

MARY HAD FOUR LITTLE LAMBS

ANIL

Perth, Australia

Lipograms and other constrained-writing parodies of 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' have appeared in Word Ways often in the past, by Ross Eckler, Dave Morice, myself and others. But none very recently. Here are four new ones.

The first is a 'universe' or single rhyme form like *Silly Animal Rhymes*, of four quatrains. It only loosely parallels the original Mary story, with substitutes for each of the particulars. (Rub-a-dub is a chastening taunt for naughtiness.)

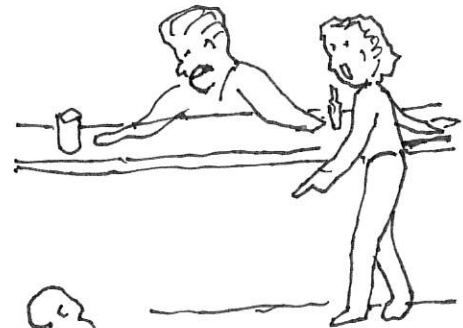
1. Mary Had a Little Brother

Mark's pet CUB, a BEAR called Bub,
followed him around the hub
and one day into the pub,
creating a real hubbub.

Patrons there said 'Rub-a-dub,
boy, you've made an awful flub.
He's no member of the club.
We don't want BeelzeBub!'

Thus went on the heckler's drub,
'We must all give him a snub.
Send him back into the scrub!
Meanwhile thru a washing tub!'

Mark's tears flowed at this cruel rub.
'Even though Bub eats my grub,
there for me is just no sub.
Up yours, Human Racist club!'



The second admits no words of less than nine letters. It's much truer to the original story than #1. Inevitably it's cumbersome and not an easy read. (An earthspin periodicity is a day.)

2. Mary Had a Little Dictionary

Merrymary possessed individual miniature Adolescent Potential Bellwether.
Adolescent's epidermal outgrowths resembled subfreezing precipitation.

Furthermore, everywhere Merrymary travelled,
Adolescent necessarily accompanied.

Particular earthspin periodicity pursuantly,
Adolescent accompanied Merrymary
schoolward, violating regulations.

Witnessing Adolescent's institutionalisation
generated assembled generational education
candidates' merriment, boogeying.



The third is a homophonic nonsense rereading of the story verbatim.

3. Mary Had a Hearing Problem

Mayor, he head a lid (*dull ham!*),
hits, flees what's wide ass, no?
Endeavour, re-wear dot; Mayor, re-wend;
Dull Ham, watch your tug, oh?
Id fall loader deuce cool wand, hey,
witches ugh hints day rue'll.
Id may Dutch hill drain lay if endplay
deuce heal ambit's cool.



The fourth is an effort to tell the story with only the left-hand half of the keyboard, with debatable success.

4. Mary Had Half a Keyboard

Sara targeted grazer care.
Grazer wears 'freezer dress' gear.
Grazer 'weds' Sara, targets Sara's wades/waxes.
Grazer gets at Sara's Grade Ed. set—bad fare!
Grade Ed. crew rave as see grazer at Ed. set.

