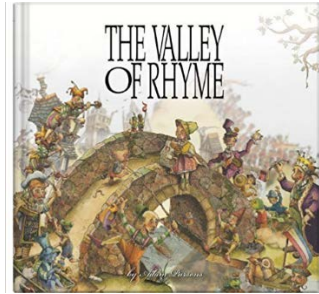


# The Valley of Rhyme

By Adam Parsons (ISBN: 978-0-9794773-1-7)



## ACCOMPANYING RESOURCES FOR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

### INTRODUCTION

Throughout history parents and teachers have mused their children and students with nursery rhymes. We sing them, read them, do fingerplays, act them out and teach with them. What is definite about nursery rhymes is that they are a tried and true method of capturing inspiring young minds and engaging them with literacy. **Short and sweet, they help children to learn language formation.** They also contribute to a child's spatial development when used with music and movement.

It is important to introduce poetry into the primary grades and revisit them again in grades 4-5. Often times, poetry is not taught until the middle grades, and at this point it is taught only for cognitive skills. When poetry is brought into grades K-5 it is used to teach cognitive skills as well as enjoyed for word play and word development.

After an analysis of a variety of the rhymes included in The Valley of Rhyme utilizing the “Lexile Framework for Reading”, it is determined that the Lexile Ranges for Text Complexity (0-800) meet the Kentucky Academic Standards for English/LA required Grade Band Levels of grades K-5. However, other aspects of utilizing nursery rhymes with middle and high school students can be used and have been proven very effective for teaching specific skills such as analysis with older students. Appropriate classroom instruction will also meet the required KAS in Language, Speaking & Listening and Writing.

**PLEASE NOTE:** By accessing and utilizing [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com), a teacher can obtain the exact Lexile level of rhymes located in The Valley of Rhyme. Registration is free and the process is very easy!

### **SOME EXAMPLES FROM THE BOOK:**

<b>Little Miss Muffet</b>	<b>Humpty Dumpty</b>	<b>Doctor Foster</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lexile® Measure: 0L - 100L</li><li>• Mean Sentence Length: 26.00</li><li>• Mean Log Word Frequency: 3.13</li><li>• Word Count: 26</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lexile® Measure: 400L - 500L</li><li>• Mean Sentence Length: 8.33</li><li>• Mean Log Word Frequency: 3.24</li><li>• Word Count: 25</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lexile® Measure: 700L - 800L</li><li>• Mean Sentence Length: 12.50</li><li>• Mean Log Word Frequency: 3.79</li><li>• Word Count: 25</li></ul>

The following pages contain resources to assist teachers use The Valley of Rhyme as an instructional tool for teaching elementary, middle and high school students.

### **Rhymers are Readers: The Importance of Nursery Rhymes**

Nursery rhymes are not just for fun. They have enormous educational value. Learn how to use them to teach students! (resources included)

<file:///C:/Users/KVEC/Desktop/2%20Rhymers%20are%20Readers.pdf>

### **The Surprising Meaning and Benefits of Nursery Rhymes**

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/reading-tips/the-surprising-meaning-and-benefits-of-nursery-rhymes/>

### **Short Video Resources for The Valley of Rhyme:**

- <http://www.thevalleyofrhyme.com/book/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGHfociTORw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aerUFEU72Q4>
- <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyofRhyme>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3u2xULXfIVw>

## **TEACHING THE SOUNDS THAT MAKE UP WORDS: PHONEMIC AWARENESS**

Phonemic awareness is "the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds--phonemes--in spoken words."<sup>1</sup> Separate from phonics, teaching strategies for phonemic awareness involve breaking down words to their smallest sounds. In addition, **it requires students to think about the sounds that make up words.** Thus, students will soon see how cat and sat have the same ending sound. It is this manipulation of words that causes a light bulb to go on in a child's head when they start reading and see the sounds that make words come alive.

Strategies: <http://www.brighthubeducation.com/pre-k-and-k-lesson-plans/114330-incorporating-phonemic-awareness-into-lessons/>

## **WORD RECOGNITION STRATEGIES USING NURSERY RHYMES**

### **Word Recognition Unit**

Nursery rhymes are the perfect vehicle for teaching word families because they are rich with examples of rhyming words. In this lesson, students learn to identify written words with similar endings by singing and reciting nursery rhymes. Students begin by reciting *Humpty Dumpty*, identifying two words with similar ending sounds, and creating their own lists of words with the same ending sound. Students repeat this procedure with words from *Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater* and *Jack and Jill*. Finally, students access a website to identify the word families featured in other nursery rhymes and then create an illustration and text based on their favorite nursery rhyme.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/word-recognition-strategies-using-21.html>

### **Week Long Unit Teaching Nursery Rhymes**

Use one nursery rhyme a week to teach the concepts of rhyming, word families and new vocabulary. We will explore a series of nursery rhymes and teaching activities for each nursery rhyme.

<http://www.brighthubeducation.com/pre-k-and-k-lesson-plans/6215-week-long-teaching-unit-using-nursery-rhymes/>

## **Rhyming Games**

...Words that can be grouped together by a common sound, for example the "-at" family — cat, hat, and sat — can be used to teach children about similar spellings. Children can use these rhyme families when learning to read and spell.

[http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/rhyming\\_games](http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/rhyming_games)

## **SOME RESOURCES FOR TEACHING RHYMES WITH OLDER CHILDREN**

### **Grades 4-12**

At any age, nursery rhymes help us develop an ear for our language. Rhyme and rhythm highlight the sounds and syllables in words. Understanding sounds and syllables used in nursery rhymes also help older/struggling readers students learn to read and comprehend.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/nursery-rhymes-not-just-babies>

**Middle School:** <http://www.brighthubeducation.com/teaching-elementary-school/125285-lesson-plans-that-incorporate-rhyme/>

As students move ahead in school, the focus of rhyming lessons shifts more toward learning how to analyze poetry. Nursery rhymes are familiar and an effective starting place for analysis activities. Allow them to use the end of the year and shape poem lessons offered below, too.

- [Using End of the Year Poems for Middle School](#)
- [Rhyming Shape Poems for Middle School](#)

**High School:** <http://www.brighthubeducation.com/teaching-elementary-school/125285-lesson-plans-that-incorporate-rhyme/>

By high school, students will have a solid grasp of the rhyming concept, and will be readily able to identify rhyming patterns. The analysis of poetry becomes more in-depth, as themes and variations are explored. Familiar nursery rhymes can help students begin the skill of analyzing poetry before moving into more complicated poetry. The rhyming lesson plans outlined below, while offered at the high school level, could also be easily adapted for use with honors coursework at the middle school level.

- [Rhyming and Couplets](#)
- [Rhyming Couplets and Character Poetry](#)
- [Sizzling Sestets Focusing on Rhyme Patterns](#)
- [Rhyme Schemes in a Ballad](#)
- [The Rhyme Schemes of a Sonnet](#)
- [Learning How to Mark Rhyme Scheme: "The Road Not Taken"](#)

## **A History Of Nursery Rhymes (High School) E-Book**

This e-book text has been shared by Project Gutenberg ([www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org))  
<https://sharemylesson.com/teaching-resource/history-nursery-rhymes-229999>