

# MARY'S LITTLE ANAGRAM

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Mary and her little lamb were lipogrammed in August 1969, univocalized in August 1986, and subjected to a variety of other logological indignities in November 1988. Here are six more ways in which their story can be tortured, taken from my Word Row article in the January 1977 issue of the British magazine Games & Puzzles. See if you can figure out each modus operandi before reading the explanation at the end of the article.

## 1. MARY HAD A HOMOLITERAL LAMB

Mary had a baby lamb,  
As pale as frost her fur;  
Whenever Mary ventured forth,  
That lamb accompanied her.

She went along to school one time  
(This was against the rule);  
The children laughed and clapped their hands--  
Lambs should stay out of school.

## 2. MARY HAD A HETEROLITERAL LAMB

Mary owned a tiny ewe;  
Its fleece was much like snow.  
But everywhere big Mary went,  
Small ewe did surely go.

It came to class one day in May,  
Despite a rule "No ewe";  
Alas, the class did jump with glee  
To have young lamb on view.

## 3. MARY HAD A PANGRAMMATIC LAMB

Mary had a little lamb  
With fleece extremely white;  
Instead of grazing, all alone,  
The lamb kept her in sight.

It followed her to school one day,  
Which was against the rule;  
The children thought it quite a joke  
To view a lamb in school.

## 4. MARY HAD A NON-REPETITIVE LAMB

Mary had a little lamb;  
 Its fleece was white as snow.  
 But everywhere that she did walk  
 This pet would also go.

It followed into class one day,  
 Which broke her teacher's rule;  
 The children laughed and clapped their hands  
 To see an ewe in school.

## 5. MARY HAD A TRANSPOSED LAMB

A girl once kept a tiny sheep,  
 Widely famed for whiteness:  
 This pet would dog her every step,  
 No certain sigh of brightness.

'Twas viewed, the pest, one day in class  
 By impish children there;  
 Kids laugh to see pets, goofing off,  
 Weren't trying--open, err!

## 6. MARY HAD AN AUTOMYNORCAGRAMMATICAL LAMB

Mary acquired ram yesterday--  
 A coat quite unblemished.  
 It romps each day,  
 Runs alongside Mary.

Yes, each school teacher expels rams  
 Daintily accompanying youths.  
 Although children often amused,  
 Teacher quite unimpressed.

List of the composing methods:

1. Each word in the poem has at least one letter in common with the following word.
2. Each word in the poem has no letters in common with the following word.
3. Every letter of the alphabet appears at least once in the poem.
4. No word is repeated in the poem.
5. The letters used in the first stanza have been rearranged to form the second stanza (composed by the late James Rambo of Palo Alto, California).
6. The initial letters of each word replicate the first 6+ words of the poem.