

# Mother Raven Nursery Rhymes



Written by Peter Redvers  
Illustrated by Don Harney

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## AN OLD WOMAN

There was an old woman  
Who lived in a tent,  
Her children had left her  
Her money was spent;  
She walked in the bush  
And checked all her snares,  
She cooked up some rabbit  
And kept saying her prayers.



# BWAA, BWAA, BLACK MOOSE

Bwaa, bwaa, black moose,  
Have you any fat?  
Yes sir, yes sir,  
Three packsacks.

One for your grandma,  
One for your aunts,  
And one for the skinny boy  
Who falls through his pants.

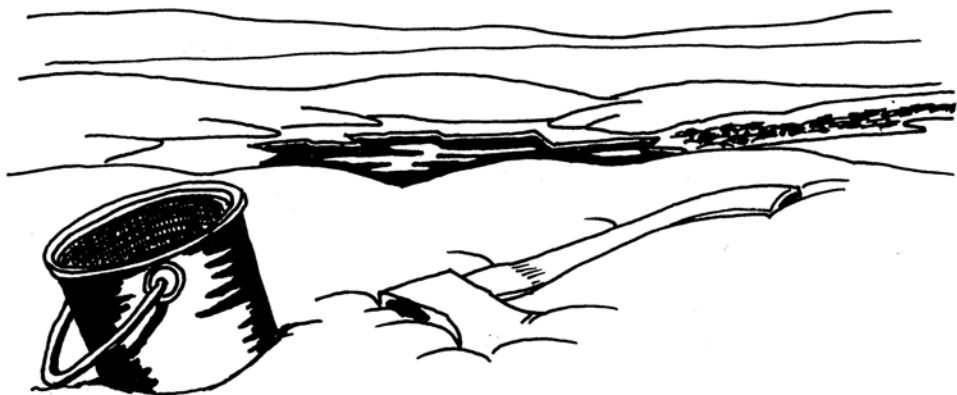
Bwaa, bwaa, black moose,  
Have you any fat?  
Yes sir, yes sir,  
Three packsacks.



## JACK AND JILL

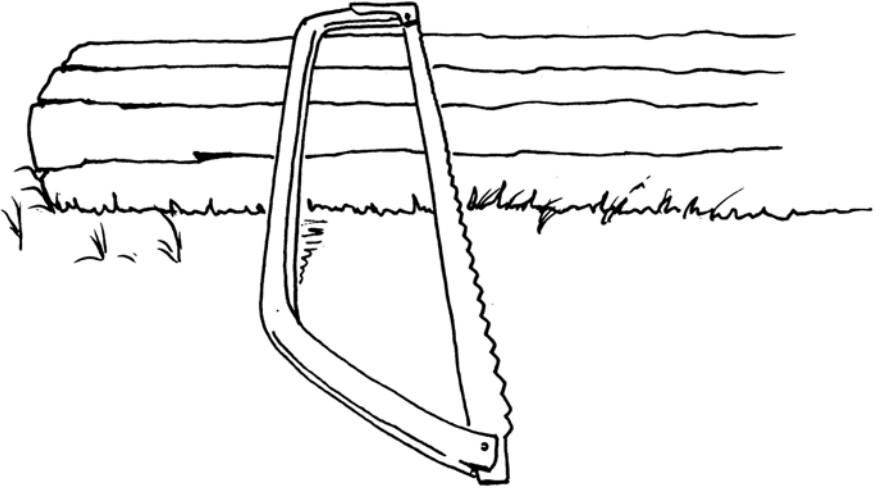
Jack and Jill chopped through the ice  
To fetch a pail of water,  
The ice was thin  
And Jack fell in  
And Jill came sliding after.

Then up they popped  
And home they hopped  
Before their bodies froze,  
Jack caught a chill  
And got quite ill  
And Jill lost all her toes.



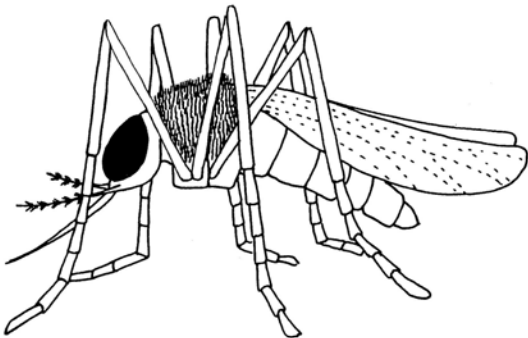
## SWEDE SAW

Swede saw, ravens caw,  
Johnny cuts wood for an elder,  
He won't get a lickin' today  
Because he is such a good helper.



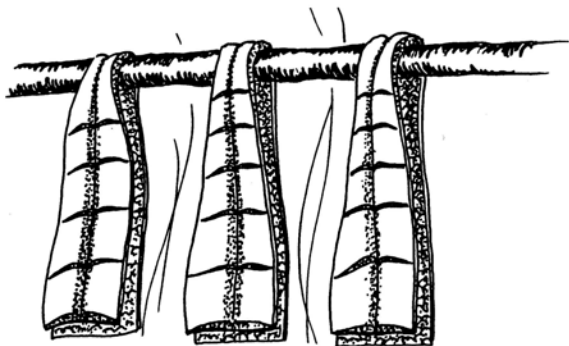
## BUGS

Bugs, bugs, go away,  
Don't come back again this way,  
Summer's here, we want to play.



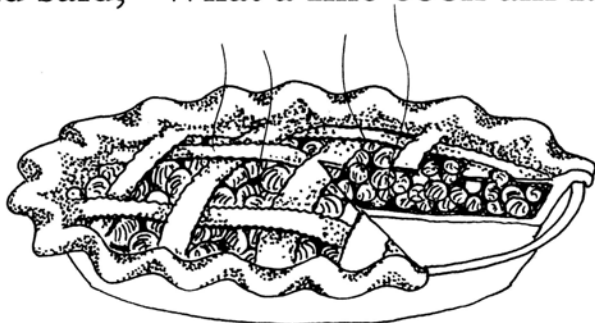
## PETER, PETER

Peter, Peter, dryfish eater,  
Had a wife and liked to please her,  
He took her to his smoke-house shed,  
And there they wintered, quite well fed.



## LITTLE MISS DEEDEE

Little Miss Deedee  
Sat in a teepee  
Eating a gooseberry pie,  
She stuck out her tongue  
And licked up a crumb  
And said, "What a fine cook am I."



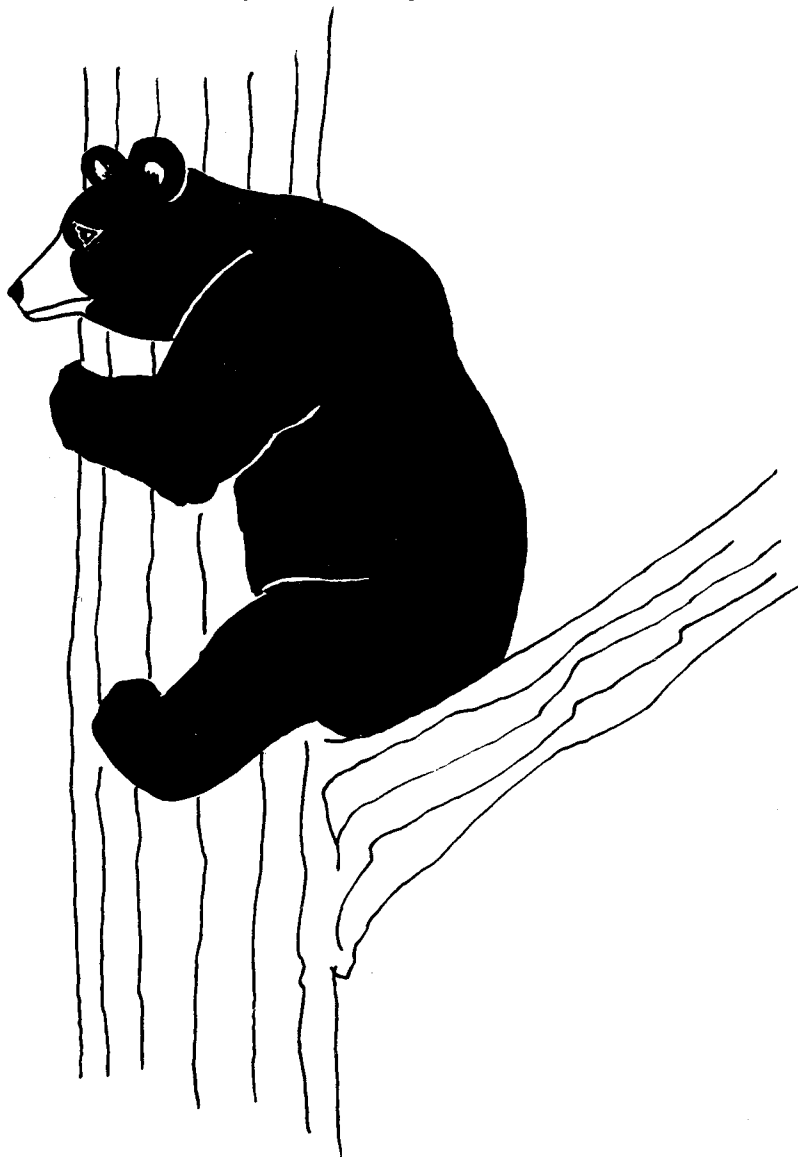
## IT'S SNOWING

It's snowing, it's blowing,  
The old man is groaning,  
There is no heat  
On the outhouse seat  
And he has to go there in the morning.



# HICKORY, DICKORY, DEE

Hickory, dickory, dee,  
A bear climbed up a tree,  
When he heard a sound  
The bear jumped down,  
Hickory, dickory, dee.



# FLO

Flo went to her cupboard  
In her old Mother Hubbard \*  
To fetch her lead dog a fish,  
But a weasel was there  
As fat as a bear  
So the dog licked an empty dish.



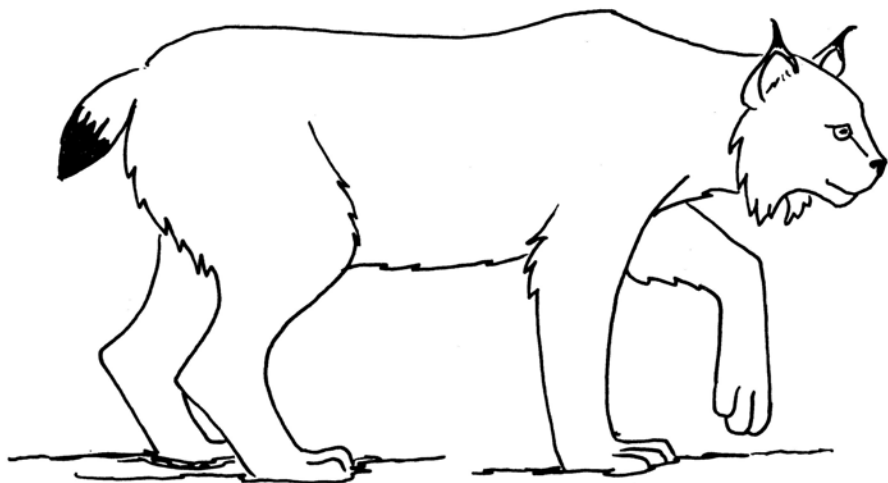
\* A Mother Hubbard is a pullover-style of northern parka.

## MARY

Mary had a little lynx,  
Its fur was soft and fine,  
And everywhere that Mary went,  
That lynx was close behind.

It walked with her to school one day,  
The teacher was not pleased,  
The children thought it was such fun,  
The lynx was chased and teased.

Mary took her lynx and ran,  
She cried the whole way home,  
She took the lynx back to the bush,  
And that's where he now roams.



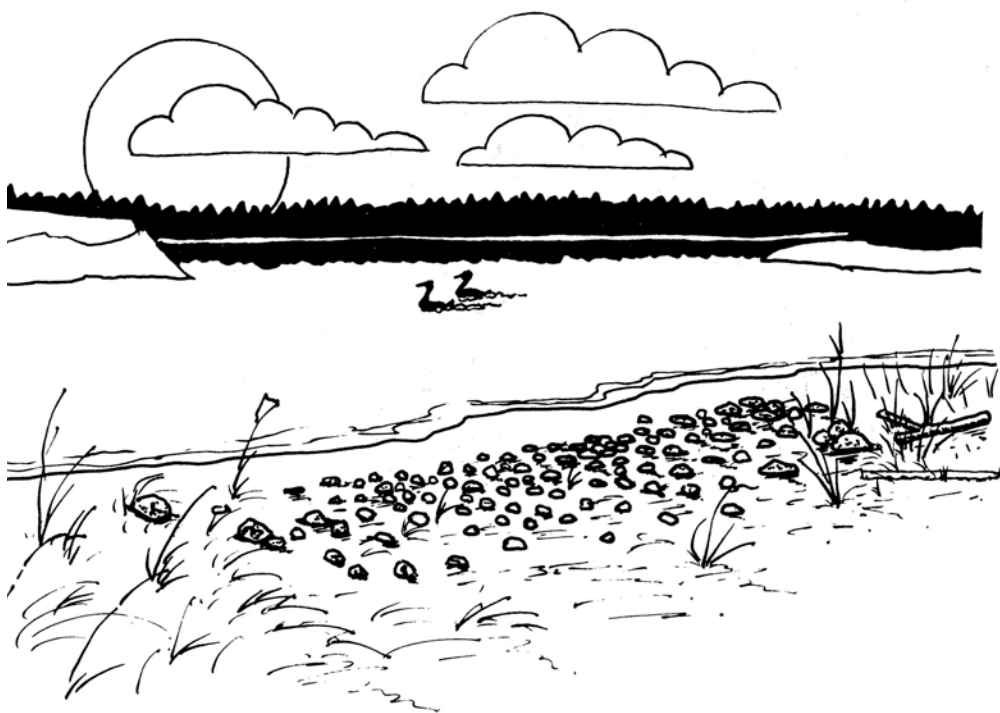
## LITTLE MISS MOOSEHUMP

Little Miss Moosehump  
Sat on a tree stump  
Eating some tea and bannock,  
But a raven flew near  
And cawed in her ear –  
Caw! Caw! –  
And caused poor Miss Moosehump  
to panic!



## PICKING PEBBLES

Picking pebbles from along the lakeshore,  
Watch them shine like a fish's eye,  
Throw them higher  
Watch the clouds fly,  
Throw them further  
Watch the geese swim,  
Throw them harder  
This is good fun,  
Picking pebbles from along the lakeshore.



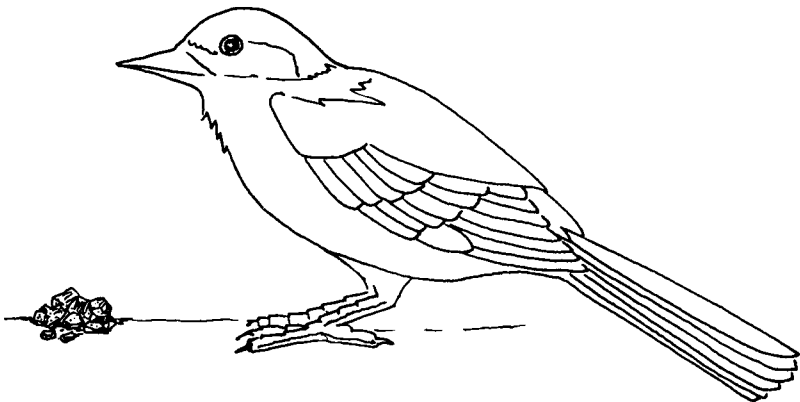
# WHISKYJACK

Whiskyjack, Whiskyjack,  
Up in the sky,  
Fly down beside me  
I know you're not shy.

Whiskyjack, Whiskyjack,  
Perched on the pine,  
Come even closer...  
Be a friend of mine.

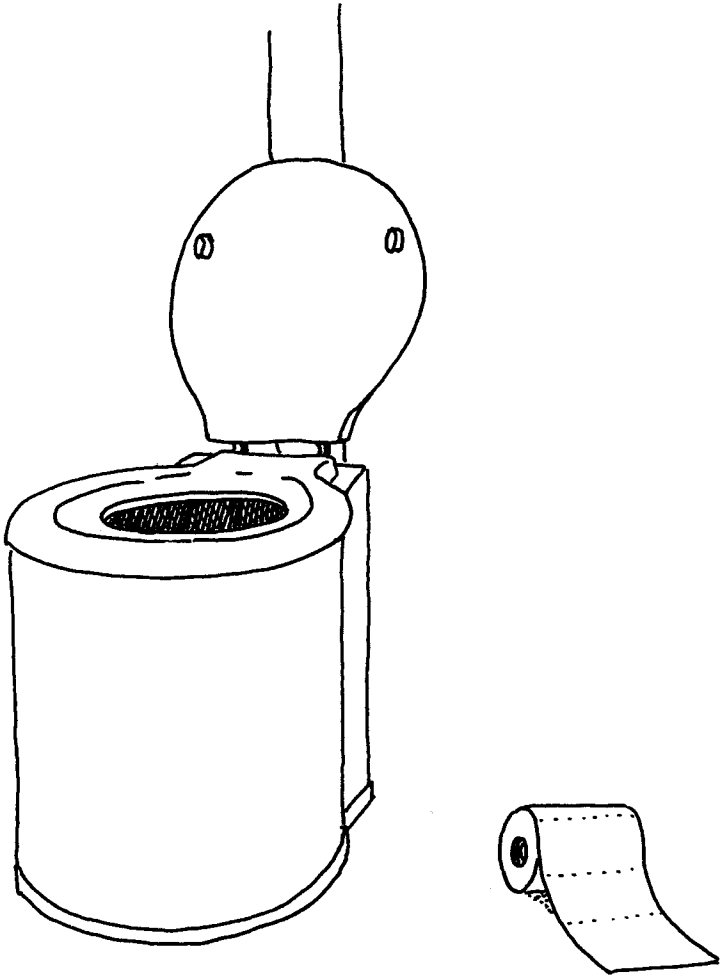
Whiskyjack, Whiskyjack,  
Hopping so near,  
The bread in my hand  
Will lessen your fear.

Whiskyjack, Whiskyjack,  
You've tickled my palm,  
With bread in your beak  
Now fly away home.



## TOM, TOM

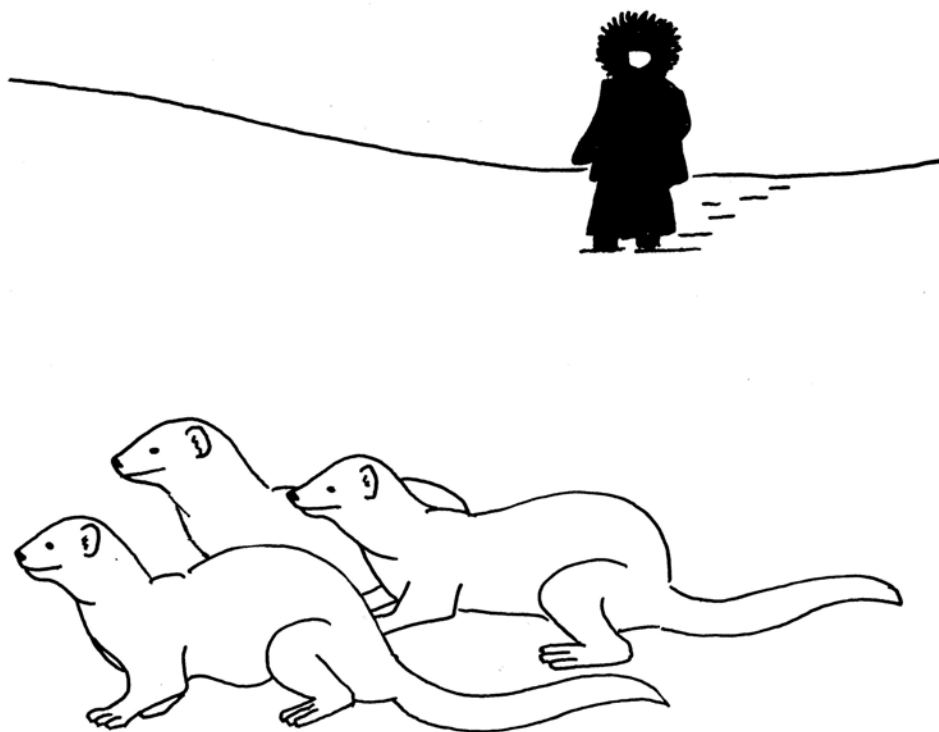
Tom, Tom, the hunter's son,  
Stole some meat and away he run,  
The meat was stale,  
His gut was frail,  
So Tom went running to the honey pail.\*



\* A honey pail is a bucket used indoors as a toilet.

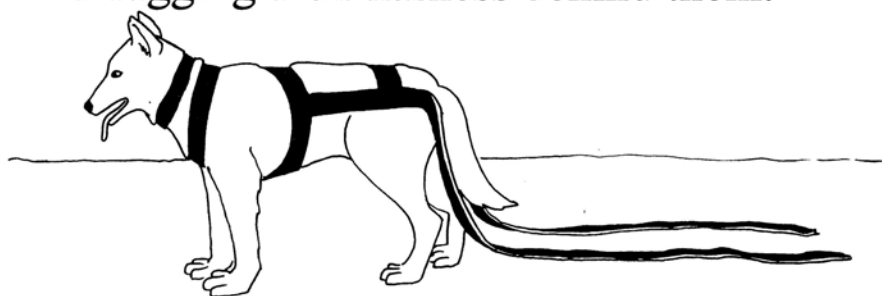
## THREE PRIME MINK

Three prime mink,  
Three prime mink,  
Run through the snow,  
Run through the snow,  
They all run away from the trapper's wife  
To save their fur from a skinning knife,  
Have you ever seen such a sight in your life  
As three prime mink.



## JOE

While hauling logs, Joe lost his dogs,  
And couldn't get home without them,  
So he boiled some fat,  
And they came back,  
Dragging their harness behind them.



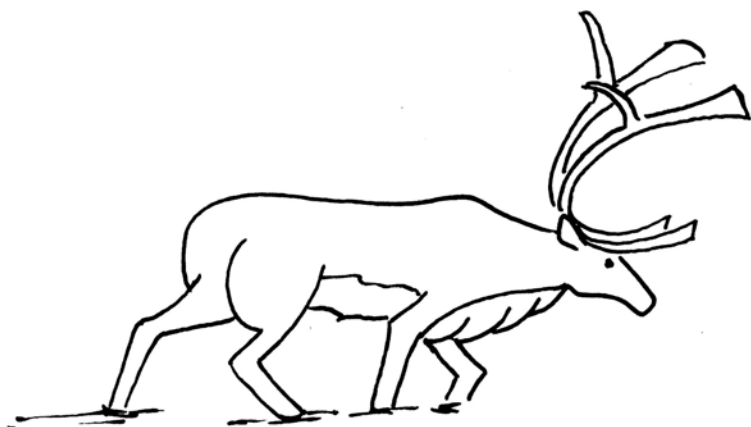
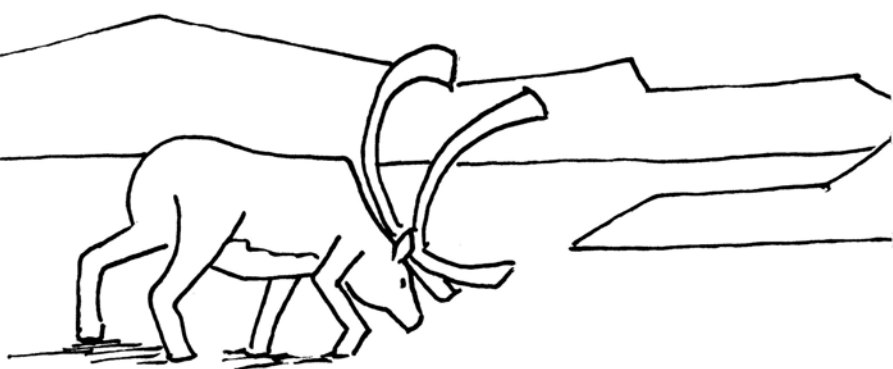
## HUMPTY, DUMPTY

Humpty Dumpty fell in the snow,  
The temperature was forty below,  
And all of the nurses  
And all of his friends  
Couldn't get Humpty to warm up again.



## RIDE A DOGSLED

Ride a dogsled to Snowdrift and back  
To see caribou migrate on the big lake,  
Frost on their antlers  
And ice on their hooves,  
There's nothing so lovely  
As when the herd moves.



# JACK

Jack is healthy,  
So is Pete,  
They both eat fish  
And wild meat.



## SING A SONG OF SIXTY

Sing a song of sixty  
A snowflake in your eye,  
Four and twenty ravens  
Baked in a pie;

When the pie was opened  
The birds flew in the air,  
What a truly northern dish  
To set before the mayor.

The mayor was in his office  
Counting out his votes,  
His wife was in the kitchen  
Eating boiled oats;

Their son was in the front yard  
Fixing his old sleigh,  
The ravens grabbed the garbage can  
And with it flew away.



Peter Redvers lives in Hay River, Northwest Territories, with his wife, Clara, and four children, Nicole, Jennifer, Kelvin, and Tunchai.

Don Harney lives in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, with his wife and partner, Margo, and children Kami and Christopher. He owns and operates a graphic art, sign and screen printing business in the community.

### **In this book...**

From “Bwaa, Bwaa, Black Moose” to “Mary Had a Little Lynx”, traditional nursery rhymes are rewritten to reflect real and whimsical northern experience. Two brand new rhymes are included.

### **To parents...**

Nursery rhymes continue to be a valuable aid to early language development. And they are so much fun to read!