

Classic Poetry Series

Beatrix Potter
- poems -

Publication Date:

2012

Publisher:

Poemhunter.com - The World's Poetry Archive

Beatrix Potter(28 July 1866 – 22 December 1943)

Helen Beatrix Potter was born in 1866, in South Kensington, London. Her father was a wealthy investor. Potter lived a secure childhood at home, with her younger brother Bertram. She was taught by governesses, and learned reading by Sir Walter Scott's novels. At age fifteen, she began a diary, and invented a code to write in it. This she continued till the age of thirty. It was decoded by the engineer Leslie Linde, and after seven years of deciphering, it was published.

In the 1890's, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit," and some other short animal stories, originally written to amuse the sickly child of one of her governesses, after first being rejected, were published. They brought her immediate recognition. Up till 1913, she continued to write her animal stories and illustrate them with water-colour. Her books portray animals wearing clothing, but otherwise, she did treat her animal or human characters realistically, without sentiment, imaginatively, but clearly. Among her stories there are a few poems, as well. Their simple humor had appealed to children and adults alike since their first publication.

Eventually her writing career began to pine, and she left writing almost entirely to marry William Heelis, a solicitor. Her eyesight began to fail as well. But she wrote one last book, "The Tale of Little Pig Robinson."

Though Potter wrote once in an article, "Thank goodness, my education was neglected," she had great interest in science and nature (as is shown in her writings) and developed a theory on the germination of fungus spores, which were burned during the bombing of London in World War II.

She died in Sawrey, Lancashire, in December 22 of 1943. Her home at the Lake District farm is open to the public, and she left several thousands of acres to the National Trust. Annually, her writings are broadcasted around the world.

Bow, Wow, Wow

Bow, wow, wow!

Whose dog art thou?

"I'm little Tom Tinker's dog,

Bow, wow, wow!"

Beatrix Potter

Cecily Parsley

CECILY PARSLEY

lived in a pen,
And brewed good ale
for gentlemen;

GENTLEMEN came
every day,
Till Cecily Parsley
ran away.

Beatrix Potter

Goosey, Goosey, Gander

GOOSEY, goosey, gander,
Whither will you wander?
Upstairs and downstairs,
And in my lady's chamber!

Beatrix Potter

Ninny Nanny Netticoat

Ninny Nanny Netticoat,
In a white petticoat,
With a red nose, --
The longer she stands,
The shorter she grows.

Beatrix Potter

This Pig Went To Market

THIS pig went to market;
This pig stayed at home;

This pig had a bit of meat;
And this pig had none;

This little pig cried
Wee! wee! wee!
I can't find my way home.

Beatrix Potter

Three Blind Mice

Three blind mice, three blind mice,
See how they run!
They all run after the farmer's wife,
And she cut off their tails with a carving knife,
Did ever you see such a thing in your life
As three blind mice!

Beatrix Potter

We Have A Little Garden

WE have a little garden,
A garden of our own,
And every day we water there
The seeds that we have sown.

WE love our little garden,
And tend it with such care,
You will not find a faded leaf
Or blighted blossom there.

Beatrix Potter