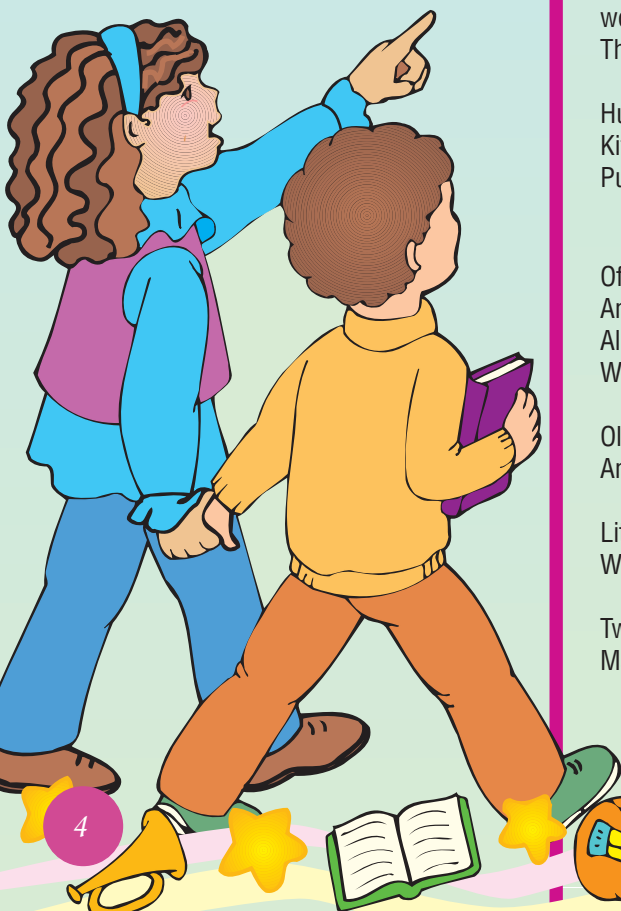


The Land Of Nursery Rhymes

Take your youngsters on an imaginative trip to the Land of Nursery Rhymes, and use these activities to supplement your traditional nursery-rhyme lesson plans. Soon your youngsters will be singing a song, putting on a play, making small books, creating a class book, and producing several crafts.

by Lucia Kemp Henry



Getting Ready For The Trip

Before your youngsters take off on an imaginary journey to the Land of Nursery Rhymes, organize a brainstorming session. Tell students that you will be pretending to visit Nursery-Rhyme Land. Ask them to think about what they might do in this imaginary place and who they might meet. Have your youngsters brainstorm presents to bring for each nursery-rhyme character as you list their suggestions on the board or chart paper. For example, students might suggest bringing a small pail for Jack and Jill, mittens for the three little kittens, a plastic spider for Miss Muffet, a toy horn for Little Boy Blue, and a candlestick for Jack (the nimble one). After completing the list and finding the items, have students pack them into a large suitcase or small trunk. Later give students opportunities to unpack and repack the items, recalling as they do the nursery-rhyme character with whom each item is associated.

We're On Our Way

Once the gifts are packed, it's time to be on the way to Nursery-Rhyme Land. Get students ready for the trip by saying this poem or converting it into a simple play with just a few props. (To create a role for each student, increase the number of Bo-Peep's sheep, add flower characters to go with Mary and her garden, or create additional spider characters to add to Miss Muffet's scene.) Have each student make his own costume by appropriately decorating a paper headband. If you have props nearby that would add to the flavor of the presentation, give them to the appropriate students. Then read the poem/play aloud as students dramatize their roles.

Afterward serve guests such delicacies as The Queen's Heart-Shaped Cookies, Humpty-Dumpty's Deviled Eggs, Peter Peter's Pumpkin Muffins, The Three Little Kittens' Pies, Twinkle's Star-Shaped Cheese Sandwiches, and Jack And Jill's Pail Of Punch.

Off We Go

Off we go to Nursery-Rhyme Land
And who do you think we'll see?
All of the folks from Nursery-Rhyme Land
Will be there with you and me!

Old King Cole will wear a great crown.
And Jack and Jill just might fall down!

Little Bo-Peep can bring her sheep,
While Little Boy Blue is fast asleep!

Twinkle the star will blink and shine.
Mary will tend her plants so fine.

Peter will show his pumpkin house.
We'll see a clock and climbing mouse.

Three small kittens will sigh and cry
While Humpty-Dumpty sits up high.

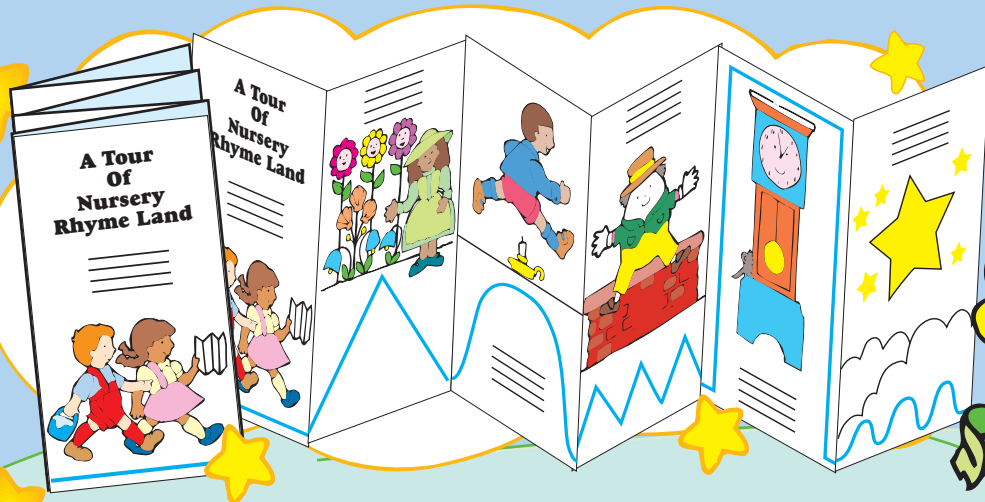
Lil' Miss Muffet will bring some whey.
Jack who's nimble will jump and play.

Cow from the moon will sing so sweet.
The Queen of Hearts will bake a treat!

It's time to say good-bye for now.
Nursery-rhyme folk, please take a bow!

by Lucia Kemp Henry





A Tour Of Nursery-Rhyme Land

Here's a cute foldout booklet that will be fun for your youngsters to make and read. Reproduce the booklet pages (pages 7–9) on white construction paper for each student. Have your youngsters trace the dashed lines on each of the pages for fine-motor practice, then color the pages and cut them out. Assist each youngster as he glues the pages together according to the directions. When the glue is dry, help youngsters accordion-fold their booklets. When the booklets are complete, encourage your youngsters to “read” them to other students or adults.



Nursery-Rhyme Book

Use the open reproducible on page 10 along with student-produced artwork to create a one-of-a-kind nursery-rhyme book. Ask each student to choose a different nursery rhyme to be the focus of his art. Write the nursery rhyme on a copy of page 10, and read it to the student before asking him to paint or draw a related picture on a 9” x 12” sheet of paper. Using a stapler that has a long reach, staple together sheets of 12” x 18” construction paper to create the pages of the book. Then glue each nursery rhyme beside the corresponding artwork. Have student volunteers title the book with your assistance and decorate the cover. This book will be a fine addition to your classroom library.



Take Your Pick

You'll find lots of ways to use the nursery-rhyme reproducible on page 10. One way to use the sheet is to reproduce it onto white construction paper and have each student personalize a copy to be glued on a nursery-rhyme folder or portfolio. You might want to use the design to accentuate a note to parents regarding your nursery-rhyme activities or to frame a class party invitation. Another way to use the sheet is to write a recipe that relates to your nursery-rhyme unit on the page before duplicating it. Then, as an optional assignment, send the recipe home and ask students to prepare the recipe with the assistance of an adult. Or, at the conclusion of your nursery-rhyme unit, make copies of the open design and write a positive comment on each one that relates to a particular student's involvement in the nursery-rhyme unit.



A Song To Sing Along The Way

Pick up the pace on your trip to the Land of Nursery Rhymes by teaching students this light-hearted song.

To Rhyming Land We Go!

*(sung to the tune of
"The Farmer In The Dell")*

To Rhyming Land we go,
To Rhyming Land we go!
High-ho the derry-o,
To Rhyming Land we go!

Continue singing the song as above, substituting the following verses:

Verse 2: King Cole wears a crown.
Verse 3: Jack and Jill fall down.
Verse 4: Bo-Peep has lost her sheep.
Verse 5: Boy Blue is fast asleep.
Verse 6: The cat can play a tune.
Verse 7: The cow jumps over the moon.
Verse 8: A star shines in the sky.
Verse 9: And now we'll say good-bye!

by Lucia Kemp Henry



Kittens From Bags

Make these cute bag puppets to use in dramatizing any reading of "The Three Little Kittens." Reproduce the bag puppet patterns on page 11 for each student. Have each youngster color and decorate his patterns as desired before cutting out the pieces. Demonstrate how to glue the patterns to a lunch bag to create a kitten puppet. (Provide assistance as necessary.) Glue the upper head pattern to what would normally be the bottom of the sack. Glue the lower head pattern underneath the flap created by the folded bag bottom. Glue the uncolored side of each mitten to the uncolored side of a paw. Glue the mitten-covered paws to the sides of the bag so that when they are extended outward the pads of the paws show, but when they are folded inward the mitten-covered sides of the paws show.

Give students an opportunity to dramatize "The Three Little Kittens" with their puppets as you read the nursery rhyme aloud. Show students how to stretch the kittens' paws outward during the parts of the rhyme that mention that the mittens are lost. Also show them how to fold the paws inward, revealing the mittens when you read the parts of the rhyme that mention that the mittens have been found.

Twinkle Star Headbands

This easy project will put stars in your youngsters' eyes and a lovely rhyme in their heads. Make a two-inch-wide, yellow construction-paper headband for each youngster. Have each student color and cut out copies of the star clusters and the two corresponding pattern pieces from page 12. Ask them to glue the cut-out pieces to opposite sides of the headband. Provide small sponge-printed star cutouts, construction-paper star cutouts, foil stars, and star stickers for youngsters to glue or stick on randomly in the empty spaces on their headbands. Encourage your students to wear their headbands as they march around singing the rhyme.



Glue to page 2 here.

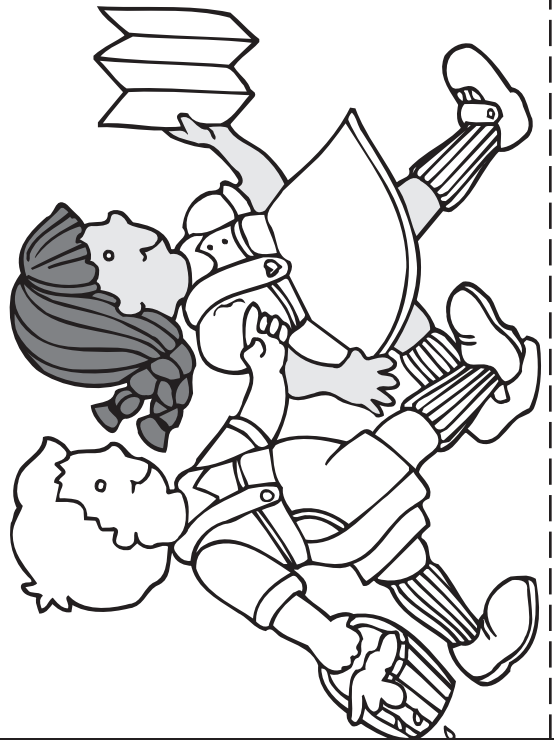
Mary, Mary, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
With silver bells and cockleshells,
And pretty maids all in a row.



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A Tour of Nursery-Rhyme Land

Help Jack and Jill
find their friends
in Nursery-Rhyme Land!



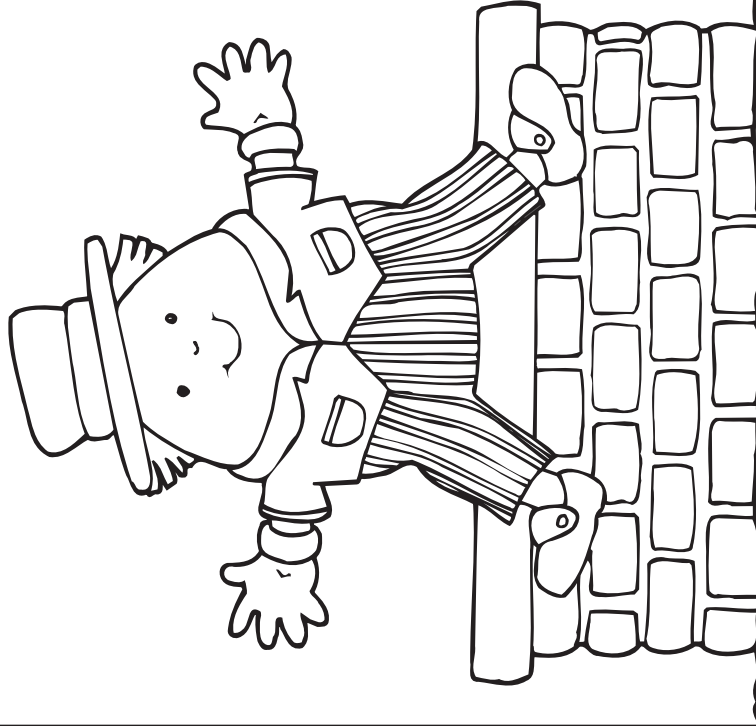
Nursery-Rhyme Land Tour Booklet

Use with "A Tour Of Nursery-Rhyme Land" on page 5.

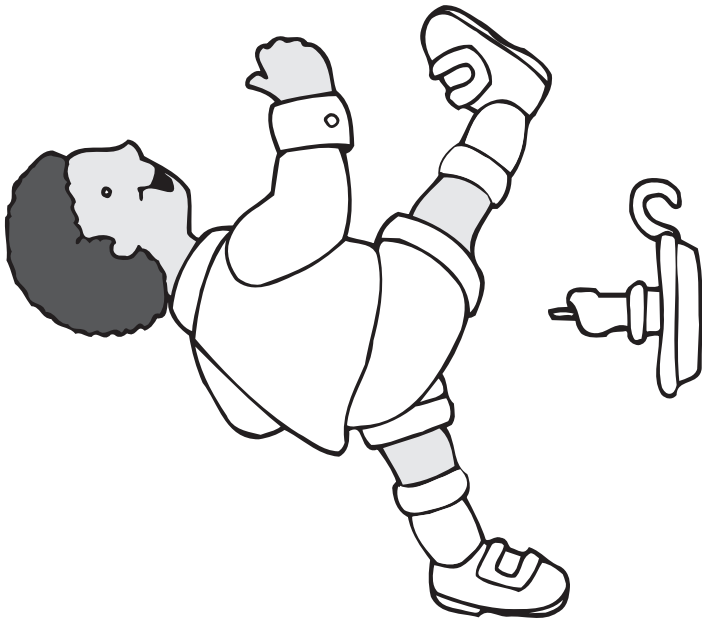
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Glue to page 3 here.

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.



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