Nursery Rhyme Origins and History

English Literature · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which nursery rhyme is historically linked to the Great Fire of London in 1666?

A) London Bridge is Falling Down
B) Ring a Ring o' Roses
C) Oranges and Lemons
D) Hot Cross Buns

2. What is the traditional subject of the rhyme 'Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary' believed to represent?

A) Queen Mary I of England
B) The French Revolution
C) The agricultural industry
D) A famous Victorian gardener

3. The rhyme 'Humpty Dumpty' describes an egg, but what was the original object likely referring to in 17th-century riddles?

A) A type of cannon
B) A small boat
C) A falling star
D) A royal crown

4. Which literary figure is often credited with collecting and publishing 'Mother Goose' tales?

A) Charles Perrault
B) William Shakespeare
C) Charles Dickens
D) Mark Twain

5. What commodity was being sold by the 'Old Woman' in the rhyme 'Hot Cross Buns'?

A) Spiced bread
B) Fresh berries
C) Woolen cloth
D) Antique lace

6. In the rhyme 'Jack and Jill', what specific item were they going up the hill to fetch?

A) A pail of water
B) A bag of gold
C) A bundle of hay
D) A basket of apples

7. The rhyme 'Three Blind Mice' is often associated with which English monarch?

A) Queen Mary I
B) King Henry VIII
C) King George III
D) Queen Elizabeth II

8. What historical event is 'Ring a Ring o' Roses' often incorrectly (but popularly) associated with?

A) The Great Plague
B) The discovery of the Americas
C) The Industrial Revolution
D) The signing of the Magna Carta

9. 'Little Bo Peep' lost what specific animals in her nursery rhyme?

A) Sheep
B) Cows
C) Goats
D) Horses

10. Which nursery rhyme contains the line 'The cow jumped over the moon'?

A) Hey Diddle Diddle
B) Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
C) The Cat and the Fiddle
D) Baa Baa Black Sheep

11. What was the profession of the man who 'rub-a-dub-dubbed' in a tub in the nursery rhyme?

A) Butcher, baker, and candlestick maker
B) Blacksmith, tailor, and carpenter
C) Farmer, weaver, and sailor
D) Teacher, doctor, and judge

12. The rhyme 'Sing a Song of Sixpence' features a pocket full of what?

A) Rye
B) Gold coins
C) Flower petals
D) Dried beans

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