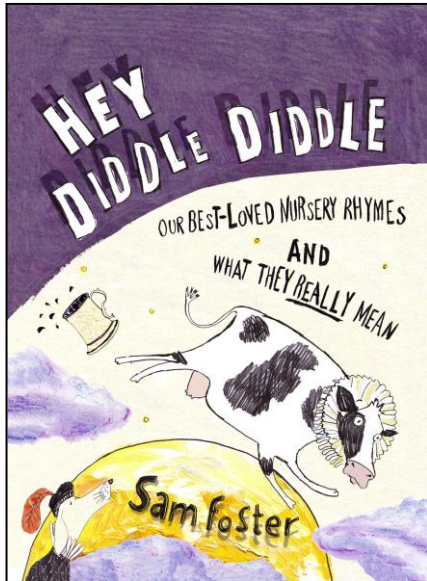


● Summersdale New Book Press Release ●
Our favourite nursery rhymes explained in a beautiful book to treasure



HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE

**BEST-LOVED NURSERY RHYMES AND
WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN**

Sam Foster

ISBN: 978 1 84024 708 4 Hardback Illustrated £6.99 October 2008

This charming compilation of our best-loved traditional nursery rhymes offers clues to their true meanings and often surprising origins and will provoke fascinating debates and, possibly, some controversy.

Many of the catchy songs we grew up with were not nonsense verses for the playground but served as satirical commentaries on political events of the day. These seemingly innocent vehicles were once used to spread subversive messages at a time when illiteracy was commonplace in society and direct criticism of authorities was punishable by prison or death.

***Sing a song of sixpence
A pocketful of rye
Four and twenty blackbirds
Baked in a pie***

Is this simply a song about a delicacy of the day? Or was it, as some claim, a coded message to recruit crews for Blackbeard's pirate ships?

Humorously illustrated, *Hey Diddle Diddle* offers a trip down memory lane and some fascinating food for thought. It will appeal to parents, children, teachers and those interested in social history, language and British traditions. It is a very entertaining read.

Hey Diddle Diddle is published by Summersdale and available through all good bookshops and internet booksellers or by telephoning Summersdale.

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