STORYLAND CLASSICS

FREE PRINTABLE ACTIVITY PACK

Sing a Song of Sixpence

A traditional Mother Goose nursery rhyme



For ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K through 2nd grade

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✦ THE RHYME ✦

Sing a Song of Sixpence

A Mother Goose rhyme first printed in the 1700s, with a royal surprise baked inside



Sing a song of sixpence,
A pocket full of rye;
Four and twenty blackbirds,
Baked in a pie.

When the pie was opened,
The birds began to sing;
Wasn't that a dainty dish,
To set before the king?

The king was in his counting-house,
Counting out his money;
The queen was in the parlour,
Eating bread and honey.

The maid was in the garden,
Hanging out the clothes,
When down came a blackbird
And pecked off her nose.

Listen along. Scan to watch the Storyland Classics read-aloud, or visit *storylandclassics.com/sixpence*. Say the rhyme together until children can join in on every line.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. How many blackbirds were baked in the pie? (Four and twenty is another way to say 24!)
2. What happened when the pie was opened?
3. Where was the king? Where was the queen? Where was the maid?
4. How do you think the king felt when the birds began to sing?

ACT IT OUT

Choose a king, a queen and a maid, and let everyone else be blackbirds hiding in a "pie" (crouched in a circle). On "When the pie was opened," the blackbirds pop up and sing!

> **Rhyme tip:** Each verse has its own little scene. Pause after each one and ask, "Who is in this part?"

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✦ COLOR IT ✦

The Royal Blackbird Pie

Color the king, the queen, the singing blackbirds and the pie. What color is the king's robe?



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✦ CUT & PASTE CRAFT ✦

Make the Royal Feast

Color the pieces and cut them out. Then paste them in the castle hall on the next page.



King



Queen



Blackbird pie



Blackbird



Blackbird



Blackbird



Blackbird

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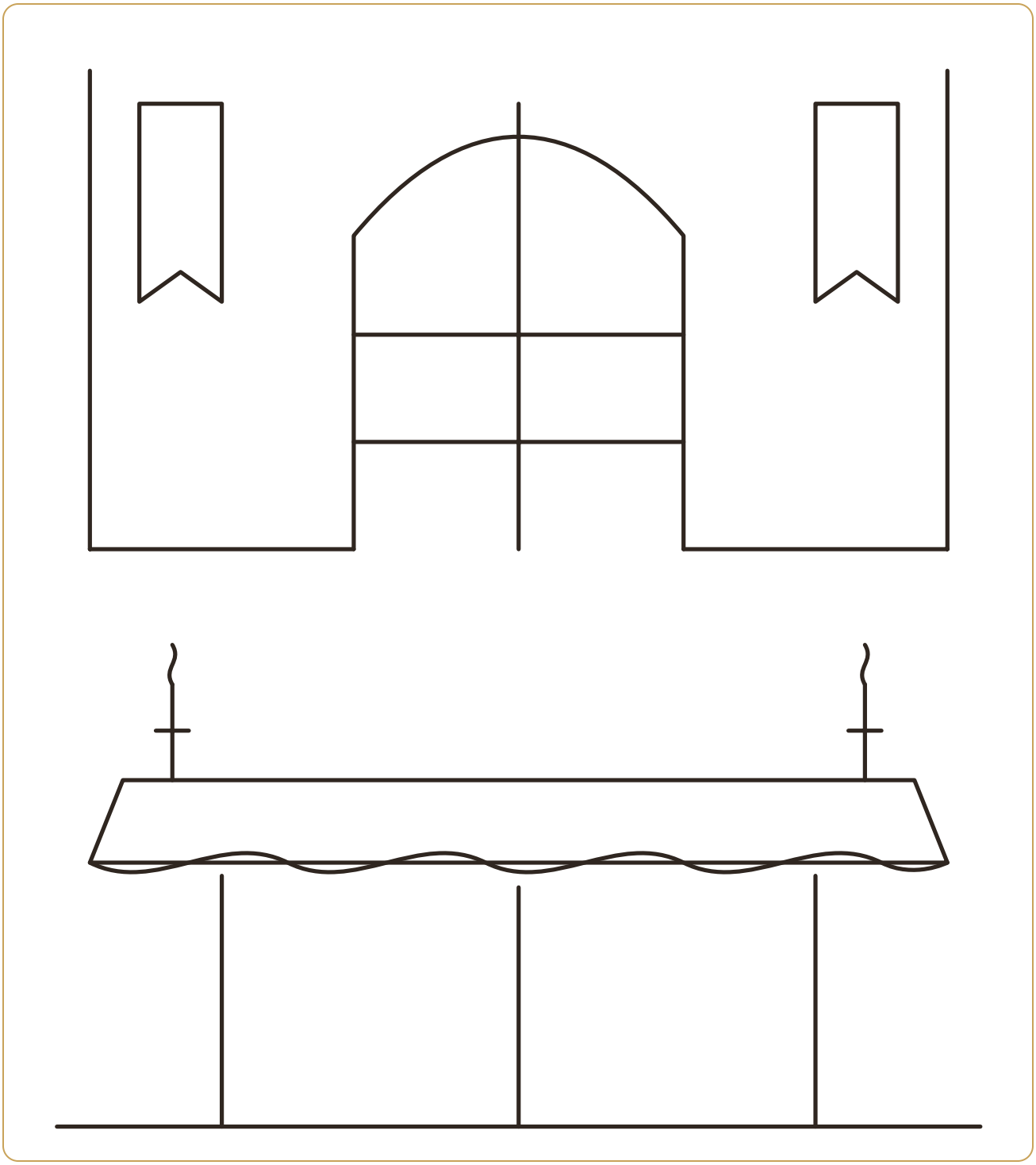
✦ CUT & PASTE CRAFT ✦

The Castle Hall

*Paste the pie **on** the table. Put the king on the **left** and the queen on the **right**. Make the blackbirds fly **above** the pie!*



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✦ READING FUN ✦

Put the Rhyme in Order

Cut out the four lines. Say the rhyme, then paste each line in the right box.

1

2

3

4

✂ - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - cut on the dotted lines - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -



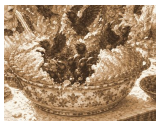
The king was in his counting-house, counting out his money;



Four and twenty blackbirds, baked in a pie.



When down came a blackbird and pecked off her nose.



When the pie was opened, the birds began to sing;

Need a hint? The picture on each strip matches that line.

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✦ RHYME TIME ✦

Words That Rhyme

Rhyming words sound the same at the end, like rye and pie, or sing and king.

1. These words are from the rhyme. Draw a line from each word to the picture that rhymes with it. *(Grown-ups: read the words aloud.)*

king	 rose
honey	 fish
nose	 bunny
dish	 ring

2. Circle the words that rhyme with *king*.

sing pie ring queen swing bird wing

3. Finish the rhyme. Write a word from the box on each line.

pie king honey nose

Baked in a _____ .

To set before the _____ ?

Eating bread and _____ .

And pecked off her _____ .

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✦ LISTEN & COUNT ✦

Count the Words

Words are the pieces of what we say. How many words can you hear?

Say each one out loud. Clap once for every word. Color one box for each clap, then write how many words you heard.

a blackbird pie

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ = ___ words

The birds began to sing.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ = ___ words

the happy king

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ = ___ words

The queen ate honey.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ = ___ words

Down came a blackbird.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ = ___ words

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✦ READY TO WRITE ✦

Pencil Warm-Ups

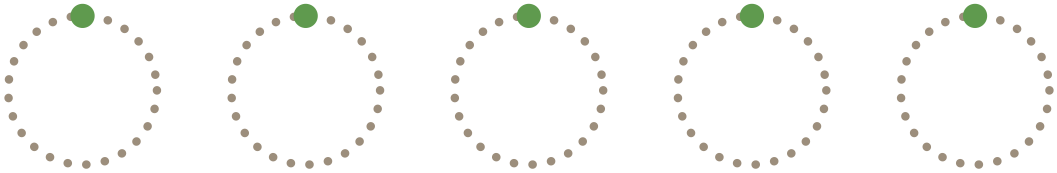
Hold your pencil with a pinch grip: thumb and pointer finger pinch, middle finger underneath.

Start at the **green dot**. Trace each dotted line with your pencil. Go from left to right, and from top to bottom.

PIE CRUST EDGE: WAVY LINES



GOLD COINS: ROUND AND ROUND



CASTLE WINDOW BARS: STRAIGHT DOWN



ROYAL CROWNS: ZIG AND ZAG



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✦ HANDWRITING ✦

Trace & Write

Practice writing words from the rhyme. Start at the top line and go down.

1. Trace over the gray letters. Then write the word on your own in the space beside it.

king

pie

sing

bird

2. Copy the line from the rhyme in your best handwriting.

Sing *a* song of sixpence,

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✦ PUZZLE TIME ✦

Word Search

Find the words from the rhyme. Words go across and down. Check off each word when you find it.

J	M	A	I	D	O	O	D	B	W
W	B	N	V	L	U	I	T	H	B
P	N	J	A	C	D	W	U	Q	B
I	O	H	G	O	J	W	I	U	E
E	S	O	K	I	N	G	B	E	L
S	E	N	L	P	O	C	K	E	T
I	M	E	E	N	N	R	T	N	N
N	Y	Y	W	U	D	W	R	Y	E
G	T	I	O	Y	H	J	O	I	T
J	U	S	I	X	P	E	N	C	E

☆ ☆ ☆

☐ Sixpence ☐ Pocket ☐ Rye ☐ Pie ☐ Sing

☐ King ☐ Queen ☐ Honey ☐ Maid ☐ Nose

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✦ FOR GROWN-UPS ✦

Answer Key

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Twenty-four (four and twenty).
2. The birds began to sing.
3. The king was in his counting-house, the queen in the parlour, the maid in the garden.
4. Answers will vary. (Surprised, happy, amazed!)

PUT THE RHYME IN ORDER

1. Four and twenty blackbirds, baked in a pie.
2. When the pie was opened, the birds began to sing;
3. The king was in his counting-house, counting out his money;
4. When down came a blackbird and pecked off her nose.

Each strip is a line from one verse, so this also puts the four verses in order.

RHYME TIME

1. king – ring, honey – bunny, nose – rose, dish – fish
2. sing, ring, swing, wing
3. pie, king, honey, nose

COUNT THE WORDS

a blackbird pie = 3, The birds began to sing. = 5, the happy king = 3, The queen ate honey. = 4, Down came a blackbird. = 4

WORD SEARCH

J	M	A	I	D	O	O	D	B	W
W	B	N	V	L	U	I	T	H	B
P	N	J	A	C	D	W	U	Q	B
I	O	H	G	O	J	W	I	U	E
E	S	O	K	I	N	G	B	E	L
S	E	N	L	P	O	C	K	E	T
I	M	E	E	N	N	R	T	N	N
N	Y	Y	W	U	D	W	R	Y	E
G	T	I	O	Y	H	J	O	I	T
J	U	S	I	X	P	E	N	C	E

BRING THE RHYME HOME

Watch the read-aloud at *storylandclassics.com/sixpence*, and find more nursery rhymes, stories, poems and free guides at **storylandclassics.com**.

Extend the fun: count out 24 paper blackbirds in groups of four, taste bread and honey, or hang paper "clothes" on a string with clothespins.

Love this free pack? Please subscribe to our YouTube channel **@StorylandClassics** to help us keep making them free for everyone! Scan the code or visit *storylandclassics.com/youtube*.

KINDERGARTEN SKILLS IN THIS PACK

- **Listening & rhyme:** recognize rhyming words; count the words in a phrase (CCSS RF.K.2, RF.K.2a)
- **Print concepts:** left-to-right, top-to-bottom tracking; put the rhyme's lines in order (RF.K.1a)
- **Pre-writing & handwriting:** pinch grip, lines, circles and diagonals, tracing and copying letters (L.K.1a)
- **Position words:** left, right, next to, in front of in the craft directions (L.K.1e)
- **Speaking & listening:** talk-about-it questions after the read-aloud (SL.K.2, RL.K.10)

These activities support kindergarten skills like those practiced in CKLA Kindergarten Skills Unit 1. Storyland Classics is not affiliated with Amplify or the Core Knowledge Foundation.

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