

Paul Whitman's
MOTHER GOOSE
A Guide to the Characters



Paul Whitman was born on April 23, 1897. In the late 1920s he moved to the budding art community in Carmel, California, where he became a founding member of the Carmel Art Association and served for a time as vice-president of that organization. He is particularly distinguished among American artists for his oils, watercolors, lithographs, landscapes, and waterfront depictions. His works have been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums across the country. Paul Whitman died of a heart attack, in 1950, at the age of 53.



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1. The Queen of Hearts
2. Duck from "A Little Man"
3. Hickety, Pickety, My Black Hen
4. Three Blind Mice
5. Little Miss Muffett
6. Little Tommy Tucker
7. Who Killed Cock Robin?
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A Narrative to Mother Goose

By Paul Whitman


Everyone of us is well acquainted with the rhymes of Mother Goose, yet nobody knows just who this wonderful character was or when, if at all, she came into being. The earliest recorded mention is to be found in an early French poem of 1860.


*But the joyous theme in use,
Like the tale of Mother Goose,
In myth and fable so abounds,
It quite bewilders and confounds.*

Each and every one of these quaint rhymes and jingles seem to have its own special history and as we delve into the subject we can easily bring to mind the many generations of children, yes and adults too, who have found amusement and instruction in the many little characters who have been brought to us out of the past.

The subject of Mother Goose is anything but an exact science. There are many, perhaps hundreds, of modern Mother Goose books and the casual comparison of any two of these books will show that there are characters in one that do not appear in the other and that even the rhymes and jingles themselves have been changed at the whim of the author. There are, however, many, many of the better known stories which have remained constant throughout the years and the contribution of Paul Whitman, the artist who painted the Mother Goose painting, has been to bring all of these well known characters into a single landscape at one time. So far as we know this has never been done before and the value of this work to the child and to the teacher, becomes at once apparent. Heretofore Little Miss Muffet has been isolated and apart from Little Tommy Tucker or from Jack and Jill, now they become, for the first time, a member of a large and fascinating family—all gathered in one spot and each engaged in the particular activity for which he or she is famous throughout the world.


To be of assistance to the busy teacher and to the child, and to help her to identify (each and every) character that has been depicted in the painting we follow with a brief description of the entire painting, and as the various characters are named, the first line of the rhyme in which they are found will be added. There are a few cases in which one character may be called upon to represent more than one rhyme—this was, in part, unavoidable but in all cases the better known rhyme is illustrated.


Starting with the large central character on the left center—this is **The Queen of Hearts**¹ who baked the tarts. Behind The Queen of Hearts is the Duck² from A Little Man and below the Duck is the Black Hen³ (**Hickety, Pickety, My Black Hen**) who lays eggs for gentlemen. Below the Black Hen are the **Three Blind Mice**⁴ and to the left we find **Little Miss Muffet**⁵ chasing the spider away. Next to her stands **Little Tommy Tucker**⁶ singing for his supper. Above Tommy's head is the Thrush⁷ which sang the psalm in **Who Killed Cock Robin?** Above the Thrush is the **Crooked Man**⁸ talking to the **Old Woman** under a hill.⁹ This picture of the Old Woman could really represent three other rhymes all about old women—“There was an old woman, and what do you think”; “There was an old woman, and I've hear tell”; and “**There was an old woman lived under a hill. She put a mouse in a bag**”—you see they are really all very much alike, aren't they? 

The birds in the big oak come from two different rhymes—and the Black Birds^{10,11} obviously may be recognized from **Sing a Song of Sixpence** and the other birds take their parts in **Who Killed Cock Robin?** Swinging high up in the tree is **Rock-a-Bye, Baby, On the Tree Top**,¹² and to the right, watching the baby, is Old Man Whiskum Whiskum Wheeze¹³ who lived way up in the top of the trees. Far out on the limb is the **Wise Old Owl**¹⁴ who sees everything that goes on below. On one side of the Owl is the Star¹⁵ from **Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star** and on the other side is the Moon which the Cow¹⁶ is jumping over from **Hey, Diddle, Diddle**. Also in the tree is the Pear¹⁷ from **I Had a Little Nut Tree**—seems funny to have a pear growing on an oak tree but that's the way it was that day. 

Going back to the Queen of Hearts, just on the right of her head are the three men¹⁸ in a boat (**Rub-a-Dub-Dub**) and Three Wise Men from Gotham—below them is **Jack, Be Nimble**¹⁹ in track suit for jumping over his candle. Below Jack are the **Three Little Kittens Who Lost Their Mittens**,²⁰ playing next to **Old King Cole**²¹ (...was a merry old soul)—he's got his pipe in one hand and his bowl on his knee. His three fiddlers are down by his feet, too. Below Old King Cole is “**There was a little girl who had a little curl, right in the middle of her forehead**”²² and on her right sit Mr. and Mrs. Spratt²³ (from **Jack Spratt Could Eat No Fat**). Over to the left of Mr. Spratt is **Ride a Cock Horse**,²⁴ then the


Goose²⁵ that laid the golden egg from Aesop and then comes **Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son**²⁶ who is caught in the act of stealing the pig. We musn't forget the Easter Bunny²⁷ that sits just below the Queen of Hearts.

Starting at the lower left-hand corner and working across the entire bottom of the picture we find first, "**Little Jack Horner sat in a corner.**"²⁸ On the "O" in MOTHER sits the Lark²⁹ and at the base of this "O" is the Beetle,³⁰ both from Who Killed Cock Robin? This same "O" has a clock³¹ on its face and the mouse³² from **Hickory, Dickory, Dock** sits on the number 3. At the base of the 3 is the sixpence³³ from **Sing a Song of Sixpence**. Above the "H" in MOTHER is the fly;³⁴ above the 4 is Cock Robin³⁵ and on the 5 is sparrow³⁶—all from Who Killed Cock Robin? Above the "H" is the head of a dog³⁷ who is really not from Mother Goose at all but who belongs to my grandchildren and they really wanted him included. His name is "Doonie." 

On top of the pumpkin³⁸ from "**Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater**"—this could also represent the Halloween Pumpkin—is The Grasshopper and The Ant³⁹ from Aesop's fables. To the right of the pumpkin is a pussycat⁴⁰ (**Pussycat, Pussycat, Where Have You Been?**) whose tail forms the first "O" in GOOSE. Right above the cat, who by the way represents many other little rhymes about cats, we find the beaver⁴¹ from Two Little Beavers. Next to the beaver sits the Fox⁴² from one of Aesop's fables and he's probably watching that fat piggy, don't you think? Next to the Fox is "**Doctör Foster went to Gloucester**"⁴³ and isn't that the best umbrella you ever saw? Just below the Doctör is the Fish⁴⁴ from Who Killed Cock Robin? and next to the Fish we find the Crane⁴⁵ and the Wolf,⁴⁶ both from Aesop. Down in the right-hand lower corner is the Frog⁴⁷ from "**A frog, he would a-wooing go**" and underneath the "S" in GOOSE is the dollar⁴⁸ from **A Diller, a Dollar**. The blocks spell out MOTHER GOOSE as you can see and the numerals from 1 to 9 are on top. Through the 8 is the nail⁴⁹ from "**For want of a nail.**" 


Now let's go to the other main figure on the right. This is "**Mary, Mary, quite contrary**"⁵⁰ but it could also be used to represent Mary from "**Mary had a little lamb**"—both of these girls were named Mary and it could have been one girl. Underneath Mary's right arm you can see the Black Sheep^{51,52} from **Baa, Baa, Black Sheep**, and out in the water is the Swan⁵³ from "**Swan swam over the sea**," and next to the Swan is "**Georgie Porgie, pudding and pie**"⁵⁴—he's kissing one of his girls. And there's "**Seesaw Marjorie Daw**"⁵⁵ and do you see that the seesaw is on the back of the Tortoise⁵⁶ from Aesop?

Over next to the Little Lamb is "**This little piggy went to market**"⁵⁷ and to our right is "**Taffy was a Welshman**"⁵⁸ who is stealing the piece of beef. Do you remember another boy who is dressed just as Taffy is? Above Taffy is "**Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn**"⁵⁹—we all know about him.

Starting at the bottom of the steps is "**Jack**"⁸⁷ and Jill⁶⁰ went up the hill" and pretty soon they are both going to fall down the hill. Above Jack is "**There was a man in our town**"⁶¹ who is jumping into the briar bush and above him is the man with the gun⁶²—he's aiming at the rabbit and this is all told in "**Bye, baby bunting.**" On Mary's right there is "**Simple Simon, met a pieman**"⁶³ and he's fishing in the pail which seems sort of foolish when he could be fishing in the ocean, couldn't he? In the boat next to Simon is "**Bobby Shafto's gone to sea.**"⁶⁴ 

Way out in the ocean there is the Light-house⁶⁵ and then comes "**London Bridge is falling down**"⁶⁶ and then comes the Dish⁶⁷ running away with the Spoon and the Cat⁶⁸ who is fiddling—these are both from Hey, Diddle, Diddle. On the shore above the boat is the Old Woman⁶⁹ with all her children from "**There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.**" Above the Old Woman, in the background is the church⁷⁰ from "**Here is the church**" and in the meadow in front of the church are the Sheep⁷¹ that have been lost by Little Boy Blue.

The big house⁷² in the upper right-hand corner and most of the people shown there are connected with "**This is the house that Jack built.**" If you look around there a bit you will find the Malt,⁷³ the Rat, the Cat,⁷⁴ the Dog,⁷⁵ the "cow with the crumpled horn,"⁷⁶ the "maiden all forlorn,"⁷⁷ "the man all tattered and torn,"⁷⁸ "the priest all shaven and shorn,"⁸³ "the cock that crowed in the morn"⁷⁹ and "the farmer sowing his corn."⁸⁰ They all come from one story. In the house too you should see **Mother Hubbard**⁸¹ looking in her cupboard. We almost forgot to mention the boy sitting on the steps studying from his school book—he has the alarm clock next to him—surely you know that he is **A Diller, a Dollar.**⁸²

Way up in the top right-hand corner is the well with the pussy⁸⁴ in it—that's from "**Ding, dong, bell**"—and **sitting on the wall**—no, I'm not going to tell you who he is as I know you know all about him.⁸⁵ By the way, the rain cloud⁸⁶ behind the church represents many different rhymes, one of which is "**Rain, rain, go away.**" 

Now, we have told you all about the principal characters that are shown. You read your Mother Goose Book and you will read of many more and if you look at the painting I am sure you can find them. It's a game to play and it's fun too. ♣

A SELECTION OF POPULAR MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES

A diller, a dollar, a ten o'clock scholar!

What makes you come so soon?
You used to come at ten o'clock;
Now you come at noon.

A frog he would a-wooing go,
Whether his mother let him or no,

He rode right to Miss Mousie's den,
Said he Miss Mousie are you within?

Yes, kind Sir Frog, I sit to spin,
Pray, Mister Frog, won't you walk in.

He said, my dear I've come to see,
If you, Miss Mousie, will marry me.

I don't know what to say to that,
Till I can see my Uncle Rat.

When Uncle Rat came riding home,
Said he, who's been here since I've been gone?

A fine young gentleman has been here,
Who wants to marry me, it is clear.

So Uncle Rat he rode to town,
And bought his niece a wedding gown.

When shall our wedding supper be,
Down in the trunk of some hollow tree.

The first to come was a Bumble Bee,
He strung his fiddle over his knee.

The next to come was a Crawley Bug,
He broke the bottle and smashed the jug.

The next to come was the Captain Flea,
He danced a jig with the Bumble Bee.

The Frog and Mouse, they went to France,
And this is the end of my romance.

A wise old owl sat in an oak,
The more he heard, the less he spoke;
The less he spoke, the more he heard;
Why aren't we all like that wise old bird?

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

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

Thank you said the master,
Thank you said the dame,
Thank you said the little boy who
lived down the lane.

Bobby Shafto's gone to sea,
With silver buckles at his knee;
He'll come back and marry me,-
Bonnie Bobby Shafto!

Bobby Shafto's fine and fair,
Combing out his yellow hair,
He's my love for evermore,-
Bonnie Bobby Shafto!

Bye, baby bunting
Daddy's gone a hunting
To get a little rabbit skin
To wrap his baby bunting in

Bye, baby bunting
Daddy's gone a hunting
To get a little lambie skin
To wrap his baby bunting in
Bye, baby bunting

Daddy's gone a hunting
A rosy visp of cloud to win
To wrap his baby bunting in

Ding, dong, bell,
Pussy's in the well.

Who put her in?
Little Johnny Green.

Who pulled her out?
Little Tommy Stout.

What a naughty boy was that,
To try to drown poor pussycat,

Who never did him any harm,
And killed the mice in his father's barn.

Doctor Foster went to Gloucester
In a shower of rain.
He stepped in a puddle
Right up to his middle,
And never went there again.

For want of a nail the shoe was lost,
For want of a shoe the horse was lost,
For want of a horse the rider was lost,
For want of a rider the battle was lost,
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost,
And all for the want of a horse-shoe nail.

Georgie Porgie, puddin' and pie,
Kissed the girls and made them cry.

When the boys came out to play,
Georgie Porgie ran away.

Here is the church
And here is the steeple:
Open the door,
And see all the people.

Here is the minister
Climbing the stairs,
And here he is,
Saying his prayers.

Hey, diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed
To see such sport,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Hickety, pickety, my black hen,
She lays eggs for gentlemen;
Gentlemen come every day
To see what my black hen doth lay,
Sometimes nine and sometimes ten,
Hickety, pickety, my black hen.

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

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again!

I had a little nut tree, nothing would it bear
But a silver nutmeg and a golden pear.

The King of Spain's daughter came to visit me,
And all for the sake of my little nut tree.

I skipped over water, I danced over sea,
And all the birds in the air couldn't catch me.

Jack and Jill
Went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down
And broke his crown
And Jill came tumbling after.

Up Jack got
And home did trot
As fast as he could caper
Went to bed
And plastered his head
With vinegar and brown paper.

Jack Sprat could eat no fat,
His wife could eat no lean,

And so betwixt the two of them
They licked the platter clean.

Jack, be nimble,
Jack, be quick,
Jack, jump over
The candlestick.

Little Boy Blue, come blow your horn,
The sheep's in the meadow, the cow's in the corn.

Where is the boy who looks after the sheep?
He's under a haycock, fast asleep.

Will you wake him? No, not I,
For if I do, he's sure to cry.

Little Jack Horner
Sat in a corner,
Eating his Christmas pie.

He stuck in his thumb
And pulled out a plum,
And said, "What a good boy am I!"

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

London Bridge is falling down,
Falling down, falling down,
London Bridge is falling down,
My fair Lady.

Build it up with wood and clay,
Wood and clay, wood and clay,
Build it up with wood and clay,
My fair Lady.

Wood and clay will wash away,
Wash away, wash away,
Wood and clay will wash away,
My fair Lady.

Build it up with bricks and mortar,
Bricks and mortar, bricks and mortar,
Build it up with bricks and mortar,
My fair Lady.

Bricks and mortar will not stay,
Will not stay, will not stay,
Bricks and mortar will not stay,
My fair Lady.

Build it up with iron and steel,
Iron and steel, iron and steel,
Build it up with iron and steel,
My fair Lady.

Iron and steel will bend and bow,
Bend and bow, bend and bow,
Iron and steel will bend and bow,
My fair Lady.

Build it up with silver and gold,
Silver and gold, silver and gold,
Build it up with silver and gold,
My fair Lady.

Silver and gold will be stolen away,
Stolen away, stolen away,
Silver and gold will be stolen away,
My fair Lady.

Set a man to watch all night,
Watch all night, watch all night,
Set a man to watch all night,
My fair Lady.

Suppose the man should fall asleep,
Fall asleep, fall asleep,
Suppose the man should fall asleep?
My fair Lady.

Give him a pipe to smoke all night,
Smoke all night, smoke all night,
Give him a pipe to smoke all night,
My fair Lady.

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was 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

And so the teacher turned it out,
But still it lingered near

And waited patiently about,
Till Mary did appear

"Why does the lamb love Mary so?"
The eager children cry
"Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know."
The teacher did reply.

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockle shells
And pretty maids all in a row.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he.
He called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl,
And he called for his fiddlers three.

Every fiddler had a fiddle fine,
And a very fine fiddle had he,
had he,
Tweedle dum, tweedle dee, went the fiddlers three,
Tweedle dum dee, dum dee diddle dee.

Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the cupboard
To fetch her poor dog a bone;
But when she came there
The cupboard was bare,
And so the poor dog had none.

She went to the baker's
To buy him some bread;
But when she came back
The poor dog was dead.

She went to the joiner's
To buy him a coffin;
But when she came back
The poor dog was laughing.

She took a clean dish
To get him some tripe;
But when she came back
He was smoking a pipe.

She went to the alehouse
To get him some beer,
But when she came back
The dog sat in a chair.

She went to the tavern
For white wine and red,
But when she came back
The dog stood on his head.

She went to the grocer's
To buy him some fruit;
But when she came back
He was playing the flute.

She went to the tailor's
To buy him a coat,
But when she came back
He was riding the goat.

She went to the hatter's
To buy him a hat;
But when she came back
He was feeding the cat.

She went to the barber's
To buy him a wig,
But when she came back
He was dancing a jig.

She went to the cobbler's
To buy him some shoes,
But when she came back
He was reading the news.

She went to the seamstress
To buy him some linen,
But when she came back
The dog was a-spinnin'.

She went to the hosier's
To buy him some hose,
But when she came back
He was dressed in his clothes.

The dame made a curtsey,
The dog made a bow;
The dame said, "Your servant."
The dog said, "Bow wow!"

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater,
Had a wife and couldn't keep her.
He put her in a pumpkin shell
And there he kept her, very well.

Pussycat, pussycat, where have you been?
I've been to London to visit the Queen.

Pussycat, pussycat, what did you there?

I frightened a little mouse under her chair.

Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross

To see a fine lady upon a white horse.

Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes,

She shall have music wherever she goes.

Rock a bye baby on the tree top,
When the wind blows the cradle will rock.

When the bough breaks the cradle will fall,

And down will come baby, cradle and all.

Rub-a-dub-dub
Three men in a tub,
And how do you think they got there?

The butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker—

They all jumped out of a rotten potato!

'Twas enough to make a fish stare.

Seesaw, Marjorie Daw,
Johnny shall have a new master.
He shall have but a penny a day,
because he can't work any faster.

Seesaw, Marjorie Daw,
Jenny shall have a new master.
She shall have but a penny a day,
because she can't work any faster.

Simple Simon met a pieman,
Going to the fair.
Said Simple Simon to the pieman,
"Let me taste your ware."

Said the pieman unto Simon,
"Show me first your penny."
Said Simple Simon to the pieman,
"Indeed I have not any."

Simple Simon went a-fishing,
For to catch a whale;
But all the water he had got
Was in his mother's pail.

Simple Simon went to look,
If plums grew on a thistle;
He pricked his fingers very much,
Which made poor Simon whistle.

He went for water in a sieve,
But soon it all fell through;
And now poor Simple Simon
Bids you all adieu.

Sing a song of sixpence,
A pocket full of rye;
Four and twenty blackbirds
Baked in a pie.
When the pie was opened,
They all began to sing,
Now, wasn't that a dainty dish
To set before the King?

The King was in his counting-house,
Counting out his money;
The Queen was in the parlor
Eating bread and honey.
The maid was in the garden,
Hanging out the clothes.
Along there came a blackbird
And pecked off her nose!

Swan swam over the sea,
Swim, swan, swim!
Swan swam back again,
Well swum, swan!

Taffy was a Welshman,
Taffy was a thief;
Taffy came to my house
And stole a piece of beef.

I went to Taffy's house,
Taffy was not home;
Taffy came to my house
And stole a mutton bone.

I went to Taffy's house,
Taffy was not in;
Taffy came to my house
And stole a silver pin.

I went to Taffy's house,
Taffy was in bed;

I took up a poker
And threw it at his head.

There was a little girl who had a little curl
Right in the middle of her forehead;

When she was good, she was very, very good,
And when she was bad she was horrid.

There was a man in our town,
And he was wondrous wise,
He jumped into a bramble bush,
And scratched out both his eyes;

But when he saw his eyes were out,
With all his might and main,
He jumped into another bush,
And scratched 'em in again.

The Queen of Hearts,
She made some tarts
All on a summer's day.

The Knave of Hearts,
He stole the tarts
And took them all away.

The King of Hearts,
Called for the tarts
And beat the Knave full sore.

The Knave of Hearts,
Brought back the tarts
And vowed he'd steal no more.

There was a crooked man and he walked a crooked mile,
He found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked stile.

He bought a crooked cat, which caught a crooked mouse,
And they all lived together in a little crooked house

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.
She had so many children, she didn't know what to do.

She gave them some broth, Without any bread,
Whipped them all soundly, and sent them to bed.

There was an old woman Lived under a hill;
She put a mouse in a bag,
And sent it to mill.

The miller declared
By the point of his knife,
He never took toll
Of a mouse in his life.

This is the house that Jack built.

This is the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the cat
That killed the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the dog
That worried the cat
That killed the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the cow with the crumpled horn
That tossed the dog
That worried the cat
That killed the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the maiden all forlorn
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn
That tossed the dog
That worried the cat
That killed the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the man all tattered and torn
That kissed the maiden all forlorn
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn
That tossed the dog
That worried the cat
That killed the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the priest all shaven and shorn
That married the man all tattered and torn
That kissed the maiden all forlorn
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn
That tossed the dog
That worried the cat
That killed the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the cock that crowed in the morn
That waked the priest all shaven and shorn
That married the man all tattered and torn
That kissed the maiden all forlorn
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn
That tossed the dog
That worried the cat
That killed the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the farmer sowing his corn
That kept the cock that crowed in the morn
That waked the priest all shaven and shorn
That married the man all tattered and torn
That kissed the maiden all forlorn
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn
That tossed the dog
That worried the cat
That killed the rat
That ate the malt
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This little piggy went to market,
This little piggy stayed home,
This little piggy had roast beef,
This little piggy had none,
And this little piggy cried,
Wee, wee, wee, all the way home.

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

Three little kittens,
They lost their mittens,
And they began to cry,
Oh, mother, dear,
We sadly fear,
Our mittens we have lost.

What! Lost your mittens,
You naughty kittens,
Then you shall have no pie.
Meow, meow,
Then you shall have no pie.

The three little kittens,
They found their mittens,
And they began to cry,
Oh, mother, dear,
See here, see here,
Our mittens we have found.

What, found your mittens,
Then you're good kittens,
And you shall have some pie.
Purr-rr, purr-rr,
Then you shall have some pie.

Three little kittens,
Put on their mittens,
And soon ate up the pie.
Oh, mother, dear,
We sadly fear,
Our mittens we have soiled.

What! Soiled your mittens,
You naughty kittens,
And they began to sigh.
Meow, meow,
And they began to sigh.

The three little kittens,
They washed their mittens,
And hung them out to dry.
Oh, mother, dear,
Do you not hear,
Our mittens we have washed?

What! Washed your mittens?
Then you're good kittens!
But I smell a rat close by.
Meow, meow,
We smell a rat close by.

Tom, Tom, the piper's son,
Stole a pig, and away did run!
The pig was eat,
And Tom was beat,
And Tom went crying
Down the street.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.

Who killed Cock Robin?
I, said the Sparrow,
with my bow and arrow,
I killed Cock Robin.

Who saw him die?
I, said the Fly,
with my little eye,
I saw him die.

Who caught his blood?
I, said the Fish,
with my little dish,
I caught his blood.

Who'll make the shroud?
I, said the Beetle,
with my thread and needle,
I'll make the shroud.

Who'll dig his grave?
I, said the Owl,
with my pick and shovel,
I'll dig his grave.

Who'll be the parson?
I, said the Rook,
with my little book,
I'll be the parson.

Who'll be the clerk?
I, said the Lark,
if it's not in the dark,
I'll be the clerk.

Who'll carry the link?
I, said the Linnet,
I'll fetch it in a minute,
I'll carry the link.

Who'll be chief mourner?
I, said the Dove,
I mourn for my love,
I'll be chief mourner.

Who'll carry the coffin?
I, said the Kite,
if it's not through the night,
I'll carry the coffin.

Who'll bear the pall?
We, said the Wren,
both the cock and the hen,
We'll bear the pall.

Who'll sing a psalm?
I, said the Thrush,
as she sat on a bush,
I'll sing a psalm.

Who'll toll the bell?
I said the bull,
because I can pull,
I'll toll the bell.

All the birds of the air
fell a-sighing and a-sobbing,
when they heard the bell toll
for poor Cock Robin.