

# Sing a song of sixpence

Sing a song of sixpence,  
A pocket full of rye.  
Four and twenty blackbirds,  
Baked in a pie.

5 When the pie was opened,  
The birds began to sing;  
Wasn't that a dainty (*lecker*) dish,  
To set before the king?

The king was in his counting house,  
10 Counting out his money;  
The queen was in the parlour (*Stube*),  
Eating bread and honey.

The maid (*Magd*) was in the garden,  
Hanging out the clothes,  
15 When down came a blackbird  
And pecked off her nose.

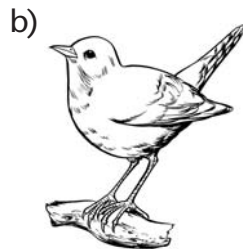
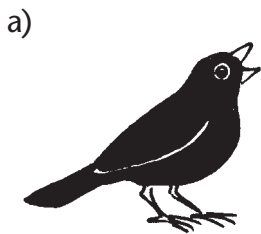
There was such a commotion (*Aufruhr*),  
That little Jenny wren  
Flew down into the garden,  
20 And put it back again.

## Nursery rhymes

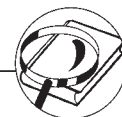
A nursery rhyme is a traditional poem or song for young children. Most of these rhymes are very old.



1. These pictures show a word from the text. Write the word under the picture.



2. What do the words from task 1 mean in German? Write the German words under the English words in task 1 and check your results with a partner.



3. Put these six pictures into the correct order.

A



C



E



B



D



F



The correct order for the pictures is:

1. .... 2. .... 3. .... 4. .... 5. .... 6. ....



4. Answer the following questions about the rhyme with full sentences.

a) How many blackbirds are in the pie?

.....

b) Who is the pie for?

.....

c) Where is the queen and what is she doing?

.....

d) What is the maid doing?

.....

e) What happens to the maid?

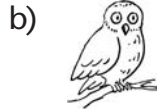
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f) Why does the wren put the maid's nose back again?

.....



5. Look at the pictures and find the English and German names for these birds in the boxes below.



.....  
.....



.....  
.....

budgie    crow    duck    eagle    cook  
owl    parrot    peacock    seagull    swan

Adler    Ente    Hahn    Eule  
Möwe    Papagei    Krähe  
Schwan    Pfau    Wellensittich



6. Read the following definitions and fill in the missing words from the box below.

cereal    comfortable    feathers    noise    office    plate    songbird

- a) Blackbirds are very common birds in Europe and North America. They get their name from their black .....
- b) Rye is a ..... plant that grows in poor soil (*Boden*) and low temperatures.
- c) The word dish has two main meanings. It can be either a ..... for food or the food that goes on it.
- d) A counting house is an old-fashioned word for an .....
- e) A parlour was a special room in a castle. There was a warm fire and ..... chairs.
- f) A commotion is when people are excited and they all make lots of .....
- g) A wren is a small ..... In the past, people called the hen "Jenny".

Pete Oldham: Fantastisch gut lesen – Englisch Klasse 5–7  
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