

Title		<i>The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon</i>			
Author (Text & Illustration)		Mini Grey			
Publication Year		2007	Publisher	Red Fox	
Translated Versions		None			
Words	3,027	Pages	32	YLLevel	N/A
Synopsis					
<p>On the inside cover of the book is text from the Mother Goose verse: "Hey diddle diddle, / The Cat and the fiddle, / The cow jumped over the moon; / The little dog laughed / To see such fun¹," On a night when the full moon is shining, Dish and Spoon hear this nursery rhyme played on a record player and fall in love. Lured by the moonlight, they dive off the white cliffs of the Strait of Dover and elope together. With Spoon on board, Dish wobbles to New York, the city of freedom. In the US, they join a traveling troupe and gain popularity for their acrobatics. Their celebrity life is short-lived, and in the blink of an eye, they lost their fortune. The two fall into financial trouble and are reduced to robbing a bank to repay their debts. Dish breaks into pieces and Spoon goes to jail. Upon returning to his hometown after serving a 25-year sentence, Spoon finds that it has been completely transformed and that he has no place to go. When Spoon visits an antique shop...</p> <p>Note 1: There are more than one version of this rhyme. "Hey diddle diddle, / The Cat and the fiddle, / The cow jumped over the moon; / The little dog laughed / To see such fun (or Sport).</p>					
Introduction					
<p>The rhyme “Hey Diddle Diddle” quoted in <i>The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon</i> is one of the most well-known among the Mother Goose rhymes, and has been cited in countless literature and films. Like many other nursery rhymes, its content is nonsense. They were popular among kids in those times because of their rhyming sounds accompanied by pleasant rhythms. These were also lovingly illustrated by many excellent illustrators such as Walter Crane and Kate Greenaway. Incidentally, these fascinating picture books are in the Tsurumi University Library Rare Book Collection, which the author is affiliated with. Please note that they are occasionally exhibited in the university library or at museums outside the university. If you have the opportunity to see them, please do so.</p>					

In addition to Mother Goose, you can catch a glimpse of experience American culture through the following topics:

- Immigration (the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island)
- Roaring Twenties
- Consumer Culture (Tiffany, Bloomingdales, Macy's box on which a Rolls-Royce-like luxury car is drawn)
- The Great Depression

Dish and Spoon, the main characters in this picture book remind me of the duo in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969) and the “Wanted” sign brings this and other Western movies to mind.

The moon in this nursery rhyme, especially the full moon, is said to have the mysterious power to lead people astray. A little knowledge about these cultural elements interspersed throughout the story would make for a more complex and interesting reading experience.

Notes

A portion of this text is a substantially revised version of the draft frontispiece, "Seeking Inspirational Picture Books" [Ehon o Sagashini] [2] from *English Teachers' Magazine*, May 2019 (Vol. 68, No.2), TAISHUKAN Publishing Co., Ltd.

(Text: Yuka Kusanagi)