

I Saw A Peacock With A Fiery Tail. 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 peacock with a fiery tail," or "A blazing comet drop down hail." But if you put a dash in each line after the noun, then everything will make sense. "I saw a peacock. - With a fiery tail I saw a blazing comet," and so on.

I Saw A Peacock With A Fiery Tail (First Line)

I saw a peacock with a fiery tail.
I saw a blazing comet drop down hail.
I saw a cloud with ivy circles round.
I saw a sturdy oak creep on the ground.
I saw a pismire swallow up a whale.
I saw a raging sea brim full of ale.
I saw a Venice glass sixteen foot deep.
I saw a well full of men's tears that weep.
I saw their eyes all in a flame of fire.
I saw a house as big as the moon and higher.
I saw the sun even in the midst of night.
I saw the man that saw this wondrous sight.

- Anon.

The Oxford Dictionary Of Nursery Rhymes.

Note: "'So may the omission of a few commas effect a wonder in the imagination' says the poet-guide of *Come Hither*. These lines are perhaps now best known to adult anthologies, though around 1855 they were said to be 'still a favorite with schoolboys.' Read the second version below to get the meaning.

2nd Version:

I Saw A Peacock With A Fiery Tail (First Line)

I saw a peacock.
With a fiery tail, I saw a blazing comet.
Drop down hail, I saw a cloud.
With ivy circles round, I saw a sturdy oak.
Creep on the ground, I saw a pismire.
Swallow up a whale, I saw a raging sea.
Brim full of ale, I saw a Venice glass.
Sixteen foot deep, I saw a well.
Full of men's tears that weep, I saw their eyes.
All in a flame of fire, I saw a house.
As big as the moon and higher, I saw the sun.
Even in the midst of night, I saw the man.
That saw this wondrous sight.

- Anon.

The Oxford Book of Nursery Rhymes.