



The Egg Nobody Called an Egg

How an old English riddle became the world's most famous egg

A Riddle, Not a Poem

A rhyme like it appeared in print by 1797, in Samuel Arnold's *Juvenile Amusements*. It was told as a riddle, and the answer a child had to guess was simply an egg.

Source: [Wikipedia](#)

The Rhyme Never Says Egg

The verse never names an egg on purpose. Leaving it out was the whole trick of the riddle, so the listener had to work out the answer themselves.

Source: [Mental Floss](#)

Older Than The Egg Story

Long before the rhyme, humpty dumpty meant a 1690s drink of ale boiled with brandy, then by 1785 slang for a short, clumsy person. The egg came later.

Source: [Etymonline](#)

Carroll Named Him, Tenniel Drew Him

In 1871, Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass* finally called him egg-shaped outright, and John Tenniel's illustration fixed that picture in everyone's mind.

Source: [Wikipedia](#)

The Siege Engine Tale Is A Legend

One scholar guessed in 1956 that Humpty was really a wheeled siege engine used at a Civil War siege, not a cannon at all. It is a fun legend, but later scholars called it a spoof.

Source: [Mental Floss](#)

IN SHORT

Whatever Humpty really was, a good egg still deserves a soft landing on a Multan breakfast table.

References

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