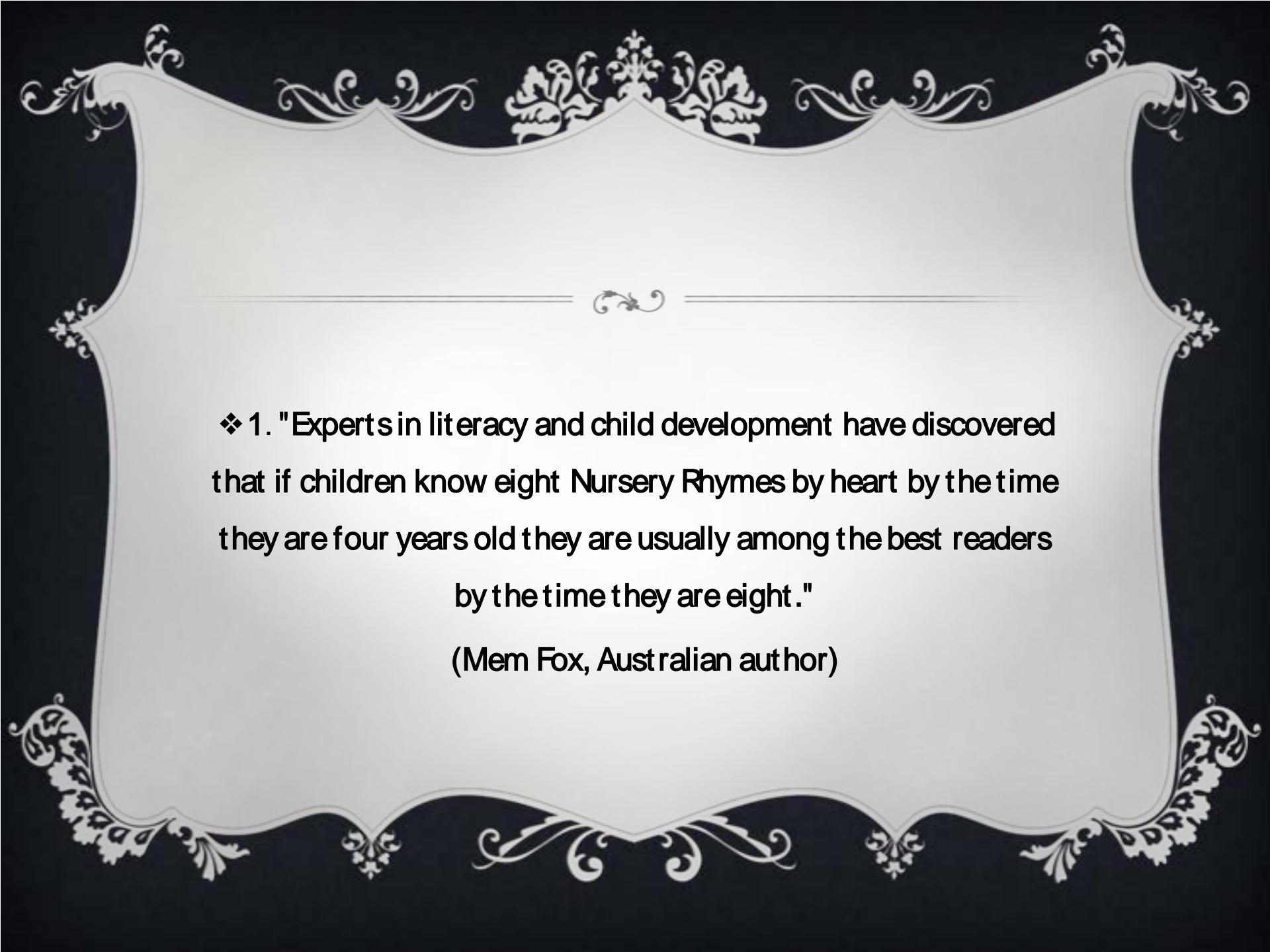




# THE USE OF NURSERY RHYMES IN LANGUAGE TEACHING

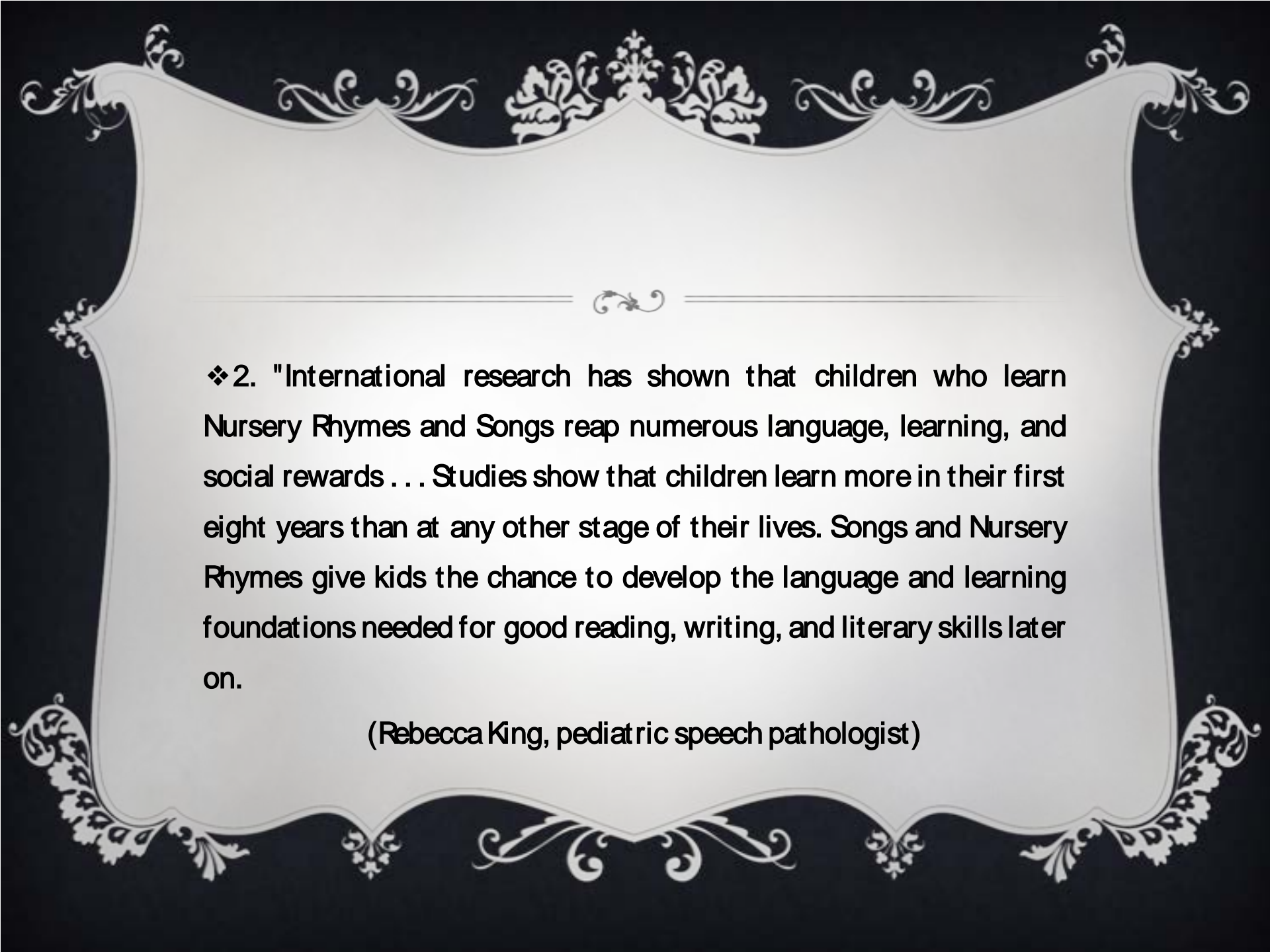
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*David Gibson*



❖ 1. "Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight Nursery Rhymes by heart by the time they are four years old they are usually among the best readers by the time they are eight."

(Mem Fox, Australian author)



❖2. "International research has shown that children who learn Nursery Rhymes and Songs reap numerous language, learning, and social rewards . . . Studies show that children learn more in their first eight years than at any other stage of their lives. Songs and Nursery Rhymes give kids the chance to develop the language and learning foundations needed for good reading, writing, and literary skills later on.

(Rebecca King, pediatric speech pathologist)



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❖ 3. Why "Nursery" Rhymes . . . ?

(In America—"Mother Goose Songs")

"Nursery Rhyme" first recorded in 1824

But . . .

THE  
MOTHERGOOSE  
TREASURY



RAYMOND BRIGGS



408 RHYMES & 897 ILLUSTRATIONS

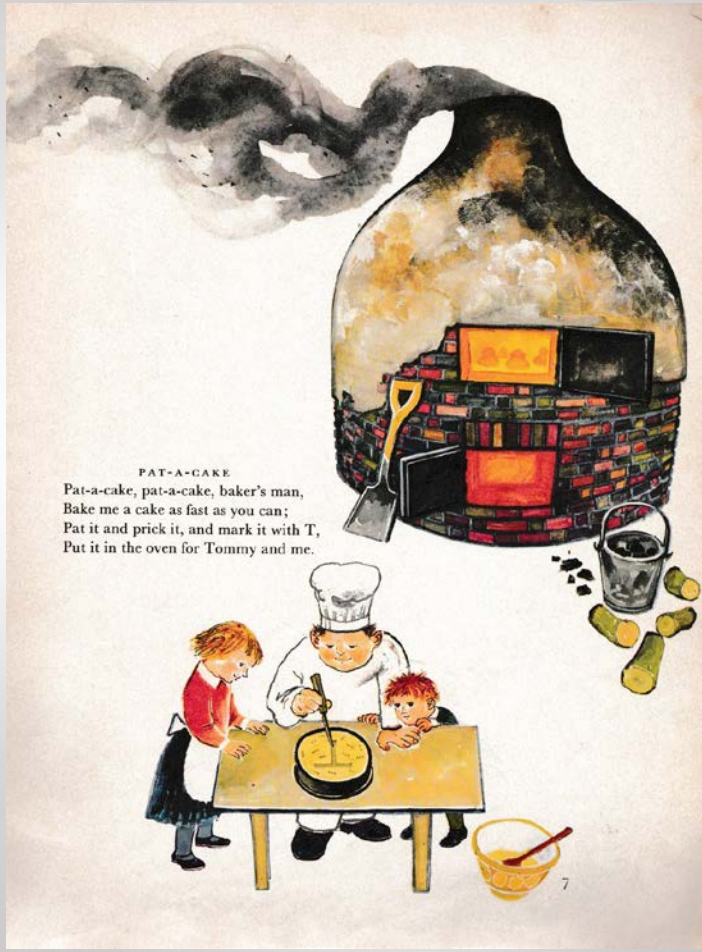


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❖ 4. Some of them are much older—

e.g. "Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man" was already old when it was quoted in a play called

"The Campaigners" by Thomas d'Urfey in 1698.



PAT-A-CAKE  
Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man,  
Bake me a cake as fast as you can;  
Pat it and prick it, and mark it with T,  
Put it in the oven for Tommy and me.



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❖ 5. Where do they come from?

Folklore?





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❖ 6. Do they have any meaning?

Are they based on historical events?

Or are they just nonsense and for entertainment and comfort only?



LONDON BRIDGE

London Bridge is broken down,  
Broken down, broken down,  
London Bridge is broken 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.

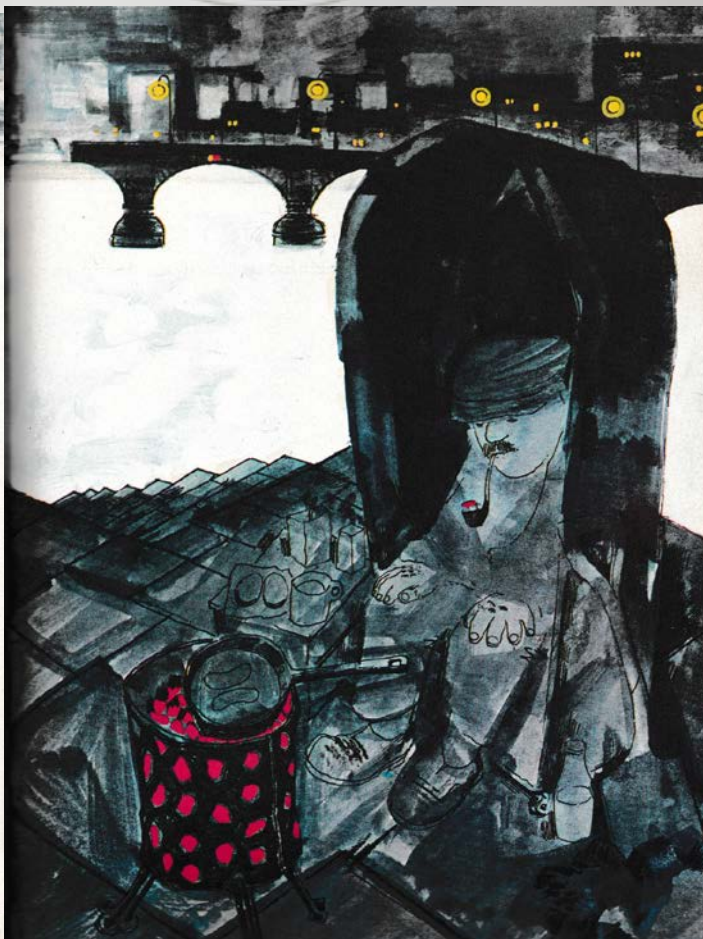
Build it up with silver and gold,  
Silver and gold, silver and gold,  
Build it up with silver and gold,  
My fair lady.

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.



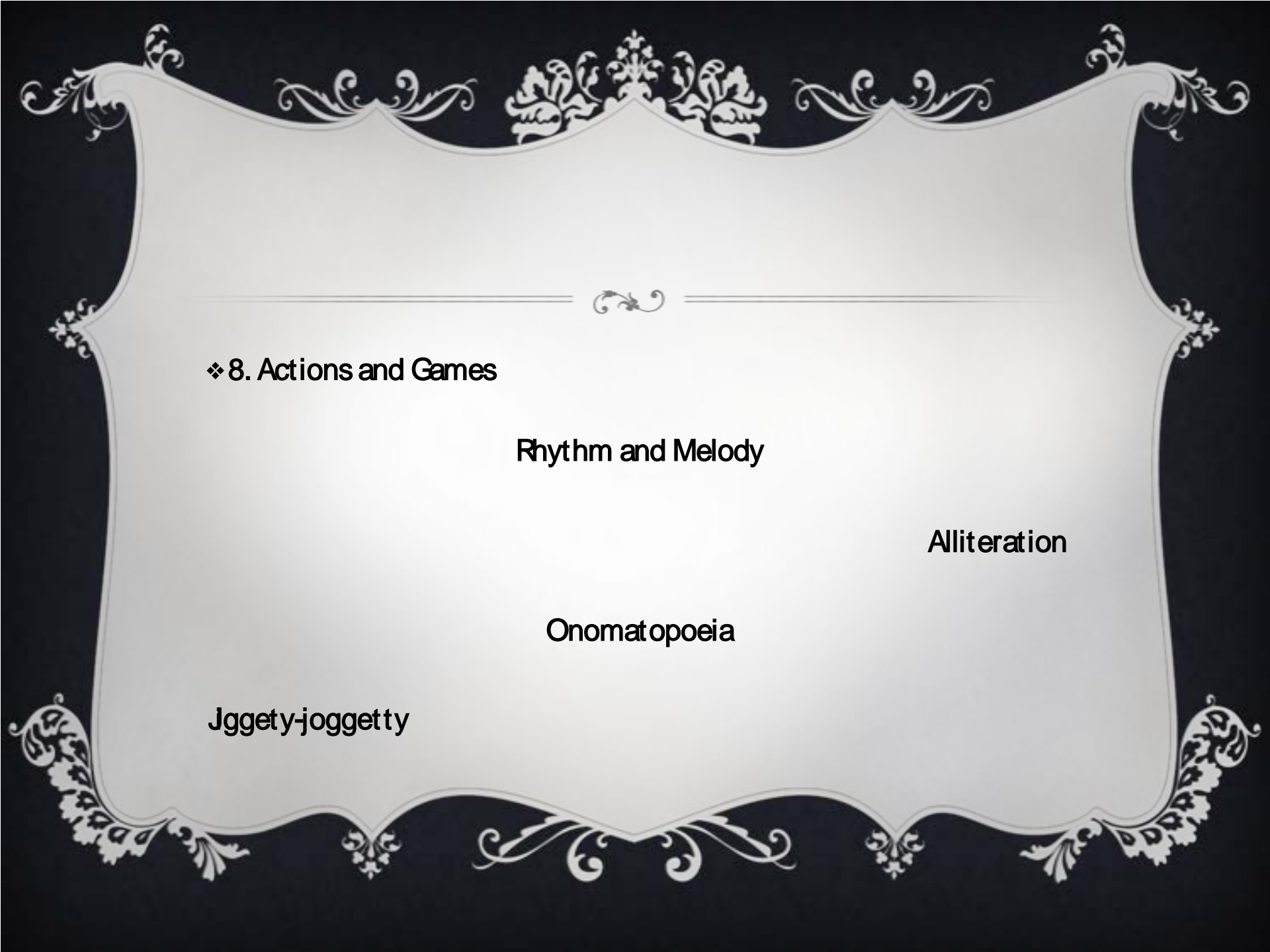


THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE  
Hey diddle, diddle,  
The cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon;  
The little dog laughed  
To see such sport,  
And the dish ran away with  
the spoon.



❖ 7. Recited or sung?

Only by mothers and "nurses"?



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❖ 8. Actions and Games

Rhythm and Melody

Alliteration

Onomatopoeia

Jggety-joggetty



**ORANGES AND LEMONS**

*Gay go up and Gay go down,  
To ring the bells of London Town.*

Bull's eyes and targets,  
Say the bells of St. Marg'ret's.

Brickbats and tiles,  
Say the bells of St. Giles'.

Oranges and lemons,  
Say the bells of St. Clement's.



Pancakes and fritters,  
Say the bells of St. Peter's.

Two sticks and an apple,  
Say the bells at Whitechapel.

Old Father Baldpate,  
Say the slow bells at Aldgate.

Maids in white aprons,  
Say the bells at St. Catherine's.



Pokers and tongs,  
Say the bells at St. John's.

Kettles and pans,  
Say the bells at St. Anne's.

You owe me five farthings,  
Say the bells of St. Martin's.

When will you pay me?  
Say the bells at Old Bailey.

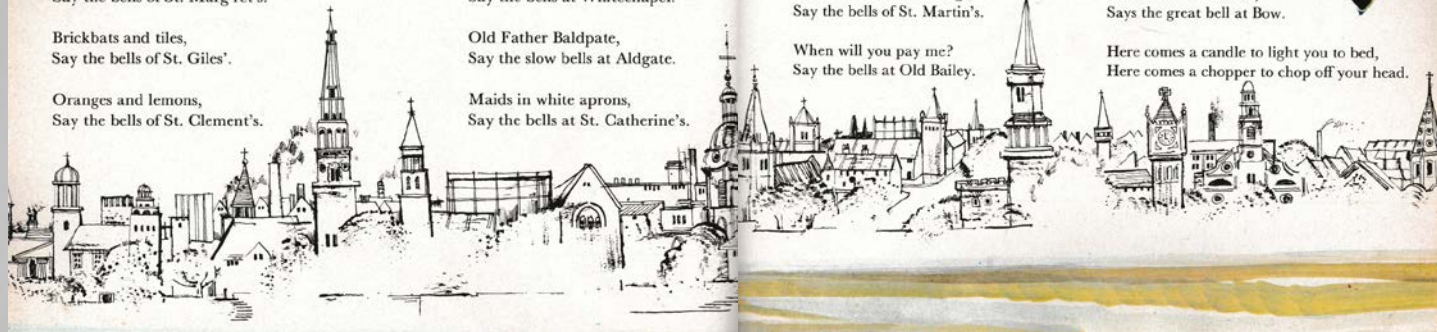


When I grow rich,  
Say the bells at Shoreditch.

Pray, when will that be?  
Say the bells at Stepney.

I'm sure I don't know,  
Says the great bell at Bow.

Here comes a candle to light you to bed,  
Here comes a chopper to chop off your head.



9.

Baa baa, black sheep

Bye baby Bunting

Cock-a-doodle-doo

Daffy-down-dilly

Dickery dicker dare

Diddle diddle dumpling

Ding dong bell

Eeny meeny miny mo

Fiddle-de-dee, fiddle-de-dee

Georgie Porgie pudding and pie

Goosey goosey gander

Handy spandy Jack-a-dandy



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Hark hark the dogs do bark

Hector Protector

Hey diddle diddle

Hickery dickery dock

Higgledy piggedy

Humpty Dumpty

Hoddley, poddley, puddings and frogs

Hokey, pokey, whisky, thum

Hush-a-bye baby

Jack and Jill

Jack Sprat could eat no fat





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Ladybird, ladybird

Lavender's blue dilly dilly

Little Boy Blue

Little Tommy Tucker

Mary, Mary, quite contrary

Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake

Peter, Peter, pumpkin-eater

Polly put the kettle on

Pussy cat, pussy cat

Ring-a-ring o'roses

Rub-a-dub-dub

See-saw, Margery Daw

Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor

To market, to market

Wee Willie Winkie



BAA, BAA, BLACK SHEEP  
Baa, baa, black shecp,  
Have you any wool?  
Yes, sir, yes, sir,  
Three bags full;  
One for the master,  
And one for the dame,  
And one for the little boy  
Who lives down the lane.



HECTOR PROTECTOR  
Hector Protector was dressed all in green;  
Hector Protector was sent to the Queen.  
The Queen did not like him,  
No more did the King;  
So Hector Protector was sent back again.





❖ 10. Listening—

repeating—

learning—

speaking



❖ 11. Pre-literacy skills



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❖ 12. Vocabulary—

comprehension—

memory



SING A SONG OF SIXPENCE

Sing a song of sixpence,  
A pocket full of rye;  
Four and twenty blackbirds,  
Baked in a pie.

When the pie was opened,  
The birds began to sing;  
Was not that a dainty dish,  
To set before a king?

The king was in his counting-house  
Counting out his money;  
The queen was in the parlour  
Eating bread and honey.

The maid was in the garden,  
Hanging out the clothes,  
When down came a blackbird  
And pecked off her nose.



RAIN BEFORE SEVEN  
Rain before seven,  
Fine before eleven.





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❖ 13. Numbers—

tenses—

models of language

❖ 14.

cognitive

emotional

social



development



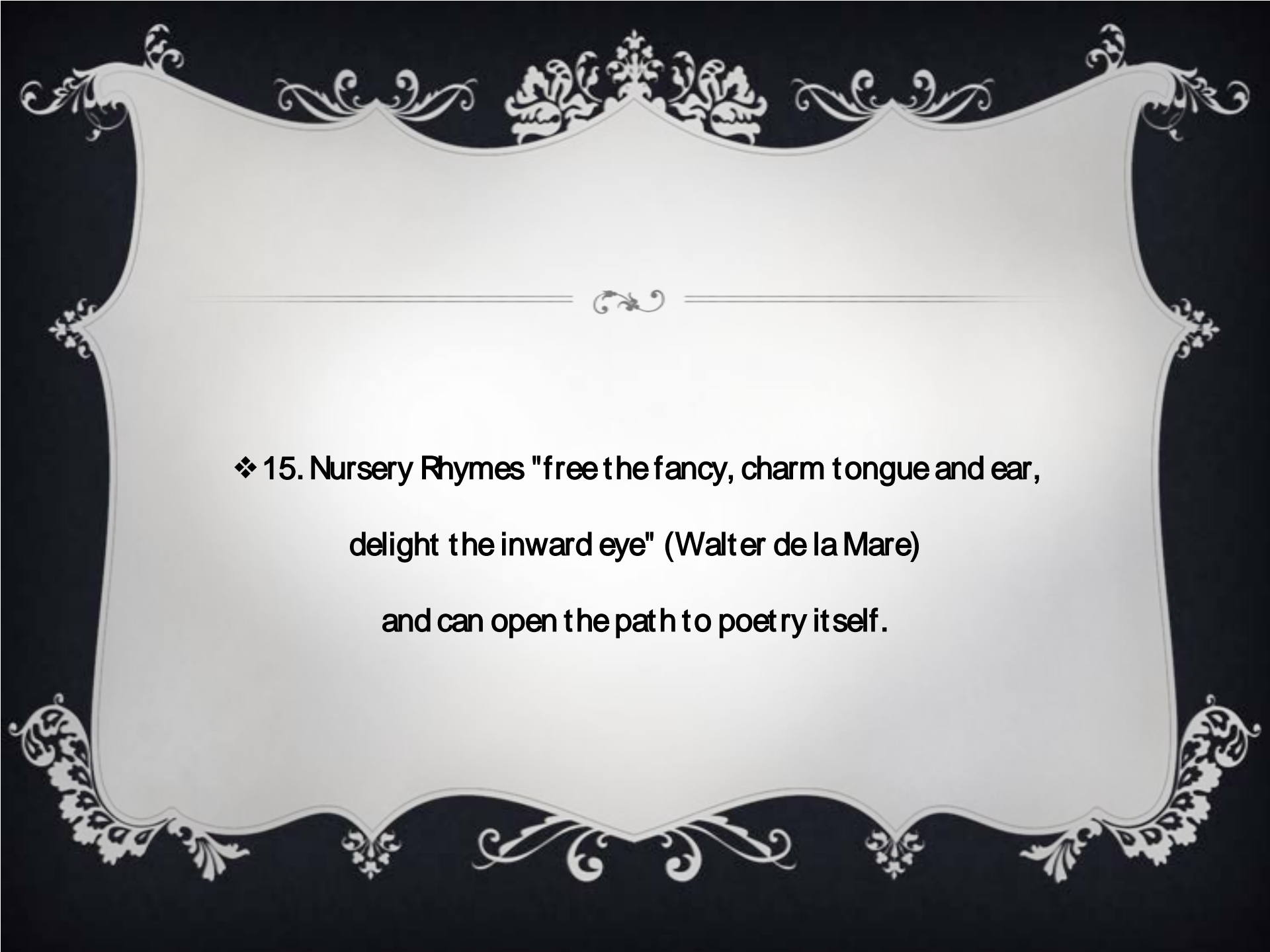


BOYS AND GIRLS  
What are little boys made of, made of?  
What are little boys made of?  
Frogs and snails  
And puppy-dogs' tails,  
That's what little boys are made of.



What are little girls made of, made of?  
What are little girls made of?  
Sugar and spice  
And all things nice,  
That's what little girls are made of.





❖ 15. Nursery Rhymes "free the fancy, charm tongue and ear,  
delight the inward eye" (Walter de la Mare)  
and can open the path to poetry itself.

# RECOMMENDED READING

THE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF NURSERY RHYMES—  
Iona and Peter Opie (OUP 1951)

THE OXFORD NURSERY RHYME BOOK—Iona and Peter  
Opie (OUP 1955)

THE OXFORD BOOK OF CHILDREN'S VERSE—Iona and  
Peter Opie (OUP 1973)

I SAW ESAU (The Schoolchild's Pocket Book)—Iona and  
Peter Opie (Candlewick Press 1992)

THE NURSERY RHYMES OF ENGLAND—James Orchard  
Halliwell (Bodley Head 1842)

POPULAR RHYMES AND NURSERY TALES OF ENGLAND—  
James Orchard Halliwell (Bodley Head 1849)

SCOTTISH NURSERY RHYMES—Norah and William  
Montgomery (Chambers 1985)

THE MOTHER GOOSE TREASURY—Raymond Briggs  
(Puffin Books 1966)

DOUGLASHALL'S NURSERY RHYMES—Douglas Hall  
(Hamlyn 1979)

WHEN JACK SUED JILL (Nursery Rhymes for Modern  
Times)—Felix Dennis (Ebury Press 2006)

HIGGLETY PIGGLETY POP or THERE MUST BE MORE TO  
LIFE—Maurice Sendak (Bodley Head 1967)

HECTOR PROTECTOR and AS I WENT OVER THE  
WATER—Maurice Sendak (Harper and Row 1965)

NURSERY RHYMES—6 titles (Brown Watson 2001)



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