

PUZZLES & BRAIN TEASERS.

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[I Saw A Fishpond All On Fire. Anon. Directions.](#) Print out. Read the poems.

NOTE: If you read the lines as they are written, they become a set of absurdities. No one has ever seen "A fishpond all on fire," or "A house bow to a squire." But if you put a dash in each line after the noun, then everything will make sense. "I saw a fishpond. All on fire I saw a house," and so on.

[I Saw A Fishpond All On Fire](#)

I saw a fishpond all on fire.
I saw a house bow to a squire.
I saw a parson twelve feet high.
I saw a cottage near the sky.
I saw a balloon made of lead.
A saw a coffin drop down dead.
I saw two sparrows run a race.
I saw two horses making lace.
I saw a girl just like a cat.
I saw a kitten wear a hat.
I saw a man who saw these too,
And said though strange they all were true.

- Anon.

[The Oxford Dictionary Of Nursery Rhymes.](#)

Note: "These lines, which are to be understood two ways, are in the manner of 'I saw a peacock with a fiery tail' (q.v.). They were orally collected by a contributor to Folk-Lore in 1889;" p.201, The Oxford Dictionary Of Nursery Rhymes. Read the second version below to get the meaning. See "I Saw A Peacock With A Fiery Tail," p.92.

2nd Version:

I Saw A Fishpond All On Fire (First Line).

I saw a fishpond.
All on fire, I saw a house.
Bow to a squire, I saw a parson.
Twelve feet high, I saw a cottage.
Near the sky, I saw a balloon.
Made of lead, I saw a coffin.
Drop down dead, I saw two sparrows.
Run a race, I saw two horses.
Making lace, I saw a girl.
Just like a cat, I saw a kitten.
Wear a hat, I saw a man
Who saw these too,
And said though strange they all were true.

- Anon. The Oxford Book of Nursery Rhymes.