



# Mary Ann Hoberman

## TeachingBooks Movie Transcript

Mary Ann Hoberman, interviewed in her studio in Stamford, Connecticut on July 26, 2001.

This is a transcript of the movie available on TeachingBooks.net. It is offered here to give you a quick assessment of the program topics, as well as to enable people with auditory disabilities access to the words.

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I've always been a rhyming fiend. I write a lot of light verse and I find it very hard to get away from quite definite rhythm and rhyme. I'm a walking rhyming dictionary when I'm looking for a rhyme. To get a rhyme, I'll go... "at, bat, cat, and clat." I'll go right through.

Etymologies of words and the subtlety of what words mean and the fact that you write something and all of a sudden you'll get a rhyme and the rhyme, will throw up a whole new way of looking at things.

A true poem, I think, has to give you that shiver. That, "yes, it's never been said quite that way before."

### Nursery Rhymes

What I'm doing in these books when I take either these folk songs or children's song games is I'm expanding on a character.

*The Eensy-Weensy Spider*, she's the most endearing little creature, right? So, she just gets more and more endearing as you have her go along, this little eensy-weensy spider. Even though when children see a spider, they say "Eek, a spider!"

*Miss Mary Mack*, that spunky little girl, you know? That almost wrote itself. That, to me, is the perfect one because it really opened itself up.

*There Once Was a Man Named Michael Finnegan*. That one I had so much fun with, because you think of every single word like "fin," "wind," "sin" and they rhyme.

So, those are like puzzles that you do. You kind of set yourself this task.

***You Read To Me I'll Read To You***

The genesis of *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* is in the work of Literacy Volunteers of America. They use picture books to teach adults how to read. The parents can learn how to read this book, and it will be modeled when they read it to their children. They'll encourage their children to read it. It's like throwing a pebble into the water and it has wonderful repercussions.

It just came to me that since I usually work in rhyme, that these would be little rhymed kinds of playlettes or duets. And I thought about the layout of the page while I wrote it. I saw one voice on it here, and another voice here, and then each time they read together, the lines would be in the middle.

I'm going to read this little playlette from *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* with my husband, Norman. It's called "I Hate My Hat."

I hate my hat!  
I think it's nice.  
I hate my hat!  
You've said that twice.  
I hate my hat!  
Now that's a third.  
I hate my hat!  
I hate that word!  
You hate that word?  
What word is that?  
That word you said.  
You mean, my hat?  
No, not your hat!  
Your hat looks great.  
I like your hat.  
It's "hate" I hate.  
But not my hat?  
You don't hate that?  
Of course I don't.  
I like your hat.  
You like my hat?  
I said I do.  
I think your hat  
Looks good on you.  
You like my hat?  
I like it fine.  
I like your hat.  
Do you like mine?  
Why, yes, I do.  
It suits your head.  
Now, let's do something  
Else instead.  
Something else  
We both would like.  
Let's wear our hats

And ride a bike.

That sounds good.

We'll take a snack.

What should we do

When we get back?

Something that we

Like to do.

You read to me.

I'll read to you.

["I Hate My Hat," from *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together*, by Mary Ann Hoberman, Illustrated by Michael Emberley, Megan Tingley Books, Little, Brown and Company, 2001.]

### **Make It Fun**

I'm writing things that are fun for children to say, to memorize, and to say with each other. And while they're doing this, they'll learn to love their language. Play games with words. Look up meanings of words. Think up games with words. There's so many things to do with language. And reading, reading, reading all the time. Free time for reading. That's the best thing of all. Read to them. Have them read to you.

### **Books by Mary Ann Hoberman**

- WHOSE GARDEN IS IT? (illustrated by Jane Dyer), Harcourt Inc, 2004
- Not yet titled book about all kinds of families (illustrated by Russell Ayto), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 2003
- MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB (illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 2003
- YOU READ TO ME, I'LL READ TO YOU: VERY SHORT FAIRY TALES TO READ TOGETHER (illustrated by Michael Emberley), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 2003
- BILL GROGAN'S GOAT (illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 2002
- LOOKING BOOK, THE (illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 2002
- MARVELOUS MOUSE MAN, THE (illustrated by Laura Forman), Harcourt Inc, 2002
- RIGHT OUTSIDE MY WINDOW (illustrated by Nicholas Wilton), Mondo Press, 2002
- IT'S SIMPLE, SAID SIMON (illustrated by Meilo So), Crown Books / Random House, 2001
- MICHAEL FINNEGAN (illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 2001
- YOU READ TO ME, I'LL READ TO YOU: VERY SHORT STORIES TO READ TOGETHER (illustrated by Michael Emberley), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 2001
- EENSY-WEENSY SPIDER, THE (illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 2000
- TWO SILLIES, THE (illustrated by Lynne Cravath), Gulliver Books / Harcourt Inc, 2000
- AND TO THINK THAT WE THOUGHT WE WOULD NEVER BE FRIENDS (illustrated by Kevin Hawkes), Crown Books / Random House, 1999
- LLAMA WHO HAD NO PAJAMA, THE (illustrated by Betty Fraser), Browndeer Press / Harcourt Inc, 1998

- MISS MARY MACK (illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 1998
- ONE OF EACH (illustrated by Marjorie Priceman), Megan Tingley Books / Little, Brown and Company, 1997
- SEVEN SILLY EATERS, THE (illustrated by Marla Frazee), Gulliver Books / Harcourt Inc, 1997
- COZY BOOK, THE (illustrated by Betty Fraser), Browndeer Press / Harcourt Inc, 1995
- MY SONG IS BEAUTIFUL (illustrated by various illustrators), Little, Brown and Company, 1994
- FATHERS, MOTHERS, SISTERS, BROTHERS (illustrated by Marilyn Hafner), Joy Street / Little, Brown and Company, 1991
- FINE FAT PIG, A (illustrated by Malcah Zeldis), HarperCollins Publishers, 1991
- MR. AND MRS. MUDDLE (illustrated by Catherine O'Neill), Joy Street / Little, Brown and Company, 1988
- COZY BOOK, THE (illustrated by Tony Chen), Viking, 1982
- YELLOW BUTTER, PURPLE JELLY, RED JAM, BLACK BREAD (illustrated by Chaya Burstein), Viking, 1981
- HOUSE IS A HOUSE FOR ME, A (illustrated by Betty Fraser), Viking, 1978
- BUGS (illustrated by Victoria Chess), Viking, 1976
- I LIKE OLD CLOTHES (illustrated by Jacqueline Chwast), Alfred A. Knopf, 1976
- NUTS TO YOU AND NUTS TO ME (illustrated by Ronnie Solbert), Alfred A. Knopf, 1974
- LOOKING BOOK, THE (illustrated by Jerry Joyner), Alfred A. Knopf, 1973
- RAUCOUS AUK, THE (illustrated by Joseph Low), Viking, 1973
- LITTLE BOOK OF LITTLE BEASTS, A (illustrated by Peter Parnall), Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 1973
- NOT ENOUGH BEDS FOR THE BABIES (illustrated by Helen Spyer), Little, Brown and Company, 1965
- WHAT JIM KNEW (illustrated by Norman Hoberman), Little, Brown and Company, 1963
- HELLO AND GOOD-BY (illustrated by Norman Hoberman), Little, Brown and Company, 1959
- HOW DO I GO? (illustrated by Norman Hoberman), Little, Brown and Company, 1958
- ALL MY SHOES COME IN TWO'S (illustrated by Norman Hoberman), Little, Brown and Company, 1957

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