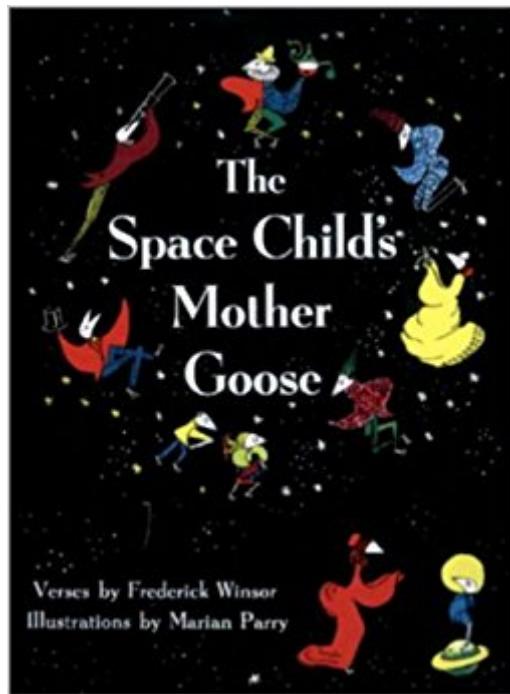


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The Space Child's Mother Goose



Synopsis

A witty collection of 1950s Space Age poetry for the scientific minded individual, accompanied by unusual black white line drawings.

Book Information

Hardcover: 92 pages

Publisher: Purple House Press; 1st edition (August 15, 2001)

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 69 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

...quirky, long out-of-print classic. Winsor's rhyming verses bring a wide variety of scientific theories, thought, and spirit to life. -- BookSense.com Daily Pick on July 24th, 2001 Books That Most Often Brought A Smile To Our Face: The Space Child's Mother Goose,just plain, quirky fun. --

Publishers Weekly

Only a few years ago [1950s] we walked on solid earth. Today we whirl through space. Space is big. It is not cozy. But with these verses and drawings... cheerfulness breaks in. Suddenly, science seems merry. And space begins, with the rhyme on page 1, to feel a little more like home.

Rubber-band mathematics, telekenisis, Moebius strips and Klein bottles, multi-dimensional space-folds, a model of a scientific theory, postulates and relative time frames would not seem to be material suitable for children, but this slim book will quickly disabuse you of that idea. This book is a marvelous re-working of the old Mother Goose rhymes, updated to today's scientifically oriented world. I first read this book just after it was published, when I was about eleven years old, and was immediately captivated. It made no difference that I didn't understand some of the terms being used. The thing that caught me was the skill with which these modern-day and science-fictional items

were folded into those well known rhymes, how well they fit and gave new, quite twisted, and in many cases hysterically funny meaning to them. Reading them today, these verses are still just as funny, if not more so than I found them to be in my youth, as I now can catch the fact that Winsor buried many sly references to Greek literature, outmoded scientific theories, and even satire about academic politics within their brief lines. My favorite along this latter line is 'The Theory that Jack Built', which contains a fatal flaw, hidden by mummary, obfuscation, and bells and whistles, which all gets blown away when the Space Child presses the 'Go' button. The illustrations are just as marvelous, and do much to help someone who might not completely understand the scientific terms to see just what is being referenced, while being very individualistic in style and maintaining the humorous tone of the whole book. Along with these visual aids, there are often 'definitions' at the bottom of the page, some even more abstruse than the item being defined, but just as funny. Don't forget to read the 'Answers' at the back of the book, which in addition to some appropriate real definitions, also provide some rather unique explanations of some of the terms used in this book, including one which takes a viscous dig at Congress. Give this one to your son or daughter, but not till you've read it yourself. You might get a few questions, and there might be a few puzzled frowns, but I'd almost guarantee you'll also be the recipient of some laughs and smiles. -- Reviewed by Patrick Shepherd (hyperpat)

The best way I can describe this book is if you're familiar with Data's "Ode To Spot", this book is very similar. The only difference being that it uses a space/physics perspective to put a new spin on the classic Mother Goose rhymes. Amazingly fun to read and get a laugh from! It provides great enjoyment to read them over and over again. I bought this for my 3 year old thinking it would be more focused on younger children, but it's really meant for an older child of around 8 to adult. Here are a couple of examples: "Flappity, Floppity, Flip! The Mouse on the Mobius Strip. The Strip revolved, The Mouse dissolved in a chronodimensional skip." and my favorite: "Little Jack Horner Sits in a corner Extracting cube roots to infinity, An assignment for boys That will minimize noise And produce a more peaceful vicinity." Great book that I'll save for my kids when they get older so they can enjoy it just as much as I do. Great purchase!

So I got this book for my three-year-old thinking it would just be a rhyming sort of book concerning some of the more broadly understood concepts about space (e.g. "the sun is a star, and it's out there quite far" and so on) but was greatly pleased to see that this was not the case. It's certainly a more stimulating alternative to the usual children's rhyming stories. It's a complex, lyrical and

entertaining discussion of several branches of physics and academia that both my little one and I enjoy. It contains lots of expansive concepts and extraordinary words, which, combined with the whimsical art and writing style make for not only a fun read, but also some interesting learning opportunities that are currently comprised of discovering new words and sounds and sophisticated sentence structure, but I'm certain will blossom to a lot of creative and interpretive thinking.

A true joy for a science nerd/former hippie chick and space(d) child like me. I still have the paperback copy I bought in the sixties, but I decided to add the hardcover version to my library. You don't have to be a kid to enjoy this book, but it helps if you never quite grew up.

Had this as a child. Clever and fun.

Nerdy moms and kids will love this book. Very fun and cute to read.

Nursery rhymes are rhythmic, easy to remember and nonsensical. These rhymes are rhythmic, easy to remember and chock full of scientific vocabulary. Expose your kids to math and quantum physics while they are too young to think it's boring. This book is charming and adorable. The drawings are as cool as any Dr. Suess. Kids will love this, and you will love reading it with them.

These nursery rhymes are very abstract science and engineering-based writings. Very whimsical. Even for technical people there will be many words that are unfamiliar but there are good, funny foot notes frequently. The pictures are crazy looking and interesting. My 3 year old daughter really likes it but older kids will like it too, and it will introduce topics like space flight, computers, quantum mechanics, and physics in a funny way.

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