

A Look at Nursery Rhymes

{ Global Folklore

- ⌘ Nursery Rhymes can be broadly defined as short songs and verses often read or sung to, or by, young children
- ⌘ They include nonsense rhymes, lullabies, finger-plays, counting-out rhymes, riddles, games, songs, and ballads
- ⌘ Most nursery rhymes date from the 16th, 17th, and, most frequently, the 18th centuries.

What is a nursery rhyme?

- ⌘ Nursery rhymes are important for young children because they help develop an ear for our language.
- ⌘ Both rhyme and rhythm help kids hear the sounds and syllables in words, which helps kids learn to read.
- ⌘ They provide bite-sized learning opportunities for young children to develop key developmental skills and can often be the trigger for hours of creative and open-ended play.
- ⌘ “Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.” –Mem Fox

Why nursery rhymes are important

Eenie, meenie, miney, moe
Catch a tiger by the toe
If he hollers, let him go
Eenie, meenie, miney, moe

What do you know about this nursery rhyme?
How do you use it (or something similar)?

Our Nursery Rhyme of Focus: A Counting Rhyme

- ⌘ We know it predates 1820 and could possibly be much older
- ⌘ Possible Celtic origin: a ritual to sort out who would be punished or chosen for a sacrifice
 - ⌘ The first line is thought to be derived from the Celtic words for one, two, three, four
- ⌘ Possible British origin: based on a counting system known as the Anglo-Cymric Score
 - ⌘ Used from the 1700-1900s by fishermen, farmers, shepherds and women knitting
- ⌘ A negative connection: at some point in the US, a racial slur for African Americans was placed in the rhyme.
 - ⌘ In the 1950s, the slur is taken out and we see a more kid-friendly version with the word tiger, tinker, or piggy being used

Breaking down “Eenie, meenie, miney, moe”

{ Australia

Dip, dip, dog shit Who
trod in it?

What colour was it?

Who saw it?

(Say the name of a
colour)

(Spell the name of that
colour)

You are not it.

{ England

Tinker, Tailor,

Soldier, Sailor,

Rich Man, Poor Man,

Beggar Man, Thief.

Variations on a Theme

{ Israel

Bo'u nesachek velo lehidachek
velo lehidachef,
ki yesh makom po lekulanu.
Mi yihye rishon?
Hizmin po kvar Amnon.
Umi yihye sheni?
Ani metsia' en-den-dino.

Let's go and play, don't force your way in
and don't push,
because there's room for all of us.
Who'll be first?
Amnon already reserved his place.
And who'll be second?
I suggest "en-den-dino."

{ Graham's Favourite

Ippy dippy my spaceshippy
On a course so true
Through Saturn's rings
And Neptune's moon
The one I choose is you

Variations on a Theme