



Over the Hills and Far Away: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes

Elizabeth Hammill (Editor) , Various (Illustrations)

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A spectacular treasury of 150 classic nursery rhymes and new discoveries, featuring a star-studded roster of seventy-seven illustrators.

Nursery rhymes have entertained and comforted children for centuries. *Over the Hills and Far Away* is a unique collection of rhymes and verse from across the globe—rhymes from the English-speaking world as well as verse that entered English from Chinese, Latino, African, and other cultures. With illustrations from seventy-seven artists, many celebrated throughout the world, and some just emerging, this volume is truly an adventure in language, image, and imagination. A magnificent gift for little ones hearing these verses for the first time as well as a wonderful book for family sharing across generations.

Some of the contributors include;

Ashley Bryan
Eric Carle
Lucy Cousins
Helen Craig
Niki Daly
Polly Dunbar
Bob Graham
Emily Gravett
Shirley Hughes
Yasmeen Ismael
Satoshi Kitamura
Jon Klassen
PJ Lynch
Jerry Pinkney
Chris Raschka
Catherine Rayner
Shaun Tan
Mo Willems
Ed Young
Pamela Zagarenski

Over the Hills and Far Away: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes Details

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Author : Elizabeth Hammill (Editor) , Various (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Over the Hills and Far Away: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes for online ebook

Great Books says

Share nursery rhymes from around the world with your family. The colorful, imaginative illustrations will delight your eyes and the rhymes will endlessly enchant you. #27

Yoo Kyung Sung says

poetry anthology by influential writers and illustrators of children's literature and poetry! Simply wonderful!

Taylor Hartman says

Copyright: 2014

Number of pages: 160

Book format: print

Reading level: Pre-K-2; GR level N/A

Genre: poetry

Lit requirement: nursery rhymes/songs book

Over the Hills and Far Away is a fun book of collected nursery rhymes and songs by Elizabeth Hammil. The book features many rhymes from different parts of the world. For example, there are American, English, Chinese, and Jamaican rhymes just to name a few. Some of these songs are also used in different parts of the world, so the same song can be printed more than once but in a slightly different way. All of the illustrations are also all very different. More than seventy artists were used in this book.

I gave this book five stars because it was entertaining. The reader is introduced to new rhymes as well as old ones that he or she may have already known. Since each page is also illustrated differently, it is like the reader is starting an entirely new story every time the page is turned. This would be a good book for different levels of readers because the difficulty of the rhymes differ.

Betsy says

Not all nursery rhyme collections are created equal. That is something you discover when you have small children. A parent, even a children's librarian type parent, will inevitably come to a shocking realization sometime during their child's early years that when you read a nursery rhyme, the kiddo really and truly seems to love it. Nursery rhymes, far from simply being "good for the child" in some lofty, educated manner, have stuck around as long as they have because they really and truly do speak to the kids. The cadences and rhythms and images are incomparable, and that is regardless of nation or heritage. So as you seek out new nursery rhyme books, you begin to fancy yourself a kind of connoisseur. Some authors provide the classics in an effective manner (Lobel, de Paola, etc.) while others seem to be finding their footing. And really, how

many ways can you re-imagine Little Boy Blue anyway? One thing you don't find in a lot of nursery rhyme collections? Diversity. You pick up something like *Over the Hills and Far Away* and you see that "more than 70 celebrated artists" are included. It ain't lying. It also ain't the white white world we're so used to in nursery rhyme collections. Tsimshian and Creole, Jamaican and Australian, Chinese American and Chippewa, this is a book that not only speaks to a wider audience than nursery rhyme collections of the past, it's cleverly constructed and perfectly illustrated to boot. Hammill has clearly created the very first nursery rhyme collection of note for the 21st century.

Read the publication page of the book and you will be told that "*Over the Hills and Far Away* gathers poems from various parts of the English-speaking world, including Great Britain, the Caribbean, Australia, and the United States. Regional spellings and usage have been retained in order to preserve the integrity of the originals." Fair enough, and I understand why this statement reads the way it does, but it does run the risk of leading the casual reader to believe that this book only collects poems from the English-speakers of the world. Happily, even the most cursory flip through will relieve you of that mistake (to say nothing of reading the Introduction). Because if there is one thing the nursery rhyme books of your average library lack, it is diversity. Generally speaking, if a person wants to find Inuit, Jamaican, Latino, or South African nursery rhymes, you find separate collections of them and that's that. Almost never do you find them integrated seamlessly with English and American rhymes. Hammill notes in her Introduction that "Nowhere... have I found a wide-ranging collection that sits alongside these Mother Goose favorites and injects fresh life into them – providing a genuine intercultural experience." Why? Research. Dedication. It takes a single-minded intensity to not only track them down but to also pair each and every one with just the right artist.

And the artists, in this particular case, are jaw-dropping. It isn't just the number of well known names on display. Certainly Mo Willems, Shaun Tan, Lucy Cousins, Ed Young, Jon Klassen, Shirley Hughes, Jerry Pinkney and so on and such are impressive right from the get go. It's also the fact that there are a great number of artists working here who are not, first and foremost, famous names. Hammill says in her opening that these artists included both the established and the emerging, as well as winner of an Illustration Competition for U.K. art students.

And how do these illustrators do? I was pleased. Every collection out there is going to have its stronger and weaker elements. So there were some artists who had clearly put a lot of time and thought into their art, while others seemed to phone it in. The Marcia Williams take on "Old Mother Hubbard" reminded me of the poem in Nursery Rhyme Comics which also turned the rhyme into sequential comic art (it really lends itself to the form well). Meanwhile Eric Carle's art is just a series of animals taken from his previously published books. Jerry Pinkney created original art of a familiar character when he referenced his Caldecott Honor title Noah's Ark in the rhyme "Who Built the Ark?" Sometimes the artists alleviate potential creepiness (as with Gus Gordon's rather charming if carnivorous "Algy Saw a Bear") while others add to it (I'm thinking of the uber-sketchy men peering at the cheerful girl eating her food alongside the rhymes "Brow Bender", "Earkin-Hearkin", and "Knock at the Door"). But by some great good fortune, the bulk of the work is very strong, charming, and actually honestly interesting to kids. Let's not forget that little factor.

I was charmed by the art. I was taken with the selection. But the real reason Hammill's work on this book blew me away as much as it did? It's simple. The woman has a gift for pairing complimentary rhymes together. As the mother of a 3-year-old and a new baby I've done my due diligence and read every nursery rhyme book I could get my hands on. Yet while artists like Tomie dePaola and Arnold Lobel would pair similar rhymes together in clever ways (rain poems on one page, love poems on another), Hammill sort of kicks everything up to another level. First there are the pairings that are so obvious you're shocked you haven't seen them before. "Yankee Doodle" next to "The Grand Old Duke of York". Or glutinous "Hannah Bantry" with "Jack Sprat" and wife. In her introduction, Hammill notes that in her research she "came upon

anthologies of parallel rhymes and verse that have entered and enhanced the English lexicon from Asia, the Caribbean, and African, Native-American, and Hispanic cultures and elsewhere.” It reminds me of that old collection of world fairy and folktales *World Tales* collected by Idries Shah, which noted similarities in single stories throughout different cultures. Here you’ll see how well some poems pair. Some pairs are the lighthearted kind mentioned above. Others have quite a bit more to say, as when “Hush-a-bye, Baby” sits alongside the Chippewa “Little Baby, Sleep” and artist Olivia Lomenech Gill crafts a fascinating construct of “baby” King George falling off the tree while, on the other page, a Chippewa mother holds her child’s cradle board.

In the back of the book you will find a list of sources used to find some of these poems and rhymes. This is followed by a section thanking directly some of the people who helped to find these rhymes, like Pascale Arpin, coordinator of Arts Programming at Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and Ashley Bryan who opened “his extensive personal library to me and introducing me to important collections of African and Caribbean verse and rhyme”. Many of the collections sourced are older, from the 1929 rhymes from the Bureau of American Ethnology to the 1900 *Chinese Mother Goose Rhymes*. I’m no nursery rhyme historian so I take it on faith that Hammill took steps to ensure accuracy where the poems are concerned. You need a certain level of trust in these cases. I leave it to others to ascertain one source’s authenticity over another’s.

Gone are the days when the publishing industry could put out nursery rhyme collection after nursery rhyme collection and not have to think about the diverse audience who might be reading the poems. Generally when nursery rhymes are produced these days the hat tip made to cultural diversity rests squarely on the shoulders of the illustrator, not the selection of poems themselves. What sets *Over the Hills and Far Away* apart is the fact that not only has Elizabeth Hammill found a wide range of interesting and intelligent rhymes, she has found ways to interweave them with similar rhymes from other cultures to create a real understanding of why rhymes from children are universally desired and important. For all that we talk about diverse books for kids, I’ve never heard anyone suggest that someone create a book like this before. Now it is here. If you own only one nursery rhyme collection on your shelves, own this one.

For all ages.

Amanda says

This book has not won any awards and is for the 3-7 yr old range.

This is a collection of nursery rhymes from all different countries and cultures. Some are the well known rhymes, such as Little Bo Peep and Jack be Nimble. It is illustrated with all different styles of art that go along with the nursery rhymes.

This book wasn't one of my favorites unfortunately. It didn't seem to have all that many familiar nursery rhymes, at least not familiar to me, and didn't really keep my interest. It is a large collection of nursery rhymes though so I'm sure that there would be plenty in there that kids would enjoy reading.

In class uses could be to expose kids to writing from all different cultures ranging from Dutch to English to American. With so many options, it's a book that could be used repeatedly and could be used to help teach rhyming and poetry.

Holly Scudero says

All children love poems and nursery rhymes. If your little one needs a good book full of these beloved rhymes, look to Elizabeth Hammill's new collection "Over the Hills and Far Away." This gorgeous volume collects a wide variety of poems and rhymes from cultures all over the world, and pairs them with artwork from seventy-seven artists (including some well known, such as Eric Carle). These rhymes run the gamut from traditional nursery rhymes (the old woman in the shoe, three men in a tub) to classic lullabies (Baa, Baa, Black Sheep; Kookaburra), from hand clapping songs readers might recognize from their own childhood (Miss Mary Mack) to counting rhymes and finger games from places near and far. Many of the poems in here will be familiar to readers while others will be previously undiscovered; new favorites are bound to be within, just waiting to be found! Don't be surprised if your child wants to read the entire book, cover to cover; the rhymes and the artwork are just that engaging.

Originally written for San Diego Book Review.

Sharon Orlopp says

Children's prose and poetry from around the world; very diverse illustrations and poems.

Katie (BooksRUs) says

Being a children's librarian, this is a great resources for doing storytimes.

Becky says

Over The Hills And Far Away: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes is a diverse collection of nursery rhymes for parents to share with their little ones. The collection includes traditional rhymes from many countries and cultures. Yes, there are plenty of familiar rhymes from the English and American traditions. But there are plenty of poems--rhymes--that may be unfamiliar to readers. These poems celebrate a universal: young ones all over the world find rhymes fun and appealing.

Yes, the book celebrates the fact that we have a rich tradition of poetry, that there is something right, something good, about sharing rhymes with young children. But the book also celebrates art. Over 70 illustrators were involved in creating this book. Some illustrators are very famous, others are new to the field. The illustrations vary page by page. Chances are, some illustrations you will LOVE, LOVE, LOVE and others you decidedly won't personally appreciate. There truly is something for everyone.

My favorites?

Polly Dunbar illustrated "Sing a Song of Sixpence" and "I Had A Little Nut Tree."

Jane Ray illustrated "The Queen of Hearts" and "Pussy cat, Pussy Cat, Where Have You Been?"

Emily Gravett illustrated "A was an Apple Pie."

Ashley Bryan illustrated "Little Sally Water."

Lydia Monks illustrated "Little Bo-peep" and "Little Boy Blue."

Christine Turner says

A spectacular treasury of 150 classic nursery rhymes and new discoveries, featuring a star-studded roster of seventy-seven illustrators.

Nursery rhymes have entertained and comforted children for centuries. *Over the Hills and Far Away* is a unique collection of rhymes and verse from across the globe--rhymes from the English-speaking world as well as verse that entered English from Chinese, Latino, African, and other cultures. With illustrations from seventy-seven artists, many celebrated throughout the world, and some just emerging, this volume is truly an adventure in language, image, and imagination. A magnificent gift for little ones hearing these verses for the first time as well as a wonderful book for family sharing across generations.

Notes

Elizabeth Hammill has been fascinated with what Iona Opie calls the "international exchange and flow" of rhymes and verse for young children. Now, with *Over the Hills and Far Away*, she is able to present a wide-ranging nursery-rhyme collection that reflects these diverse voices and places them alongside traditional favorites. Originally from the United States, Elizabeth Hammill now lives in England.

Subject:

Children's poetry

Rebecca says

Wow! I thought this was just going to be another nursery rhyme compilation, but it steps outside the usual (and very white) Mother Goose (which is also included) to bring in rhymes and verse "that have entered and enhanced the English lexicon from Asia, the Caribbean, and African, Native-American, and Hispanic cultures and elsewhere," accompanied by the images of 77 illustrators, both known and unknown. A great and diverse collection!

Joy Keil says

A very nice collection of nursery rhymes illustrated by various artists that we recognize from their books! Would be a lovely one to own or give as a gift!

Alex says

1. None
2. First through second grade
3. A collection of nursery rhymes illustrated by over 70 different artists. The nursery rhymes, however, are not only the ones commonly known but includes others from all over the world. Rhymes from many

indigenous populations such as Inuit, Chippewa, and Maori are included along with rhymes from places like South Africa, Trinidad, and Latin America, and Chinese-American and African-American rhymes are included as well.

4. The different illustrators all use their styles fantastically, and the inclusion of nursery rhymes from different cultures and variations of the rhymes from different cultures as well is an excellent concept. The one criticism I could have is that, in translating a few of the rhymes from other languages, the rhyming was not always preserved, or even the meter. However, despite this, the great number and variety of rhymes means that these are few and far between.

5. As with any nursery rhyme book, this one could be used for teaching about rhyming. It could also be used to teach about different art styles. The multicultural aspect of the book could also be used to help teach about different cultures.

Willow Sommers says

(Poetry) Not a huge fan of poems so this was not my favorite. I did not get a lot of them, partially because a lot came from different countries and languages. There were a lot though that could be used and it was a collaboration of a lot of different artists.

Tasha says

Nursery rhyme treasuries have to be something special to gain attention and this one certainly is. In this treasury, nursery rhymes from around the world nestle together into one full and playful view of the world and children. There are rhymes from England and the United States, and then there are wonderful additions from Africa, China, South America, France and other areas. Adding to the variety are the illustrations from some of the greatest children's book illustrators working today, including popular favorites like Lucy Cousins, Shirley Hughes, Jon Klassen, Jerry Pinkney and Shaun Tan.

Opening this book invites the youngest readers into a journey of the imagination and the joy of rhymes from around the world. Anchored by familiar favorites for western readers, the book branches merrily out into less familiar rhymes. Rhymes carefully chosen to become new favorites and ones that reflect the places and regions they come from clearly.

The illustrations are gorgeous and varied. It makes each turn of the page thrilling and filled with wonder. Each one is unique and marvelous, a great example of that master illustrator's work.

Add this nursery rhyme treasury to your library collection to add an important amount of diversity to your shelves. Appropriate for ages 1-4.
