



Introduction	11
Acknowledgements	15
<i>A Was an Archer: ABC and One, Two, Three</i>	17
A Was an Apple Pie.....	17
A Was an Archer	19
Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Mo	20
One for Sorrow	21
One, Two, Buckle My Shoe	22
One, Two, Three, Four, Five.....	23
<i>There Was an Old Woman: Once Upon a Time</i>	25
Aiken Drum	25
Cobbler, Cobbler, Mend My Shoe	29

Hark, Hark, the Dogs Do Bark	30
If All the Seas Were One Sea	31
If All the World Were Paper	31
Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater	32
Rub-a-Dub-Dub, Three Men in a Tub	33
Simple Simon Met a Pieman	34
There Was a Crooked Man	35
There Was a Little Girl Who Had a Little Curl	36
There Was an Old Woman Tossed Up in a Basket..	37
There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe ...	38
This is the House That Jack Built.....	39
Where Are You Going to, My Pretty Maid?	43

<i>Monday's Child: The Rhythm of Days</i>	45
Christmas is Coming	45
Monday's Child is Fair of Face	46
Cut Your Nails Monday.....	47
Sneeze on Monday.....	47
Remember, Remember, the Fifth of November	48
Solomon Grundy.....	49
Thirty Days Hath September.....	50

<i>Humpty Dumpty: Royal Connections</i>	51
Humpty Dumpty	51
I Had a Little Nut Tree	53
Old King Cole.....	56
Pussycat, Pussycat, Where Have You Been?	57
The Grand Old Duke of York.....	58

The Queen of Hearts	60
William and Mary, George and Anne	61
<i>Little Bo-Peep: Old Friends</i>	63
Curly Locks.....	63
Daffy-Down-Dilly	64
Diddle, Diddle, Dumpling, My Son John	65
Doctor Foster Went to Gloucester	65
Georgie Porgie, Pudding and Pie.....	67
Jack and Jill	68
Jack Be Nimble	71
Jack Sprat	72
Little Bo-Peep	73
Little Boy Blue.....	75
Little Jack Horner	76
Little Miss Muffet	79
Little Polly Flinders	80
Little Tommy Tucker	81
Lucy Locket Lost Her Pocket.....	82
Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary.....	83
Old Mother Goose.....	85
Old Mother Hubbard	87
The Man in the Moon.....	91
Wee Willie Winkie.....	92
<i>Goosey, Goosey Gander: Animal Rhymes</i>	95
Baa, Baa, Black Sheep.....	96
Barber, Barber, Shave a Pig.....	97
Ding, Dong, Bell, Pussy's in the Well	97
Goosey, Goosey Gander	98

Hickety, Pickety, My Black Hen	100
Hickory, Dickory, Dock.....	100
Horse, Horse	102
I Love Little Pussy	102
Incy Wincy Spider	103
Ladybird, Ladybird	104
Mary Had a Little Lamb.....	106
Pop Goes the Weasel.....	107
Six Little Mice Sat Down to Spin.....	109
The Lion and the Unicorn	110
Three Blind Mice.....	111
To Market, to Market, to Buy a Fat Pig.....	112
Two Little Dicky Birds	113
Who Killed Cock Robin?.....	114
<i>Oranges and Lemons: Songs and Games</i>	119
Bobby Shafto.....	119
Boys and Girls Come Out to Play	121
Cock a Doodle Doo	122
Here We Go Gathering Nuts in May.....	125
Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush	126
Hey Diddle Diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle	127
Lavender's Blue.....	129
London Bridge is Falling Down	131
London's Burning	136
Oh Dear, What Can the Matter Be?	138
Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone? ..	139
Oranges and Lemons	140
Polly Put the Kettle On	144
Ride a Cock Horse to Banbury Cross	144

Ring-a-Ring o' Roses.....	146
Sing a Song of Sixpence.....	147
Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son.....	149
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.....	150
What Are Little Boys Made of?.....	151
Yankee Doodle.....	152

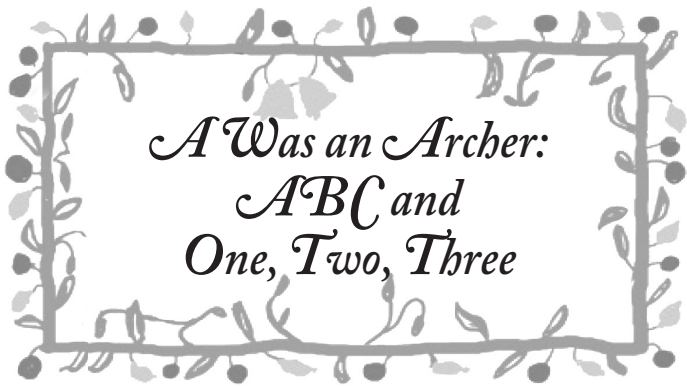
*Do You Know the Muffin Man?: Street
Cries and Action Rhymes* **157**

Do You Know the Muffin Man?.....	158
Hot Cross Buns.....	159
Pease Pudding Hot.....	160
Here Are the Lady's Knives and Forks.....	161
I'm a Little Teapot.....	161
Pat-a-Cake, Pat-a-Cake, Baker's Man.....	162
Round and Round the Garden.....	163
See-Saw, Margery Daw.....	164
This Little Piggy Went to Market.....	165

*It's Raining, It's Pouring: Weather Wise and
Warnings* **166**

It's Raining, It's Pouring.....	166
Rain, Rain, Go Away.....	167
The North Wind Doth Blow.....	168
For Want of a Nail.....	169
Mother, May I Go Out to Swim?.....	171
See a Pin and Pick It Up.....	171

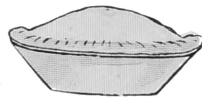
<i>Hush-a-Bye, Baby: Bedtime Lullabies</i>	173
Bye, Baby Bunting	173
Hush-a-Bye, Baby.....	174
Rock-a-Bye, Baby	176
I See the Moon	176
Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John	177
Star Light, Star Bright	178
<i>As I Was Going to St Ives: Tongue Twisters and Riddling Rhymes</i>	180
Around the Rugged Rocks	181
Three Grey Geese	181
Three Crooked Cripples	182
Peter Piper Picked a Peck	182
As I Was Going to St Ives	183
As Soft As Silk.....	184
In Marble Walls As White As Milk.....	185
Little Nancy Etticoat	185
Two Legs Sat Upon Three Legs	186
Bibliography	187
Index of First Lines	189



Alphabet rhymes have always been popular as a fun way to help children learn to read, and their vivid imagery lends itself to lively illustrations. Counting-out rhymes are remarkably international and many are variations of the same ancient codes. Used as a formula for choosing who is 'it' in children's games, their apparent simplicity may hide a more sinister past.

A Was an Apple Pie

A was an apple pie;
B bit it,
C cut it,
D dealt it,
E eat it,
F fought for it,



G got it,
H had it,
I inspected it,
J jumped for it,
K kept it,
L longed for it,
M mourned for it,
N nodded at it,
O opened it,
P peeped in it,
Q quartered it,
R ran for it,
S stole it,
T took it,
U upset it,
V viewed it,
W wanted it,
X, Y, Z, and ampersand
All wished for a piece in hand.

This simple rhyme, teaching the alphabet, has a long history and was known in the reign of Charles II, when letters A to G were quoted in a religious pamphlet. The vowels I and U are also missing from other early versions as no distinction used to be made between the letters I and J, and U and V when written as capitals.

It was published in a children's spelling book in 1742 in London, and first printed in America in 1750 in Boston.

After that, it often appeared in eighteenth-century chapbooks and by the beginning of the nineteenth century there were many variations. Kate Greenaway's illustrated edition has remained in print since its first appearance in 1886 and is one of the best known, but there are also parodies by writers such as Edward Lear.

A Was an Archer

A was an archer, who shot at a frog,
B was a butcher, and had a great dog.
C was a captain, all covered with lace,
D was a drunkard, and had a red face.
E was an esquire, with pride on his brow,
F was a farmer, and followed the plow.
G was a gamester, who had but ill luck,
H was a hunter, and hunted a buck.
I was an innkeeper, who loved to carouse,
J was a joiner, and built up a house.
K was King William, once governed this land,
L was a lady, who had a white hand.
M was a miser, and hoarded up gold,
N was a nobleman, gallant and bold.
O was an oyster girl, and went about town,
P was a parson, and wore a black gown.
Q was a queen, who wore a silk slip,
R was a robber, and wanted a whip.
S was a sailor, and spent all he got,