

# Painted, spoken

*edited by Richard Price*

number 18



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## ***[Rhymes for Games]***

collected 1997-2004 by Ken Cockburn

### *[Cowboy Joe]*

Cowboy Joe from Mexico  
Robbed a bank in Texaco.  
Hands up, stick 'em up,  
Drop your guns and pick 'em up,  
O-U-T spells OUT!

#### *[Aberdeenshire]*

Joe, Joe, stamped his toe  
On the way to Mexico.

Coming back he hurt his back  
Sliding down the railway track.

When at home he broke a bone  
Talking on the telephone.

#### *[Lismore]*

I'm a rexon Texan Cowboy Joe,  
I come from a land so far away,  
I can shoot, and I can doot,  
When the Injuns come to town.

There's a guy over there and he has one eye,  
He says he loves me but he's telling a lie,  
Cause his hair don't curl and his boots don't shine,  
Ain't got the money, so he ain't mine.

All the boys wear red, white, blue,  
And all the girls say, 'I love you',  
With a walk and a wiggle and a wiggle and a woo,  
In the land of Texas.

#### *[Edinburgh]*

*[Choosing]*

There's a party on the hill,  
Would you like to come?  
Bring a peach, pear or plum,  
And who is your very best chum?

[name] will be there  
With their knickers in the air  
Singing, ay ay ippy ippy ay  
And you are not it.

*[Aberdeenshire]*

There's a party on the hill,  
Would you like to come?  
Bring your own bread and butter  
And your own cream bun.

[boy's name] will be there  
With his knickers in the air.

What colour will they be?

[name a colour, then spell out its letters]

You are not it.

*[Appin]*

Ibble obble black bobble  
Ibble obble out

Mother lost a teapot  
Inside out

First she lost the handle  
Then she lost the spout

Ibble obble black bobble  
Ibble obble out.

*[Dumfries-shire]*

Ip dip doo  
Out goes you!

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Ingle angle  
Silver bangle  
Ingle angle out.

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Onica bonica  
Susie borica  
Onica bonica out.

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Cat's got the measles,  
Cat's got the flu,  
Chicken's got the chicken-pox  
And so have you.

*[Argyll]*

Picking your nose and eating it,  
You dirty pig fir daein it,  
You never offered me a bit  
So out you go!

*[Aberdeenshire]*

## *[Questions]*

I had a little bumpy car  
In nineteen seventy-eight.  
I drove it round the corner  
And slammed on the brakes.

The policeman caught me  
And put me in jail,  
And all I got was  
Ginger ale.

How many bottles did I get?

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Cinderella,  
Dressed in yellow,  
Went upstairs  
To kiss a fellow.

By mistake  
She kissed a snake.  
How many doctors  
Did it take?

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Fudge fudge,  
Tell the judge,  
[girl's name] is having babies.

How many babies does she have?

*[Renfrewshire]*

Ippy dippy dation  
My operation  
How many people  
At the station?

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Bubblegum, bubblegum  
In the dish,  
How many pieces  
Do you wish?

*[Edinburgh]*

Charlie Chaplin sat on a pin.  
How many inches did it go in?

*[Argyll]*

There's a German on the grass  
With a bullet up his arse.

What colour was his blood?

*[Aberdeen]*

Mickey Mouse  
In his house,  
Pulling down his trousers,

Quick, mum,  
Smack his bum!

What colour was his pants?

[colour - spell this out while counting round]

And [colour] you must have on.

[If you don't have this colour on you're out.]

*[Aberdeenshire]*

*[Skipping]*

Eevery, ivory,  
Turn the rope over,

Mummy's at the market,  
Selling penny baskets,

Baby's in the cradle,  
Playing with a ladle,

The ladle broke,  
The baby choked.

1 2 3 4 etc

*[Argyll]*

Granny's in the kitchen,  
Doing some stitching.  
In jumps the bogey-man  
And granny jumps out.

*[Edinburgh]*

Raspberry, strawberry, blackcurrant jam,  
Tell me the name of your fine man.

A B C D, etc

[When you trip you have to give a man's name beginning with  
that letter.]

*[Sutherland]*

Down by the river where the green grass grows,  
There stood [girl's name] picking her nose,

And she sang and she sang and she sang so sweet  
Until she saw [boy's name] walking down the street.

[boy's name, twice], will you marry me?

Yes, no, maybe so,  
Yes, no, maybe so.

*[Aberdeenshire]*

High low piccolo,  
Piccolo high low,  
High low piccolo,  
Piccolo high.

High low medium slow,  
Dolly rocky pepper.  
High low medium slow,  
medium slow high.

*[Dumfries-shire]*

High low swinging dolly,  
peppermint choice.

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Eeny meeny macaraca  
Ray doh dominaca  
Chickapopa, lollipopa,  
Rum pum push pop off.

*[Edinburgh]*

Limbo  
Snakes  
Jump

Limbo  
Snakes  
Jump

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Dolly  
Pepper  
Salt

Dolly  
Pepper  
Salt

[Dolly, crouch and suck your thumb; Pepper, fast; Salt, slow]

*[Aberdeenshire]*

## *[Robbers, Teddy Bears and Ballerinas]*

Not last night but the the night before,  
Twenty-four robbers came knocking at my door.

They went in as I went out,  
This is what they said to me:

Ballerina, ballerina, turn around,  
Ballerina, ballerina, touch the ground,  
Ballerina, ballerina, do a trick,  
Ballerina, ballerina... [?]

One ballerina, two ballerina, three ballerina, [etc]

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, pick up sticks,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, eat your Twix!

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Ballet dancer, ballet dancer, turn around  
Ballet dancer, ballet dancer, touch the ground  
Ballet dancer, ballet dancer, do the splits  
Ballet dancer, ballet dancer, touch your tips!

*[Perthshire]*

Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, read the news,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, go upstairs,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, say your prayers,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, put out the light,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, spell 'good night' -

G-O-O-D-N-I-G-H-T

*[Aberdeenshire]*

Teddy bear, teddy bear, turn around,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, touch the ground,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, one two three,  
Teddy bear, teddy bear, count the sheep with me.

A, B, C, D, [etc]

[When the person skipping trips, they have to give a boy's name beginning with that letter.]

Cottage, mansion, flat,  
Cottage, mansion, flat, etc

[When the person skipping trips, that's where they'll live.]

1, 2, 3, 4, etc

[When the person skipping trips, that's how many children they'll have.]

A, B, C, D, etc

[When the person skipping trips, they have to give all their children names beginning with that letter.]

*[Aberdeenshire]*

## *[Other Rhymes]*

The girls in Spain  
Wash their knickers in champagne

And the boys in France  
Do the hula-hula dance

And the dance they do  
Is enough to tie a shoe

And the shoe they tie  
Is enough to tell a lie

And the lie they tell  
Is enough to ring a bell

And the bell they ring  
Goes ding-a-ling-a-ling.

### *[Aberdeenshire]*

Boys are rotten,  
Made out of cotton.

Girls are sexy,  
Made out of Pepsi.

Boys come from Jupiter,  
To be more stupider.

Girls come from Mars,  
To be superstars.

### *[Falkirk]*

Eeny meeny testameeny,  
You are the one for mee-ny.  
Education, epiration,  
I like you.

Downtown baby,  
Down by the roller coasters.  
Sweet sweet baby,  
No place to go.

Catch you with your boyfriend –  
Kissy, kissy.  
Didn't do the dishes –  
Naughty, naughty.  
Jumped out the window –  
Crazy, crazy.

Eeny meeny testameeny,  
You are the one for mee-ny.  
Education, epiration,  
I like you.

*[East Lothian]*

See see my playmate,  
I cannot play with you,  
My dog has got the chicken pox  
And measles too.

Slide down my drainpipe  
And through my cellar door,  
And we'll be friends  
For evermore,

More more more,  
Shut that door,  
Don't come back  
Till half past four

And if you're late  
Then shut the gate  
And don't come back  
Till half past eight.

Cat's in the alley,  
Boom boom!

*[Aberdeen]*

Under the black bushes,  
Under the trees,

Boom boom boom

Under the blue berries,  
Under the sea.

*[Aberdeen]*

Hi sir, bye sir,  
I'll meet you at the grocer.

No sir. Why sir?  
Because I've got a cold, sir.

How did you get the cold, sir?  
Counting polar bears, sir.

And where did you count them, sir?  
At the North Pole, sir.

*[Argyll]*

Mrs Red  
went to bed.  
In the morning  
she was dead.

The doctor came,  
took her name  
and told her not  
to die again.

*[Argyll]*

Upside down, upside down,  
I don't care if the school falls down.

No more language,  
No more maths,  
No more sitting in the boring class.

Teacher, teacher,  
I declare  
I can see your underwear.

If it's black,  
If it's blue,  
Oh my God it stinks of poo!

*[Aberdeen]*

Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar  
Lost one arm.

Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar  
Lost the other arm.

Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar  
Lost one eye.

Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar  
Lost the other eye.

Lord Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar  
Dropped down dead!

*[Perthshire]*

## **[Playground Rhymes]**

*From Janet McInnes*

*[Kilwinning, Ayrshire]*

Liar, liar, your bum's on fire  
your nose is as long as a telephone wire.

Oh there she goes,  
Oh there she goes,  
Like an elephant  
on her toes.

Look at her feet,  
She thinks she's neat,  
Black stockings  
And dirty feet.

I'm Shirley Temple,  
I've got curly hair,  
I've got dimples  
and wear ma claes tae there.

I'm no able  
to dae ma Betty Grable,  
I'm Shirley Temple  
and I've got curly hair.

Oh Salome, oh Salome,  
You should see Salome,  
With her hands up there  
And her skirts up there,  
You should see Salome.

Down in the jungle  
where nobody goes,  
big fat Mambo  
was washing her clothes

with a rub dub here  
and a rub dub there,  
that is the way  
she washes her clothes.

Inky pinky,  
Tarry bags,  
Go to the well  
And wash your rags.

Eeny meeny macaraca  
Ray doh dominaka

Ali Baba, jubinaka  
Om pom skoosh.

## **[Playground Songs]**

collected 2006-7 by Ellen Price and Richard Price

[Staines, Middlesex]

England, Ireland,  
Scotland, Wales –  
Inside, Outside,  
donkeys' tales!

[stand on elastic]

My name is double double this this  
double double that that  
double this, double that  
double double this that

Spider crawling up your back –  
which finger was that?

[choose finger – if wrong, then:]

I win –  
you lose.  
Now get  
THE BIGGEST BRUISE

Dagger, dagger – bush, bush  
through the leaves so tall.  
Dagger, dagger, bush, bush –  
everybody's small.

Down in the quarry  
pinch your nose and run.

## *[Clapping Song]*

My mummy is a baker –  
yummy-yummy, fat tummy

My daddy is a dentist –  
gummy-gummy, gummy-gummy

My sister is a show-off –  
How do you do? How do you do?  
[or: Curlywurly, curlywurly]

My brother is a cowboy –  
pow-pow, you're dead.  
Fifty bullets in your head –  
half green half blue  
half landed in cow-poo

## *[Variation, by EP]*

My mummy is a dentist –  
gummy-gummy, gummy-gummy

My daddy is a popstar –  
Wooh! wooh!

My sister is Jaqueline Wilson –  
Hurray! hurray!

My brother is James Bond –  
Thumbs-up! thumbs-up!

1, 2, 3, 4  
I am knocking at the door –  
I am the sunflower,  
I am the earth.  
I am the universe  
now you reverse.

[then repeat, quicker]

Milkman, milkman  
do your duty –  
here comes Mrs Macaroony.

She can do the pom-pom,  
she can do the kick.

Best of all, she can do the splits.  
1, 2, 3.

[repeat until you do the splits]

My boyfriend gave me an apple,  
my boyfriend gave me a pear.  
My boyfriend gave me a kiss on the lips  
and threw me down the stair.

I gave him back his apple,  
I gave him back his pear.  
I gave him back his kiss on the lips  
and threw him down the stair.

He took me to the shops  
to buy some bubble gum  
and when he wasn't looking  
I stuck it up his bum.

He took me to the cinema  
to watch a sexy film  
and I wasn't looking  
he kissed another girl.

I made him lick the t-shirts.  
I made him lick the floor.  
I made him lick the baby's bum  
in nineteen ninety four.

I threw him over London,  
I threw him over Staines.  
I threw him over a football pitch –  
never saw him again.

## *[Eeny meeny yak yak]*

Eeny meeny yak yak,  
eeny meeny *Ay!*  
Eeny meeny yak yak,  
eeny meeny *Ay!*

Ooga booga,  
ooga booga.  
Ooga booga  
*slice!*

Down-down *day!*  
See-see *kay!*

See-see way-a away-a-

eeny meeny yak yak,  
eeny meeny *Ay!*  
Eeny meeny yak yak,  
eeny meeny *Ay!*

[repeat again and again, faster each time]

## *[Clapping Song]*

See-see my baby  
I cannot follow you –  
my sister's got the flu.  
Chickenpox and measles, too.

Climb down the drainpipe –  
go through the cellar door.

See-see my baby  
I cannot follow you.

## ***[Two Playground Songs]***

*collected 2007 by Maisie Price and Richard Price*

*[Balfron]*

See-see my baby  
I cannot stay with you  
because I've got the flu,  
chickenpox and measles, too.

Fly down the drainpipe,  
jump on the cellar door  
and we will be just friends  
for evermore!

1, 2, 3, 4.

## ***[Cherry on the Top]***

The train goes...  
Bam bam baby  
bam bam aholla holla.  
Beep beep baby,  
my heart's in love.

Shimmy shimmy coconut –  
shimmy to the left.  
Shimmy shimmy coconut –  
shimmy to the right.

I have a best friend.  
She's a chocolate biscuit.  
I have a best friend.  
She's a chocolate biscuit.

Ice-cream dingaling  
with a cherry on the top.  
Ice-cream dingaling  
with a cherry on the top.

[? or for dingaling read syllabub]

[? or for dingaling read syllabub]

c.h.e.r.r.y.o.n.t.h.e.t.o.p.  
spells  
cherry on the top

[make glop sound with tongue on roof of mouth]

# Painted, spoken

Painted spoken,  
your mammy's broken,  
you da's an alcoholic.  
Fix your ma with a gold foot spa.  
Gie your da the red carbolic.

1, 2  
scrub!

Playground songs collected by  
Ken Cockburn, Janet McInnes,  
Ellen Price, Maisie Price  
and Richard Price

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