



# Over the Hills and Far Away: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes from Around the World

By Elizabeth Hammill

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There are 150 rhymes in this collection, from countries all over the English-speaking world, including Great Britain, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ghana, South Africa and the Caribbean. This comprehensive collection contains all the best-loved nursery rhymes, but also some new discoveries, and vibrant rhymes from Native American, First Nation, Inuit and Maori cultures. Each double-page spread is illustrated by a different artist, who has donated his or her work to the Collection or Archive at Seven Stories, Britain's National Centre for Children's Books. With 76 featured artists, this is a star-studded roll call of international award-winners and world-class bestselling illustrators, as well as young emerging talent from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, Ghana and South Africa.

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### **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

PreS-Gr 2—Originally published in Great Britain, this collection includes 150 nursery rhymes—many of them familiar—from 23 countries and cultures, accompanied by color illustrations created by 76 artists, many well known, in a wide variety of styles and mediums: photos, soft watercolor scenes, hand-colored prints, comic strips and cartoons, collage, realistic paintings, and more. Several pages of rhymes are handwritten—some in childlike printing or cursive, others in flowing calligraphy. Jump rope rhymes, riddle rhymes, counting and clapping rhymes, finger games, songs, lullabies, and nonsense rhymes are included. In her two-page introduction, collector Hammill refers to nursery rhymes as "tiny masterpieces of verse" that "have outlasted their origins as street cries, folk songs, political satire, remnants of custom and proverb and have been polished into perfect form over time." Although all of the poems are in English, regional spelling has been used in some poems, such as the Jamaican verse, "Dis lickle pig go a markit,/Dis lickle pig tan a yaad." Appended are an "Index of First Lines," some brief information about each of the artists, and a listing of sources. Four "Contents" pages list poems and artists in order of appearance. The English versions of many familiar poems differ somewhat from the American wording. **VERDICT** This artistically appealing compilation will delight both children and adults and might be useful in elementary writing projects.—Susan Scheps, formerly at Shaker Public Library, OH

### **Review**

"As a first treasury of nursery rhymes you won't find anything better than this charming collection of traditional chants from all over the English-speaking world... An exuberant selection for enthusiastic reading aloud." *Daily Mail* 'A lovely compendium of nursery rhymes from around the world.' *Angels and Urchins* 'What an adventure!... Elizabeth has made the world her subject and a happy razzmatazz she has made of it. May it enjoy a long, long life, generating fun for rhyme-lovers across that world and spreading the news of the growing fame of Seven Stories.' *Books for Keeps* "The stroke of genius that really makes this volume worth its full cover price is the illustrations." *Book Bag* "This is truly a treasure trove of nursery rhymes that belongs on every bookshelf." *Booktrust* 'Children's publishers are increasingly looking beyond the UK's borders for the next big thing...Frances Lincoln's announcement that they will publish *Over the Hills and Far Away*, a collection of rhymes from around the English-speaking world.' -- Louise Jordan *Writers Forum* 'Every child, every young family deserves the chance to share this outstanding book.' *Carousel* 'As a first treasury of nursery rhymes you won't find anything better than this diverse collection of tradition rhymes from all over the English-speaking world - An exuberant selection for enthusiastic reading aloud.' -- Sally Morris *The Daily Mail* 'This delightful collection is a must for every home and early years setting, and a perfect gift for a very new baby or christening. Each spread offers various rhymes from across the world, some well-known and others not, with pictures provided by a selection of the most revered and original children's illustrators.' -- Marilyn Brocklehurst *The Bookseller* 'The most beautiful and enduring picture book of the year' -- Nicholas Tucker *The Independent*

### **About the Author**

ELIZABETH HAMMILL is the initiator and co-founder of Seven Stories, National Centre for Children's Books - Britain's first museum celebrating and collecting the UK's children literature. As Artistic and Collections Director, she laid the foundations for the centre's novel approach to exhibition design and interpretation in seven ground-breaking shows and for its unique and growing collection of original papers, artwork and books by modern British writers and illustrators for children. She drew on her earlier experiences as a primary teacher in New York City, a book-loving mother of two sons, and a nationally

recognised children's bookseller in Newcastle upon Tyne, first at the independent Bookhouse and then Waterstone's. Elizabeth was a founder of the Northern Children's Book Festival. She has lectured at Newcastle University, and she has judged local and national book prizes including the Smarties Award, the Whitbread Prize and the Marsh Award. She also edited a unique literary magazine *In brief*: by teenagers for teenagers (1989-1998) and has reviewed and written features for many of the top children's literature journals in the UK. Elizabeth was awarded an honorary Doctorate by Newcastle University in 2006, an honorary OBE in 2007, and an Alumnae Achievement Award by her American alma mater Mount Holyoke College in 2009 for her services to children's literature. Elizabeth continues to write articles and chapters and is currently a Founder Patron and Collection Trustee at Seven Stories. She and her husband live in Newcastle upon Tyne. They delight in being grandparents to Joshua, aged three, and are book, music and theatre lovers.

## **Users Review**

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#### **Melinda Miller:**

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**Linda Guyette:**

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