

## *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.

*Anon.*

## *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.

*Anon.*

## *One, Two, Buckle My Shoe*

One, two,  
Buckle my shoe;

Three, four,  
Knock at the door;

Five, six,  
Pick up sticks;

Seven, eight,  
Lay them straight;

Nine, ten,  
A big fat hen;

Eleven, twelve,  
Dig and delve;

Thirteen, fourteen,  
Maids a-courting;

Fifteen, sixteen,  
Maids in the kitchen;

Seventeen, eighteen,  
Maids in waiting;

# *The Bug Chant*

Red bugs, bed bugs,  
find them on your head bugs.

Green bugs, mean bugs,  
lanky, long and lean bugs.

Pink bugs, sink bugs,  
swimming in your drink bugs.

Yellow bugs, mellow bugs,  
lazy little fellow bugs.

White bugs, night bugs,  
buzzing round the light bugs.

Black bugs, slack bugs,  
climbing up your back bugs.

Blue bugs, goo bugs,  
find them in your shoe bugs.

Thin bugs, fat bugs,  
hiding in your hat bugs.

Big bugs, small bugs,  
crawling on your wall bugs.

## *The Caterpillar Fair*

Ten little caterpillars  
wriggled to the fair.  
What did they do  
when they got there?

One ate potatoes,  
one ate pie,  
one bought a telescope  
to look at the sky.

One blew a trumpet,  
one played guitar,  
two sat together  
in a dodgem car.

# *Somewhere in the Sky*

Somewhere

In the sky,

There's a door painted blue,

With a big brass knocker seven feet high.

If you can find it,

Knock, and go through –

That is, if you dare.

You'll see behind it

The secrets of the universe piled on a chair

Like a tangle of wool.

A voice will declare

'You have seven centuries in which to unwind it.

But whatever

You do,

You must never,

Ever,

Lose your temper and pull.'

*Leo Aylen*

*An Interesting Fact About  
One of My Relatives*

My

great great great great  
great great great great  
great great great great  
great great great great  
great great great great  
great great great great  
great great great great

grandad is very old.

*Ian McMillan*

## *Breakfast for One*

Hot thick crusty buttery toast  
Buttery toasty thick hot crust  
Crusty buttery hot thick toast  
Crusty thick hot toasty butter  
Thick hot buttery crusty toast  
Toasty buttery hot thick crust  
Hot buttery thick crusty toast –

With marmalade is how I like it most!

*Judith Nicholls*

*Rangoli* patterns are drawn at the entrance to a home to welcome visitors. Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth and Good Fortune, blesses the homes where lamps are lit in her honour.

## *Crocodile*

Crocodile  
Resting in the  
Ooze, unaware of  
Cruel calumnies,  
Or rumours, that she eats her offspring  
Dozing, waiting for her eggs to hatch  
In the blazing sun. Soon it will be time to  
Leave this place, lovingly opening  
Enormous jaws to carry her babies to the water.

*Christine Potter*



# *Kennings*

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## *Squirrel*

Woodland racer  
Acorn chaser

Tree shaker  
Acorn taker

Nut cracker  
Acorn snacker

Sky rider  
Acorn hider

Winter snoozer  
Acorn loser

Spring reminder  
Acorn finder:

One grey squirrel.

*Celia Warren*

## *Riddles*

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### *What Am I?*

I have no colour,  
not even white,  
but sometimes I'm wide and blue.  
Sometimes I'm still,  
and sometimes I rush,  
and I can fall down on you.

I can change my shape,  
I often do,  
but I'm hard to hold in your hand.  
You need me to make  
your castle stand up  
when you're playing in the sand.

I haven't much taste  
but on a hot day  
your tongue's hanging out for me.  
Then I am cold,  
but I can be hot  
when I'm in your mum's cup of tea.

What am I?

But we never reached our destination  
Instead of the Zoo  
I was locked in the loo  
On an M62 Service Station.

*Paul Cookson*

## *Explosive Tale*

There was a volcano called Dot –  
once on maps just a miniscule spot.  
But, ‘I’m hungry!’ Dot grumbled  
as her insides rumbled.  
‘And what’s more, I’m feeling quite hot!’

*Judith Nicholls*

## *There Was an Old Man*

There was an Old Man with a beard,  
Who said, 'It is just as I feared! –  
Two Owls and a Hen,  
four Larks and a Wren,  
Have all built their nests in my beard!'

*Edward Lear*