do when you're hungry if no one would get up to feed you?

Father Goose

FGV 1

[1] Do you know very much about Father Goose and Mother Goose? How are they alike and how are they different? Do they do the same things? Do they ride the same kind of goose? Do you know the difference between a goose and a gander? When you hear his voice, what kind of person do you think Father Goose would be?

Georgie Porgie Pudding and Pie

MGV 15

[1] Did Georgie play nicely with the other children. What did Georgie do that made the girls cry? Do you think Georgie was a bully? What did Georgie do when the boys came out to play? If you saw someone do what Georgie did would you tell a grownup?

Go to Bed Late, Stay Very Small

MGV 42

[1] Would you rather be small or tall? Why did you make that choice? How small or tall would you like to be? Why? Draw a picture of an animal that is very small and a picture of an animal that is very tall. Do you think it might be better for some animals to be very small and better for other animals to be very tall?

[2] How late do you usually go to bed? What do you do when you stay up late? How early do you usually get up? Do you think you get a little bit smaller or a little bit taller every day? Do you think the grownups you know get a little bit smaller or a little bit taller every day? Do grownups and children seem to grow the same? Do you think it's the same with pets?

Goosey Gander

MGV 33

[1] Do you like this rhyme? Why or why not? Why would a goose be wandering around someone's house? What did the goose do to the old man? Why? Do you think what the goose did was right or wrong? What else do you think the goose might have done?

Here Am I, Little Jumping Joan

MGV 13

[1] Jumping Joan liked to jump. Do you think she liked to jump up and down? Do you think she liked to jump forwards and backwards? Could she have been jumping rope? Can you jump rope by yourself? How many jumps can you jump? How high can you jump?

Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

MGV 23

[1] This is a rhyme game that is fun to sing. Sometimes children hold hands and dance round in a circle for the first part, then with their hands pretend to wash clothes in the second part, then dance very, very slowly on the part about going to school, and then dance very, very quickly on the part about going home. Can you think of other things to pretend to do while going around a mulberry bush?

Hey, Diddle, Diddle, The Cat and the Fiddle

MGV 43

[1] What animal had the fiddle? Who jumped over the moon? What did the little dog do? What did the dish and the spoon do? What do you like about the rhyme? Is there anything you don't like about the rhyme? If you could change something in the rhyme, what would you change?

Hickory, Dickory, Dare, The Pig Went Up in the Air

FGV 28

[1] Have you ever seen a real live pig? Where would you go if you wanted to see a live pig? Have you ever seen a pig in the air? Can you imagine how a real pig got up in the air? Why doesn't the rhyme say the pig flew up in the sky? If a real pig flew up in the air can you think of a good way to get the pig back down? Can you draw a picture showing how a pig got in the air or got back down?

Hickory, Dickory, Dock, The Mouse Ran Up the Clock

FGV 27

[1] What did the mouse climb? What time was it? Why do you think the mouse ran down?

[2] In the picture, is the clock bigger or is the mouse bigger? Do you think the face of the clock is scary? Do you think it scared the mouse? Do you think the mouse is afraid of anything else?

[3] Can you draw a clock face? Draw a circle, or trace a circle around the bottom of a cup. Put a 12 at the top inside the circle and a 6 at the bottom inside the circle. Put a 3 half way up on the far right side inside the circle. Put a 9 half way up on the far left side of the circle. Now write in the missing numbers. Make a point at the very center of the circle. Draw a long arrow straight up to point to the 12. Draw an arrow a little shorter to point to the 1. Now the clock says one o'clock. Draw a mouse wherever you like.

Higgledy, Piggledy, My Black Hen

MGV 28

[1] Do you know that "hen" is the word for a girl or woman chicken, and rooster is the name for a boy or man chicken? When a hen makes an egg we say it lays an egg. Hen eggs have white shells or brown shells. Roosters can't lay eggs. Are all chickens black? What other colors could they be? Do hens always lay eggs for only gentlemen? Who else could the chicken lay eggs for? Did you ever color an egg for Easter? If you could, how would you color an egg that the black chicken laid?

Hot Cross Buns

[1] Did you know buns are a kind of bread? People make bread when they cook or bake dough. In the store people can buy packages with soft, damp dough to put in the oven and bake for a few minutes to make buns. If they use a knife to mark an x or a plus sign or a cross on the dough before they cook it in a hot oven, then the cooked bun can be a hot cross bun. Can you pretend to make hot cross buns and put them on a tray and carry them around and sell them? Without saying the rhyme ask a grownup or

friend to watch you and see if they can guess what you're doing. Then pretend again while you say the words of the rhyme and see if they understand.

[2] Where do you think would be a good place to buy hot cross buns? If you had one to eat would you like to put butter or margarine on it? Would you rather eat a hot cross bun or toast? Why? If you could make and sell something to eat what would it be? Write or draw what you would like to make and sell.

Humpty Dumpty

MGV 38

[1] What might have made Humpty fall off the wall? How do you think Humpty got up on the wall? Why do you think he was there? Even though the king's men could not put Humpty together again, maybe you can. Draw a picture of the wall he sat on. Then draw or color a picture of Humpty Dumpty and cut it out. Set Humpty on the wall picture, then let him fall off. Now cut Humpty into 5 or 6 pieces. Then put the 5 or 6 puzzle pieces back together and tape or glue Humpty on the wall. Then you have done something that all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't do!

Hush Little Baby, Don't Say A Word

FGV 41

[1] The rhyme can be sung as a lullaby. Grownups use lullabies to help babies and children fall asleep. How do you feel when you hear a lullaby? Why do you think lullabies help most very young children fall asleep? What rhymes with the word 'word'? What word rhymes with 'sing'? What word rhymes with 'brass'? What word kind of rhymes with 'broke'? What word rhymes with 'pull'? What word rhymes with 'over'? What word kind of rhymes with 'bark'? What word rhymes with 'down'? Can you name all the different gifts Poppa will buy for the child? Can you draw pictures of the gifts?

I Love Little Kitty

MGV 31

[1] What kind of person does the little girl in the poem seem to be? Does she seem mean or angry or afraid? Why or why not? Do you think she will be nice to the kitty? What do you think the little kitty would do if the little girl was mean to the kitty? What do you think the little girl would do if the kitty bit her or scratched her?

I'm a Little Tea Pot

FGV 26

[1] What would a handle on a teapot look like? What word rhymes with 'out'? What's the name for the part of a teapot where tea is supposed to pour out? When you listen to the poem can you move your hands and arms to make a handle and to make a spout? What could you do to show the meaning of the words "tip me over and pour me out"? Can you think of more than one way to move your body to show what the teapot words mean?

I See the Moon

FGV 39

[1] Have you seen the moon in the night time? Have you seen the moon in the day time? When is it best to see the moon? Have you ever wished upon the moon? Have you ever wished upon a star? Have you ever heard someone say that some kind of old person is in the moon? People sometimes say the moon looks like a face. Do you think the moon sometimes looks like a face? Can you draw different shapes the moon can have on different nights?

[2] Have you ever looked hard at the moon? How did it look? Did you think it---or something on it---might be looking back at you? If so, what would it see you doing?

Jack Be Nimble, Jack Be Quick

FGV 29

[1] Why do you think Jack jumped over the candle? What do you think Jack might jump over next? Have you ever jumped over something? Why did you jump? How high did you jump? Draw something you might want to jump over.

[2] 'Nimble' means being able to move in lots of different directions quickly and not stumble or fall down. What would you think is more nimble, a turtle or a squirrel? What do you think would be more nimble, a cat or a cow? What do you think would be more nimble, a child or a grownup? Does Jack wear his pajamas in the picture? Was Jack supposed to be in bed? Is it safe to jump over a candle? Why do you think Jack was jumping so quickly?

Jack and Jill

FGV 23

[1] Why did Jack and Jill go up the hill? Do you think they were a brother and sister, or maybe cousins, or friends? What do you think caused Jack to fall down? Can you think of a reason Jill fell down? Who took care of Jack and Jill after they fell? What did Jill do when she saw Jack with a bandage?

[2] Ask a grownup for some old mail or catalogs or magazines that have pictures you can cut out. Or draw or color a picture of Jack and a picture of Jill. Cut out the pictures of the children and picture of a house. Fold or crumple some of the paper to make a hill. With your fingers help the paper picture Jack and the paper picture Jill climb up the hill, then let them tumble down. Then move them to the house where a grownup can put a bandage on the top of Jack's broken head.

Jack Sprat Would Eat No Fat

MGV 4

[1] Was Jack a healthy eater? He did not eat any fat. Lots of meat has more fat than fruits or vegetables, and so do French fries and pizza and cheese. Draw or color a picture of a plate and show on it some kinds of food that you think Jack might like to eat. Then draw another picture of a plate and show some kinds of food his wife would eat.

Kitty Cat, Kitty Cat, Where Have You Been?

MGV 36

[1] Does anything in the rhyme seem pretend instead of real? Why do you think so? Would you like to have a cat that could talk? What would you talk about? Would you tell other people your cat could talk or would you keep it a secret? Why? Does the rhyme remind you of anything that you have seen and like to tell people about?

Ladybird, Ladybird, Fly Away Home

MGV 2

[1] Look at the ladybird in the picture. Have you ever seen a real ladybird or ladybug, or held one on your finger? They are small, even smaller than your smallest fingernail. How many ways is the 'Ladybird' rhyme different from the 'Ladybug' rhyme? Which name do you like better, 'ladybird' or 'ladybug'? Why?

Ladybug, Ladybug, Fly Away Home

MGV 3

[1] Where do you think a ladybug might live? If it lived in a house, what do you imagine the ladybug's house might look like? How big do you think the house might be? Why do you think it caught fire? Why does the little ladybug hide under a stone? What have you been taught to do during a fire? Will you ask a grownup the safest way to leave a place on fire? Should ladybugs have to follow those rules too?

Little Betty Blue

MGV 5

[1] Have you ever lost just one of your shoes? Do you know why you lost it? How does it feel like to walk in one shoe? Why do you think Betty lost her shoe? Draw or color Betty's missing holiday shoe or a kind of shoe you might like to wear.

Little Bo Peep

MGV 24

[1] Have you ever had a pet that you couldn't find? How did you feel? How do you think Little Bo Peep's sheep got lost? Where do you think they might have gone? Do you think the sheep believed they were lost? Why do you think they will be wagging their tails?

Little Boy Blue

FGV 19

[1] A meadow is a big field that is mostly just grass, sometimes with a few bushes or trees. What do you think the sheep are doing in the meadow? What do you think the cows are doing in the corn?

[2] Little Boy Blue needs to wake up and blow his horn. Can you think of a reason why he should blow his horn? Can you name a word that rhymes with horn? People can blow one kind of horn; can you think of another kind of horn? Does a cow or bull sometimes have a horn?

[3] Why do you think the child was named Little Boy Blue? Where did he fall asleep? What do you think he was doing before he fell asleep? Do you think he was supposed to do anything with the animals? What do you think will happen when he wakes up?

Little Jack Horner

MGV 11

[1] Why do you think Jack sat in the corner? Do you think that's where he usually sat, or many people came and he had to sit there, or he wanted to be alone, or was in time out, or didn't want to share his pie, or maybe had another reason to sit there? Why do you think he was sitting there? What do you think he might have done while he was sitting? Pretend you are Jack and act out the poem as you say it.

Little Miss Muffet

FGV 25

[1] What does 'Muffet' rhyme with? Did you know 'tuffet' is an old word for a low seat or for a footstool that people sitting on a chair can rest their feet on? Did you know the food called 'cottage cheese' is made from milk, and curds are the lumpy part, and whey is the watery part of cottage cheese? Can you make a spider from things you find in the home--paper or strings or wires or something else? If you can make a spider, ask someone to pretend to be Little Miss Muffet. Sit by the person, say the rhyme, and pretend to frighten the person so the person will run away.

[2] Do you think the spider scared Little Miss Muffet by mistake, or maybe scared her on purpose so it could eat her curds and whey? What do spiders usually eat? Where do you think Miss Muffet went after the spider scared her? Write a sentence or draw a picture about where you think Miss Muffet went.

Little Nanny Etticoat

FGV 30

[1] Did you know that this rhyme is a kind of riddle or puzzle? Do you remember the rhyme about what Jack jumped over? The red nose might be something that burns---what might that be? Why does Nanny Etticoat get shorter? Does something burn down? Can you change some of the words in the poem? Can you change the color of her petticoat and the color of her nose? Can you change the word telling how she stands or the word describing how she grows? Can you say the new rhyme?

[2] The rhyme is a riddle. Can you solve some more riddles? Each answer rhymes with 'nose'. Write or draw the answer to each riddle question.

1. What do most people have ten of? [toes]
2. You wear these things every day. [clothes]
3. You water grass and flowers with a what? [hose]
4. One kind of pretty flower is a what? [rose]
5. After rainstorms we sometimes see rain what? [bows]

Little Polly Flinders

FGV 31

[1] Cinders are warm ashes, mostly black and red, left over from a fire. Why was Polly sitting in the cinders? What word rhymes with 'caught her'? What word rhymes with 'toes'? What did Polly spoil?

[2] Why was Polly's mother mad? Can you think of a time a grownup was mad when you got your clothes dirty? What did the grownup do? What might Polly's mother have done that would have been nicer than whipping little Polly? Can you think of a word could to use instead of 'spoiling'? Can you say the poem using new words in place of the words 'whipped' and 'spoiling'? Do you like the old rhyme better or the new rhyme better? Why?

Little Tommy Tittlemouse

FGV 9

[1] Can you name some different kinds of fish? Have you ever gone fishing? Think about what kind of house you live in. Now think about what kind of house Tommy Tittlemouse might live in. Can you think of a better place for him to fish? Draw or color Tommy Tittlemouse's house and show him fishing.

Little Tom Tucker

MGV 12

[1] What word rhymes with 'wife'? Tom Tucker's first and last names begin with what letter? Do any other words in the rhyme begin with that letter? Can you find a word in the rhyme that begins with a letter that doesn't use the sound the letter makes?

[2] Do you know what a syllable is? A syllable is a chunk of a word where you make a little bit of a start and stop. 'Mom' has just one syllable. 'Mother' has two syllables. 'Grandmother' has three syllables. When you say the words can you clap when you hear each syllable? Can you clap once for each syllable when you hear the first part of 'Little Tom Tucker'?

London Bridge is Falling Down

FGV 32

[1] Have you ever ridden over a big bridge or seen a big bridge? Do you remember what the bridge looked like? Did it look like the bridge in the rhyme picture? What problem does London Bridge have? What do you think could cause the bridge to fall down? What will they use to rebuild and repair the bridge? If they build a new bridge, draw or color what you would like the new bridge to look like.

Lucy Lockett, Lost Her Pocket

FGV 4

[1] You might have a pocket in a shirt or in your pants. In the rhyme do you think 'pocket' might be an old-fashioned way to say 'pocketbook' or 'purse'? What do you think Lucy had in her pocket? Draw or color some things that you keep or would like to keep in your pocket. Have you ever lost anything from your pocket? What was it? Did you find it?

[2] Can you change Lucy Lockett's name with your name or someone else's name and say the rhyme that new way? Would you have to change the word 'pocket' to rhyme with the new name? Would you want to change other words in the rhyme? If you made a new rhyme, which rhyme do you like better?

Mary Had a Little Lamb

FGV 18

[1] Does 'little' have one 'L' sound or two? Does 'lamb' have one 'L' sound or two? Can you find other words in the rhyme have an 'L' sound?

[2] Mary had a pet lamb. Do you have a pet? Would you like to have a pet lamb? What do you think a pet lamb would eat? Besides feeding it, what kind of jobs or chores would you have to do to take care of it? What if Mary didn't have a pet lamb, what pet might she like to have? Color or draw a picture of Mary's lamb or a new pet for Mary.

[3] What did Mary's lamb do? Why do you think the lamb followed Mary all the time? Do you think it was OK for Mary to take the lamb to school? Do you think a lamb would be a good pet? Why? What do you think Mary and the lamb did after school? Do you think she might ride it, or dress it up in some of her clothes, or run races with it, or read it rhymes and stories, or take it to visit other lamb friends? Draw a picture of Mary and the lamb playing together after school.

Mew, Mew, Mew, Whose Cat Are You?

MGV 30

[1] Some people say the sound a kitten makes is 'mew' and the sound a cat makes is 'meow'. People from a country called Korea say a cat says "yaong." In a country called Turkey cats are supposed to say "miyauv," and in a country called Japan they say "nyan." Do you think the cats make a different sound in different countries, or do you think people just believe the cats make different sounds? Has a cat ever answered you back when you said 'mew' or 'meow' to it?

[2] Do you like cats? Do you have a pet cat? Have you heard a cat mew a lot? Can you think of different reasons a cat might mew? What do you think it might be telling you? Draw or color a picture of a cat and what the cat might want you to do. Share it with your teacher.

Mistress Mary, Quite Contrary

FGV 8

[1] Mary had a beautiful flower garden. Have you ever planted flowers? Have you ever picked a flower that was growing? How many different kinds of flowers can you name? Draw or color what you think one of Mary's flowers would look like.

[2] What does Mary look like in the picture? How would you describe her hair, her face, her age, her clothing? Can you describe anything else about her? If you could completely change the picture, how might you make Mary look different? Can you draw or color a picture of a different Mary and different flowers?

[3] Have you ever tried to say exactly what someone else says at exactly the same time? This is sometimes called speaking in unison or choral reading. You might practice saying the rhyme at the same time as Father Goose, then might try it with a friend or grownup at home, or maybe you can phone a friend or relative and try it. Ask someone to speak this rhyme while you say the same words at the same time.

Monday's Child is Fair of Face - Days of the Week

FGV 17

[1] The rhyme says Tuesday's child is full of what? The rhyme says Friday's child is 'what' and 'what'? What kind of child is Sunday's child? What kind of child would you like to be? If you could add a day of the week what would you call that day? What would you say about the child for that day?

[2] Can you count how many children the rhyme talks about? Which day's child is loving? Which day's child is smart? Which day's child will go far? Which child would you not want to be like? Which child would you want to be like?

Mother Goose

MGV 1

[1] Do you know Mother Goose and Father Goose? How are they alike and how are they different? Do they do the same things? Do they ride the same kind of goose? Do you know the difference between a goose and a gander? When you hear her voice, what kind of person do you think Mother Goose would be?

Oh, Do You Know the Muffin Man

MGV 40

[1] Muffins are like cupcakes but not so sweet and sugary, and sometimes they have nuts or raisins or other kinds of fruit or other nice things inside. Have you had a muffin? Do you like muffins? Did you ever buy ice cream from someone in an ice cream truck? Would you like it if someone like the Muffin Man walked up and down the street where you live? Would you buy muffins from him? If you bought a muffin from the Muffin Man what kind of muffin would you like to buy? Where does the Muffin Man live? How many sounds are the same in the words 'muffin' and 'man'?

Old King Cole

MGV 37

[1] A drum is one kind of instrument to make music and a fiddle is another. A fiddle player is called a fiddler. How many fiddlers did the king call for? How many drums did the king call for? How many musical instruments can you name? What is your favorite musical instrument? Could you imagine a new kind of musical instrument? Draw or color a picture of your favorite musical instrument or a picture of a completely new one you would like to invent.

[2] The king calls for things three different times. Can you remember what he calls for? With your hands can you show how to use the three different things or what the three different things are for? If you were a king or queen would you ask for these things or for different things. Pretend you're the king or queen and say the rhyme asking for different foods or toys or people or clothes or animals or something else.

Old Mother Hubbard

FGV 2

[1] When Old Mother Hubbard could not find her dog a bone, what do you think that she will do to find her dog something to eat? What kind of dog do you think Old Mother Hubbard had? How many different kinds of dog can you name?

[2] Why do you think that Old Mother Hubbard wanted to get a bone for her dog instead of dog food or a piece of meat or something else? What kinds of bones have you seen? Can you name some kinds of animals that you think probably don't have bones, maybe very small animals? Do you know what the word 'none' means? Why do you think people say 'none' instead of 'not one'?

One Misty Moisty Morning

FGV 33

[1] What word rhymes with 'leather'? What word rhymes with 'again'? Do you know what 'mist' is? It's when the air is full of very, very tiny little droplets of water almost too tiny to see. Do you think you would like mist better, or rain better? What does the sky look like when it might rain or be misty? What should you wear or carry outside when it might rain or be misty? Draw or color something that you might do inside or outside on a cloudy day.

One for the Money, Two for the Show

MGV 16

[1] Have you heard this rhyme before? Sometimes when children get ready to race, someone will say this rhyme, and the children are not supposed to start running until they hear the word: Go! If you ran a race would you rather run to win money, or run to show that you were the fastest and be famous, or would you rather run just for fun?

One, Two Buckle My Shoe

FGV 14

[1] Do your shoes have buckles? Do you ever buckle your shoe? Can you tie your shoelaces? Do you ever wear slippers or boots without buckles or laces? Why do shoes have laces? Do you ever wear anything that has a buckle?

[2] One, two buckle my shoe. 'Shoe' rhymes with 'two'. What number word rhymes with 'door'? What number word rhymes with 'sticks'? What number word rhymes with 'gate'? What number word rhymes with 'hen'?

[3] If you pretend to do what the rhyme says, show what you would do for one, two. Show what you would do for three, four. Show what you would do for five, six. Show what you would do for seven, eight. What would you do to act like the animal that rhymes with 'ten'?

One, Two, Three, Four, Mary at the Kitchen Door

FGV 13

[1] Do you like cherries? Have you ever eaten cherry pie? Or cherry jelly? Or eaten cherries in ice cream? Do you think cherries come from flowers or bushes or trees or grow under the ground or are made by turtles or laid by red birds like eggs? Draw cherries on a plate. Count and write how many there are on the plate.

One, Two, Three, Four, Five, I Caught a Mouse Alive!

FGV 15

[1] Look at the picture. What do you think is happening? Why do you think this? What parts of the picture make you think this?

[2] In the rhyme the person caught the mouse alive but then let it go again. Why do you think the person let the mouse go? Would you like to build a mouse trap? What kind of mouse trap would you build? What would you do with the mouse if you caught it? Would you keep it in a box or a little cage or in an aquarium or fish bowl? Would you make it a little house? What would you feed it? Would you make a leash to walk it for walks? Would you make a big paper plane to let it fly in or a boat to let it float in?

[3] Can you make flash cards for the numbers and words one, two, three, four, five? Lay the cards out on the table or floor face up in mixed-up order. While you listen to the rhyme, pick up the correct number card or number word card to match the number you hear. Keep the cards to use to practice the numbers and number words.

One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Once I Caught a Fish Alive

MGV 19

[1] Have you ever been fishing? Did you catch a fish? If you caught a fish would you keep it or put it back in the water? Do you know someone who keeps fish in a fishbowl in the house? Why do you think the person in the rhyme let the fish go?

[2] Do you think the person in the rhyme caught the fish with a string and hook, or with a net, or just with hands and fingers, or some other way? Can you think of another way to catch a fish? How might a dog catch a fish? How might a cat catch a fish? Why do you think the person let the fish go? Could the person go fishing again? Why or why not? What word rhymes with five? What word rhymes with ten?

Pease Porridge Hot

FGV 36

[1] Pease porridge is thick pea soup with very little water in it. Have you ever eaten pea soup? You think you would like it? Would you rather eat it hot or cold? Have you ever eaten anything that has been left in a pot for nine days? Would you like to? How many different words in the rhyme begin with the letter 'p'?

Peter Piper Picked A Peck

FGV 22

[1] Can you count how many words in the poem begin with a 'P' sound? What other things could Peter decide to pick that begin with a 'P' sound? Can you name five new things that begin with 'P'? What could Peter do with these new things?

[2] The peppers in the rhyme aren't like pepper in a pepper shaker. The rhyme's peppers are about as big as an apple and probably green or red or yellow, and are hollow inside. A peck is about the same size as two gallons of milk. How many peppers do you think Peter would have to pick to make a peck? Do you think you could carry that many peppers? Why or why not?

Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater

FGV 3

[1] Can you think of a word that rhymes with 'well' and 'shell'? At Halloween people carve faces on pumpkins to make Jack o' lanterns. How small would a person need to be to fit inside that kind of pumpkin shell? How big would a pumpkin shell need to be for someone like you to live inside it? If you couldn't make a house out of it, what might you like to do with a pumpkin shell?

[2] Whom did Peter put in the pumpkin shell? Why do you think Peter used a pumpkin shell? What did Peter learn to do? Is it important to read? Give two reasons. Is it important to write and spell? Give two reasons. Do you ever see people reading or writing on a smart phone or tablet?

Rain, Rain, Go Away

MGV 35

[1] When it rains do grownups tell you to stay inside? Why would they say that? Why does Johnny want the rain to go away? What do you do inside while it is raining? What might you like to do outside in the rain? What do you think would be better to have out in the rain, a raincoat or an umbrella? Why do you think so?

[2] Why is it a good thing when it rains? What would happen to all the rivers and streams, and ponds and lakes, plants and flowers and animals if we didn't have rain?

Ride a Black Horse to Banbury Cross

MGV 39

[1] Do you think the fine lady has bells on the toes of her feet, that she has bells on the toes of her boots or shoes? Why would she wear bells? Would you like to wear bells on your toes? How many pennies will Tommy spend? What will cost the most pennies? Draw or color something you would like to buy if you had enough pennies.

Ring Around the Roses

FGV 12

[1] Sometimes children make a circle, sing the rhyme, and walk around in a circle. What do you think they do after the rhyme says, 'ashes, ashes'? What do you think they do after they sing about the daisies? Maybe you can get some friends and make a circle to do the rhyme.

Rock A Bye Baby

FGV 42 / MGV 47

[1] When this rhyme is sung as a lullaby it is sung slowly. Try to sing it very fast. Does that change the feeling of the rhyme or song? Do you think singing it faster would help a baby fall to sleep faster? Why or why not?

[2] How many words in the poem begin with a 'B'? If you can write words, make a list of these words. Pick a word that begins with 'B' or 'T' or 'C' to make a picture of.

[1] Why do you think the rhyme begins with the word 'rock'? Rock can mean a hard stone or it can mean to tip backwards and forwards like in a rocking chair. Why was the baby in the treetop? What did the wind do? Would you rather rock in a treetop or rock in a rocking chair? Why? The bough is a tree limb; when it breaks what happens?

See, Saw, Margery Daw, Sold Her Bed

MGV 10

[1] Do you know what straw is? You sometimes use a straw to drink from a cup. Do you know another meaning for straw? Did you know it's the word for the long stem that grows like very tall grass and on top has wheat seeds or rice seeds or other kinds of seeds that people use to make food? Straw is the long, mostly dried out and hollow pieces of those plants, and straw can grow taller than a child. People used to put straw in pillows. Sometimes people put straw in clothes and a hat to make a scarecrow to scare birds away from a garden. Can you think of other ways people might use straw?

[2] Margery sold her bed. Would you sell your bed so that you could sleep on straw? How would it feel? How would a straw bed be different from the bed you sleep on?

[3] Words that have the same middle and ending sounds are called rhyming words. Find and write a word that rhymes with 'around' and a word that rhymes with 'straw.'

See, Saw, Margery Daw, Jackie Shall Have A New Master

FGV 20

[1] What does 'see' mean? What does 'saw' mean? Can 'saw' mean more than one thing? Do those words sound like another name for a teeter-totter? Would you like the rhyme better if some of the words were changed? What words would you change? Say the rhyme with changed words.

[2] What kind of person is Jacky? Does Jacky work hard? Why do you think Jacky doesn't work faster? Does Jacky remind you of any other nursery rhyme characters or story characters? How are they the same? How are they different?

She Sells Sea Shells

MGV 29

[1] Do you know what a shell is? Nuts and eggs have shells to protect the soft part inside. Turtles' shells protect their backs and tummies from getting hurt. Some sea creatures have shells to protect their soft bodies. Have you ever walked on a beach and looked for sea shells? Some people say if you put the open part of a big shell by your ear you can hear the sea waves. Do you know anyone who has ever tried that? Can you think of any words that rhyme with 'shells'? One word might be something you could ring to make a sound. Another might be something a tattler does, a word that starts with 't'. Can you find and write 5 words that begin with the letter 's'?

[2] This rhyme is a tongue twister--that means it's hard for most people say. Can you say it without a mistake? Do you know someone who can say it fast without a mistake? What does the girl sell? Where does she sell them? Does the rhyme tell you how many shells she sells?

Simple Simon Met A Pieman

MGV 41

[1] Which person in the picture is Simple Simon and which is the pie-man? How can you tell? A 'ware' is something a person makes to sell. What do you think is the man's job? What could he be holding out? Will the pie-man let Simple Simon have a taste? Why or why not? Did you ever want to taste something but another person wouldn't let you? How did you feel? Did someone ever let you have a taste and you wish they hadn't?

Sing a Song of Sixpence, A Pocket Full of Rye

FGV 34

[1] The birds in the pie were blackbirds. How many different kinds of bird can you name? What kinds of birds have you seen people eat? Finding birds in a pie was a big surprise for the king. What would you do if you found a live bird in a pie? Draw or write what you think the king might have done after finding the birds in his pie.

[2] When did the king begin to count his money? Where was the queen? What was the maid doing? What did the blackbirds do at the end of the rhyme?

Sneeze on Monday

MGV 18

[1] The person in the poem sneezed every day for a week. Can you count how many days are in a week? How many times would he sneeze in that week? What do you think made him sneeze? Name some things that could make someone sneeze that much. Can you remember the last day you sneezed? What would the rhyme say about sneezing on that day? If you sneezed today, what would the rhyme say about that sneeze?

Solomon Grundy, Born on Monday

MGV 21

[1] What word do you hear most often in this rhyme? Do you notice anything else special about this rhyme? What can you learn from this rhyme? Do you know what day of the week you were born? What day of the week do you like best? Why?

Star Light, Star Bright

FGV 40

[1] Think about a wish you'd like to make, then write down the wish in words or make a picture. Think about a wish a friend might make, then write down the wish in words or make a picture. Think about a wish a grownup you know might make, then write down the wish in words or make a picture.

[2] When is it easiest to see stars outside? When you see stars outside do the little dots sometimes seem to make a pattern? With a pencil, tap dots in different places on the paper. Can you see any kind of a pattern? Pick a dot and draw a line to another dot, and another dot, and another dot until the line touches all the dots. Does the shape made by the line look a little bit like anything you can think of? Can you draw more lines to make the shape look like something you know?

Ten Little Indians

MGV 22

[1] Write down the numbers from one to 10, and below each number draw that number of check marks or x marks. When you hear or say the rhyme point to the right number.

[2] Can you change the word 'Indians' for another new word and say the whole rhyme using the other new word? The new word might be about kinds of people or animals or toys or something else. Can you count by fives? If you can, change the rhyme to count by fives. Begin by saying, 'Five little, ten little, fifteen little Indians--'

The Man in the Moon

MGV 44

[1] Do you ever think you see a face when you look at the moon? What does the face look like? The rhyme says that when night comes, it's time for the moon to get up. When he gets up what will the children have to do? Do grownups sometimes tell you to go to sleep when you're not sleepy? Do they sometimes tell you to get up when you want to stay asleep? Why do you think grownups do that?

There was an Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe

MGV 8

[1] Do you know a mother who has so many children she doesn't know what to do? Do most mothers you know usually know what to do? Do other children live in your house? If so, how many? How many would you like to have living there? Make an arithmetic addition sentence that tells how many people live in your house. Say it like this, only say numbers instead of saying 'this many.' There are *this many* adults, and *this many* children, and those numbers add up to *this many* people living in my house.

There was an Old Woman Lived Under the Hill

MGV 6

[2] What are the first two words that rhyme? Can you think of other words that would rhyme with these? What are the next two words that rhyme? Can you think of other words that would rhyme with these? Can you say the whole thing using some of your new rhyming words?

There was an Old Woman Tossed Up in a Blanket

MGV 7

[1] The last four lines of the rhyme end with what sound? A cobweb is an old spider's web. The old woman says, 'I'm going to sweep the cobwebs from the sky.' How many words can you think of that rhyme with 'sky'? Say the line about the old woman using a new rhyming word instead of 'sky'.

[2] Do you know the rhyme, 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' or a rhyme about another old woman? If you do, then think about how the poems are like each other and how they are different from each other. Draw three circles. In one circle write words that say what makes 'There was an Old Woman Tossed Up in a Blanket' special. In another circle write words that say what makes 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' or another rhyme about an old woman special. In the third circle write words that say how the two rhymes are alike.

There was a Crooked Man

FGV 5

[1] Think about three things you have seen that were crooked. Draw or color a picture with all three crooked things in the picture. Can you think of a word that means almost the same thing as crooked? Read the rhyme again but use your new word in place of crooked. Which rhyme do you like better?

[2] How are these words the same or different from crooked: curved, bent, twisted, broken? Are some things better when they are crooked? Have you ever slid on a crooked slide? Have you ever sipped from a crooked straw? Can you make a finger be crooked? Can you stand a crooked way? Can you walk a crooked way?

[3] What kind of crooked animals are in the rhyme? Can you count how many times the rhyme uses the word 'crooked'? What different things in the rhyme are crooked?

There Was a Little Girl Who had a Little Curl

MGV 9

[1] When you are good are you sometimes very, very good? What do you do when you want to be very, very good? Do you know what 'horrid' means? It means especially bad or naughty. What kinds of things might a little girl or boy do that might be horrid? Does the word 'horrid' have double letters? Can you find and write 3 words from the rhyme that have double letters in them?

Three Blind Mice

MGV 32

[1] Sing the rhyme and clap when you say the especially strong or loud words. Do you hear a pattern? The pattern is what people call the rhythm. Sing the rhyme again and turn in a circle when you hear a question in the rhyme.

[2] How many different things do you know about mice? Do you know what they like to eat, or where they like to live, or what animals they especially don't like? Do you know what it means to be blind? Can you think of other words that mean the same or almost the same as 'blind'? If the mice were blind, how do you think they knew how to run after the farmer's wife?

This Little Piggy Went to Market

MGV 26

[1] Have you ever heard this rhyme before? Does the rhyme remind you of anything? Did anyone ever count your toes pretending each toe was a little piggy?

[2] This rhyme has several words that have a short 'i' sound--'ih'. Three of these words are 'piggy' and 'little' and 'this'. Can you find any other words in the rhyme or not in the rhyme that have the short 'i' sound?

To Market, to Market, To Buy A Fat Pig

FGV 21

[1] What word rhymes with 'jig'? What word rhymes with 'jog'? What do you think 'jiggity-jig' might mean? What do you think 'jiggity-jog' might mean? Do the words mean different things? How are they different? Do you ever go to a market? Do you ever go to a supermarket? What is a supermarket? Write words or draw pictures to make a list of things to buy at a market or supermarket. From a newspaper or magazine or catalog cut out pictures of things you might buy at a market and stick them to a piece of paper or paper plate.

Tom, Tom the Piper's Son

MGV 14

[1] A flute is a hollow tube like a piece of pipe with holes, and some people can blow on a flute to make beautiful music. Did you ever blow some kind of flute? Did you ever blow a whistle? Some people can blow across the top of an empty bottle to make a musical sound. Do you know anyone who plays a musical instrument like a flute or guitar or drums? Have you ever played a musical instrument? What did Tom the Piper's son learn to play when he was young?

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

MGV 45

[1] Do you ever look at the stars in the night sky? Did you ever wonder what stars are? Scientists called astronomers study things in the sky; they say stars are suns like our sun, but so very far away that we can only see a tiny bit of their light. How far away would a sun have to be to seem so tiny? Astronomers say we can only see a few of the stars in the sky, that there are as many stars in the sky as there are tiny grains of sand in all the beaches in the whole world. Can you imagine that many suns?

Wee Willie Winkie

FGV 37

[1] 'Wee' is an old-fashioned word for very small. Can you think of other words that mean very small? What word rhymes with 'town'? Can you change the first letter s of the name "Wee Willie Winkie" and create a new name like 'Gee, Gillie, Ginkie' or 'Hee, Hillie, Hinkie'? Say the rhyme using the new name. Which rhyme do you like better?

[2] Why did Wee Willie Winkie run through the town? What was he wearing? Where do you think he was supposed to be? Are you supposed to be in your bed at eight o' clock?

What are Little Boys Made Of?

FGV 6

[1] Are little boys really made of snails and puppy dog tails? Why do you think the rhyme says that? If you wrote a rhyme, what would you say little boys are made of? What might somebody in your family say you were made of? What would you like them to say you were made of?

What are Little Girls Made Of?

FGV 7

[1] Are little girls really made of sugar and spice? Why do you think the rhyme says that? If you wrote a rhyme, what would you say little girls are made of? What might somebody in your family say you were made of? What would you like them to say you were made of?

Yesterday Upon the Stair, I Saw a Man Who Wasn't There

MGV 34

[1] Did you ever think you saw a person, then looked again and no person was there? ? Do you think the person saying the rhyme made a mistake or is just mixed up? Do you think the rhyme is about somebody who was playing a trick and hiding? Did you ever trick someone like that? What word rhymes with 'stair'? What word rhymes with 'today'?