

Old Mother Hubbard



By Elise Wallace
Illustrated by Emilie Pepin

“Old Mother Hubbard”

by Sarah Catherine Martin

Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the Cupboard,
To give the poor Dog a bone;
When she came there,
The Cupboard was bare,
And so the poor Dog had none.

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Chapter One



Hunting for the Truth

Dear Reader,

I am what you would call a nursery rhyme expert. My favorite poem is “Old Mother Hubbard.” It is the story of an old woman and her lively dog. I believe it is the world’s best poem!

Until recently, I was sure the poem was based on a true story. I thought Mother Hubbard really had a dancing, prancing pup. Now, rumors have told me otherwise! As a fan, it is my mission to discover the truth.





Finding the truth has not been easy. I am hoping you can help me. In the pages that follow, you will hear from a few of the poem's subjects. They include a dog, a cat, and Mother Hubbard herself.



As you read, think carefully. Who is telling the truth? Who is lying? Is the poem a work of fiction or fact? I am grateful for your help!

Best of luck,
Jane Oliva



Chapter Two



A Respectable Beagle

I met Wilfred Puppyworth on a cold day in May. A friend had told me that Wilfred was the dog from Mother Hubbard's poem. I was excited to meet him.

"Wilfred, it's so lovely to meet you."
I shook the beagle's paw.

"No trouble at all," the dog said as he bowed. "I am more than happy to help."

"Glad to hear it," I said. "Can you tell me about the events that inspired the poem?"



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A nursery rhyme fan yearns to learn the truth. Is “Old Mother Hubbard” a work of fiction or fact?

Reading Levels
Guided Reading: M
DRA Level: 24
Lexile® Level: 480L

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