



## Rhyme Stew

By Roald Dahl

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An illustrated collection of fifteen parodies ranging from skewered nursery rhymes to epic slapstick sagas.

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# Rhyme Stew

*By Roald Dahl*

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An illustrated collection of fifteen parodies ranging from skewered nursery rhymes to epic slapstick sagas.

## Rhyme Stew By Roald Dahl Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1379255 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Viking Juvenile
- Published on: 1990-04-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 20.00" h x 20.00" w x 20.00" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 80 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Here are 15 less-than-clever rhyming parodies of classic children's stories and poems, including The Tortoise and the Hare, The Emperor's New Clothes, Dick Whittington's Cat, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, Hansel and Gretel, etc. Most of Dahl's attempts at playful lasciviousness seem juvenile: "As I was going to St. Ives / I met a man with seven wives / Said he, 'I think it's much more fun / Than getting stuck with only one.' " Several jokes fall flat on their British colloquialism: "Hey diddle diddle / We're all on the fiddle," while others die of old age: "knickers" rhymed with "vicar's." Blake, who also illustrated Dahl's *Matilda*, supplies messily frenzied line drawings that are far more amusing than the sophomoric verses they accompany.

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From School Library Journal

Blake's jacket art for this book says it all: on a garbage can (or is it a stew pot?) from which waft images from the satirized stories within is a sign which reads "Warning--Unsuitable for Small Readers." Never known for subtlety, good taste, or benevolence, Dahl is his usual disrespectful, misanthropic self in *Rhyme Stew*. In jaunty, often funny verse, he pokes fun at a dozen or so traditional rhymes and folktales. In "Dick Whittington and His Cat," the cat convinces Dick to leave London: " 'Come home, my boy, without more fuss/ This lousy town's no place for us.' " In "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," the action unfolds in London's Ritz Hotel to a scene of debauchery that makes the Arabian Nights seem almost chaste. Pen-and-ink drawings have the same ease to them as the verses--as if they were simply dashed off. A djinn in underpants and a naked king being fitted for invisible clothes are both particularly funny. However, it is not the raunchy longer pieces that make this a book not for children, but the shorter verses like "A Hand in the Bird" involving a vicar's hands in a maiden's knickers and "Hot and Cold" which begins: "A woman who my mother knows/ Came in and took off all her clothes." Adolescents who enjoy pretty tasteless and aggressive humor will doubtless be amused by Dahl's cleverness. --Ann Stell, The Smithtown Library, NY

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From Library Journal

The usual Dahl ingredients, irreverent wit and comic invention liberally spiced with the mildly suggestive or outré, suit this stew to the popular (if unrefined) taste of adolescents of every age. The longer verses are fractured take-offs of traditional tales: Dick Whittington, Ali Baba, the Tortoise and the Hare, the Emperor's New Clothes, Aladdin, et al. These sometimes ramble, then run out of steam, stopping rather than ending. Short spoofs of nursery rhymes ("A Little Nut Tree," "Hey, Diddle, Diddle," "Mary, Mary") have more bite, while the original pieces ("A Hand in the Bird," "Physical Training," "The Price of Debauchery") are chiefly naughty. Blake's illustrations add flavor and balance. Deliciously zany, they defuse the bleak inhumanity of Dahl's vision. Dahl's stew has low nutritive value, but its pungent aroma might tempt the reluctant reader to indulge. A selection of Dahl's short stories was published by Knopf last month (LJ 4/15/90).--Ed.

- Patricia Dooley, Univ. of Washington Lib. Sch., Seattle

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### Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Steven Ward:**

Spent a free time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the reserve untitled Rhyme Stew can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

**Patricia Trevino:**

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this Rhyme Stew guide written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, dripping every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still skepticism Rhyme Stew as good book not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one e-book that can break don't evaluate book by its include, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

**Vanessa Gibson:**

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**April Hanson:**

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