

## Nursery Rhymes for Grown-Ups

Silence, minute child on the highest branch.

When the air-flow makes a draught, the infant's bed is going to wobble from side to side. When the main branch separates, the infant's bed is going to get lower and lower very quickly.

Vertically will descend minute child, infant's bed and absolutely everything.

*Class-made poem*

- \* Did you recognise the nursery rhyme buried under all that language? That's right: Hush-a-bye, baby, on the tree top.
- \* Well, the original was okay for very young children, but grown-ups need something a bit more, well, grown up.
- \* Grown-ups like complicated sentences and long words. And now it's your turn to write like a grown-up.

**You need a book of nursery rhymes, a dictionary and a thesaurus – and read all the details below before you start writing.**

- \* Find your nursery rhyme. Here are some for you to consider:

*Little Jack Horner*

*Humpty Dumpty*

*I do not like thee, Doctor Fell*

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star.*

- \* Choose from these or one you have found yourself.
- \* To write your grown-up version, work carefully through the original. Focus on the important words and leave the unimportant ones alone. Look back at line 1 at the top. What has not been changed? That's right, *on the*.
- \* You are all the time looking for synonyms, so use your thesaurus to find them. A word you have never used before is probably a good pick!
- \* Also, look up words in your dictionary, and sometimes use the dictionary's definition of a word, as a synonym for the word in the original rhyme.
- \* Oh, and no need to worry about rhyme. Most poems for grown-ups don't.
- \* When you have finished you will undoubtedly have increased your own word power and you're ready to impress those grown-ups!