Mother Goose
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In Boston’s Old Granary Burying Ground a tombstone marks a grave that is said to be Mother Goose’s. A woman named Mistress Goose (Vergoose or Vertigoose) lived in Boston, Massachusetts, toward the end of the 17th century. She was the mother-in-law of Thomas Fleet, a Boston printer. Fleet is reported to have published in 1719 a book called Songs for the Nursery or Mother Goose’s Melodies for Children. It was a collection of the rhymes his mother-in-law sang to her grandchildren. No copy of the Fleet volume has ever been discovered, however, so scholars do not accept the story as true.

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**Little Miss Muffet**

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

**The Mouse and The Clock**

Hickory, dickory, dock!
The mouse ran up the clock;
The clock struck one,
And down he run,
Hickory, dickory, dock!

**Ladybird**

Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home!
Your house is on fire, your children all gone,
All but one, and her name is Ann,
And she crept under the pudding pan.

**I Saw a Ship A-Sailing**

I saw a ship a-sailing,
A-sailing on the sea;
And oh, it was all laden
With pretty things for thee!

There were comfits in the cabin,
And apples in the hold;
The sails were made of silk,
And the masts were made of gold.

The four and twenty sailors,
That stood between the decks,
Were four and twenty white mice,
With chains about their necks.

The captain was a duck,
With a packet on his back;
And when the ship began to move,
The captain said, “Quack! Quack!”

**There Was An Old Woman**

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.
She whipped them all soundly and put them to bed

**Jack**

Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,
Jack jump over the candle-stick.

**Little Bo-Peep**

Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep,
And can’t tell where to find them;
Leave them alone, and they’ll come home,
And bring their tails behind them.

Little Bo-Peep fell fast asleep,
And dreamt she heard them bleating;
But when she awoke, she found it a joke,
For still they all were fleeting.

Then up she took her little crook,
Determined for to find them;
She, found them indeed, but it made her heart bleed,
For they’d left all their tails behind ‘em!

It happened one day, as Bo-peep did stray
Unto a meadow hard by;
There she espied their tails, side by side,
All hung on a tree to dry.

She heaved a sigh and wiped her eye,
And over the hillocks she raced;
And tried what she could, as a shepherdess should,
That each tail should be properly placed.
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Hush-A-Bye
Hush-a-bye, baby, on the tree top!
When the wind blows the cradle will rock;
When the bough breaks the cradle will fall;
Down will come baby, bough, cradle and all.

Solomon Grundy
Solomon Grundy,
Born on a Monday,
Christened on Tuesday,
Married on Wednesday,
Took ill on Thursday,
Worse on Friday,
Died on Saturday,
Buried on Sunday.
This is the end
Of Solomon Grundy.

The Man in Our Town
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.
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Hey, diddle, diddle

The Cat and the Fiddle

Baa, baa, black sheep

Have you any wool?

Yes, marry, have I,

Three bags full;

One for my master,

One for my dame,

But none for the little boy

Who cries in the lane.

The Cat and the Fiddle

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.

The Kilkenny Cats

There were once two cats of Kilkenny.
Each thought there was one cat too many;
So they fought and they fit,
And they scratched and they bit,
Till, excepting their nails,
And the tips of their tails,
Instead of two cats, there weren't any.

Cock-a-doodle-do

Oh, my pretty cock, oh, my handsome cock,
I pray you, do not crow before day,
And your comb shall be made of the very beaten gold,
And your wings of the silver so, gray.

Roses are red

Lilies are white,
Rosemary's green,
When I am king,
You shall be queen.

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Sugar is sweet
And so are you.
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**Ladybug ladybug**
Ladybug ladybug fly away home,  
Your house in on fire and your children are gone,  
All except one and that's little Ann,  
For she crept under the frying pan.

**Little Miss Muffet**
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.

**Mary Had a Little Lamb**
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 rule;  
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.  

Then it ran to her and laid  
Its head upon her arm,  
As if it said, "I'm not afraid --  
You'll keep me from all harm."

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

And you, each gentle animal  
In confidence may bind;  
And make it follow you at will,  
If you are only kind.

**Humpty Dumpty**
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.

**Old Woman Old Woman**
There was an old woman tossed in a basket.  
Seventeen times as high as the moon;  
But where she was going no mortal could tell,  
For under her arm she carried a broom.

“Old woman, old woman, old woman,” said I,  
“Whither, oh whither, oh whither so high?”  
“To sweep the cobwebs from the sky;  
And I'll be with you by-and-by.”

“Mother Goose is generally depicted in literature and book illustration as an elderly country woman in a tall hat and shawl, a costume identical to the peasant costume worn in Wales in the early 20th century.”

**Jack and Jill**
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 got Jack, and home did trot  
As fast as he could caper  
He went to bed and bound his head  
With vinegar and brown paper.
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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
That lives in our lane.

Hey! diddle, diddle

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.

Humpty-Dumpty sat on a wall

Humpty-Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty-Dumpty had a great fall;
Threescore men and threescore more
Cannot place Humpty-Dumpty as he was before.