

The Thingummyjig. (A different take on the story of Noah and the flood.)

This play/poem was first broadcast on BBC Schools Radio in the 1960s and has been read and performed on numerous occasions since then, much enjoyed by the children.

Narrator Old Noah, he built a farmhouse
Noah Of timber stout and good.
Narrator And Shem, he cut the trees down
And Japhet planed the wood.
And Ham, he hammered the nails home as hard as ever he could.
Noah I planted roses round the door,
And there we lived, with Mrs Noah
In the days before the flood.
Narrator And in the porch Noah kept his boots,
Noah And a handy hoe,
Shem Some cabbage shoots,
Japhet And a rake
Mrs Noah And an old cloth cap,
Japhet A hurricane lamp,
Noah And a wheelbarrow wheel
Shem A milking stool
Ham And a sack of meal,
Mrs Noah And a Thingummyjig to tap.
Thingummy With a rap-ti-tap, and a tap-ti-rap, and a RAP ti-tappetty TAP!
Narrator Then all the Noahs would shout,
Noahs HURRAY!
It's going to be fine all day today!
Thingummy With a TAP ti-tappetty RAP!
Narrator Or else the Noahs would fume and fret,
Ham It points to rain
Shem Oh, it's going to be wet.
Noah Aye, rain it will till the sun do set.
Thingummy With a RAP ti-tappetty RAP-tiTAP.
Narrator But most of the days were fine and dry
And most of the days were warm,
Until, it happened one July –
Old Noah, he cried.
Noah Why, a glass be high.....
But Thingummyjig says.....
Thingummy STORM!
The winds will shriek, and the clouds will fly,
And the forest trees will snap.
The rains will drum, and the flood will come
To wash the world off the map.
With a RAP ti-TAPPETTY, TAP-ti-RAP
And a DRIPPETTY-tippetty TAP.
Narrator Said Ham.
Ham But father, the glass is high.
Narrator Said Shem
Shem But the sky seems....dark.
Narrator Said Japhet.

Japhet The sun looks dim in the sky, and listen.
Noah The jackals bark!
 See this wet, and see this dry.
 The air is as still as a candle. Why,
Narrator What's up with the Weather Clerk?
 And they rapped and tapped on the Thingummyjig,
 But the needle stuck to the mark.
Noah So Noah, he said to his sons, said he.
 Aye, flood be coming, it seems to me.
 Flood be coming. Now sharp, my lads.
 Bring me a hammer, a saw, an axe,
 We'd best be building an Ark!

Narrator The Noahs, they worked with all their might,
 And worked with all their main.
 They built it tall, and they calked it tight,
 And the rain began to rain!
Noah And Noah, he said to his sons, he said.
 Aye, clouds be gathering overhead.
 Bring the animals, two by two,
 The tiger, the gnu and the kangaroo,
 The lion, the lamb and the lark.
 Pack them in with the greatest care,
 The hippo, the hen and the polar bear.
 There's no spare room in the Ark.
 Stow them in both small and big,
 The panther, the pony, the Tamworth pig,
 For the waves begin to slap.
 And don't forget the Thingummyjig,
 The Thingummyjig to tap!

Thingummy With a DRIP ti-drippetty, DRIP-ti DRIP
 And a SLOP ti-sloppetty SLAP!

Narrator The farm was drowned with it's roots and crops,
 And it rained and rained and rained.
 It drowned the fields and it drowned the copse,
 And the waters rose to the mountain tops,
 Till none of the land remained,
 And it rained and rained and rained and rained,
 And it rained and rained and rained.

Rain Pit-pat, pit-pat, pit-purdy-pitty-pat,
 Pit-pat, pit-pat, pit-purdy-pitty-pat.....DRIP!
 Pat-pit, pat-pit, pat-pitty-purdy-pit.....DRIP!
 Drip-drop, drip-drop, drip-purdy-patty-pit.....DRUP!

Ham Oh Father, it's rained for thirty days.
Shem It never will clear up!

Japhet Let's all go aft to the Thingummyjig and tap the glass again.
Narrator But tap it hard, or tap it soft,
 Tap it seldom, or tap it oft
 The Thingummyjig was set,

Thingummy At, horribly, horribly, horribly, horribly, horribly, horribly....WET.
Narrator And it rained and rained and rained and rained,
 In drops both small and big.
 Till on the nine and thirtieth day....

Ham Oh, look at the Thingummyjig!
 Noah It says....
 Thingummy SET FAIR.
 Mrs Noah Well I declare
 La lawks a mussy me!
 Ham Oh, what a fib, it's raining still,
 Noah Kids As hard as hard can be.
 Narrator So Noah, he threw the Thingummyjig fathoms deep into the sea.
 Thingummy With a RAP ti-guggle, ti-glug-ti-glug,
 I'm glugging the tluth, I be.
 Narrator The very next day, the clouds all cleared,
 The waters sank, and the land appeared
 With a rainbow in the sky.
 And the animals hurried to jump ashore
 As soon as the land was dry
 With a 'Thank you, thank you, Mr Noah.
 You've saved our lives. Goodbye.'

 Narrator And Noah, he built a farmhouse,
 Of timber stout and good.
 And Shem he cut the trees down,
 And Japhet planed the wood,
 And Ham he hammered the nails home,
 As hard as ever he could.
 They planted roses round the door,
 But it never seemed quite as it was before.
 Noah hadn't the heart to build a porch,
 To store his boots and a useful torch,
 And cabbage shoots, and some dried up roots
 And twine, and his old cloth cap.
 He was never quite sure of the weather again,
 And to tell you the truth, it was generally rain,
 And serve him right, the sap.
 He never again had a Thingummyjig,
 A Thingummyjig, to tap.

