## History of riddles not so sweet

The very term "nursery rhymes" implies these little verses were for children, and many are indeed nothing more than simple riddles, counting songs or junigles to accompany the games and dances of little children. But the sings song rhythm of the nursery rhyme easily lends sizel to teasing chants, and it seems guite safe to say that many of these rhymes were not originally written for children in fact, research has shown that in their original wording, some were

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nildren.
IN THE DAYS of King Henry VIII
f England, there were some dishon-

IN THE DAYS of King Henry VIII of England, here were some dishonest dealings taking place. It seems that a steward named John Horner was sent to London with a pie for the king's Christmas dimer Baked in this pie were the title deeds to several estates in Somernstehire. John (Jack) Horner "stuck his humb" in the pie before he got to London. In other words, he stole the king's "plum" which was the land in question. This is the tale that is told

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Little Jack Horner sat in the cor-ner
Esting his Christman pie:
He stack in his thumb
And pulled out a plann.
And cried. "What a bright bay
am 1."
This legend becomes more believ-able when one understands, that jewels, letters and all sorts of unikely

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A RARE, OLD recipe book tells how to make a pie with live birds in it so that they may fly out when the pie is cut. This probably accounts for the famous rhyme:

amous rhyme:
Sing a song of stapence, pockciful of rye.
Four and twenty blockbirds
were basked into a pie.
When the pie was opered, the
blirds began to sing.
Wasn't that a dainty dish to set
before the king?
Listen to this one:
Oh, Pearlin Jean.
Oh, Pearlin Jean.
Oh, Pearlin Jean.
She hassuts the house.
She hassuts the house.
And glowers at me
With her wid-cat een.

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