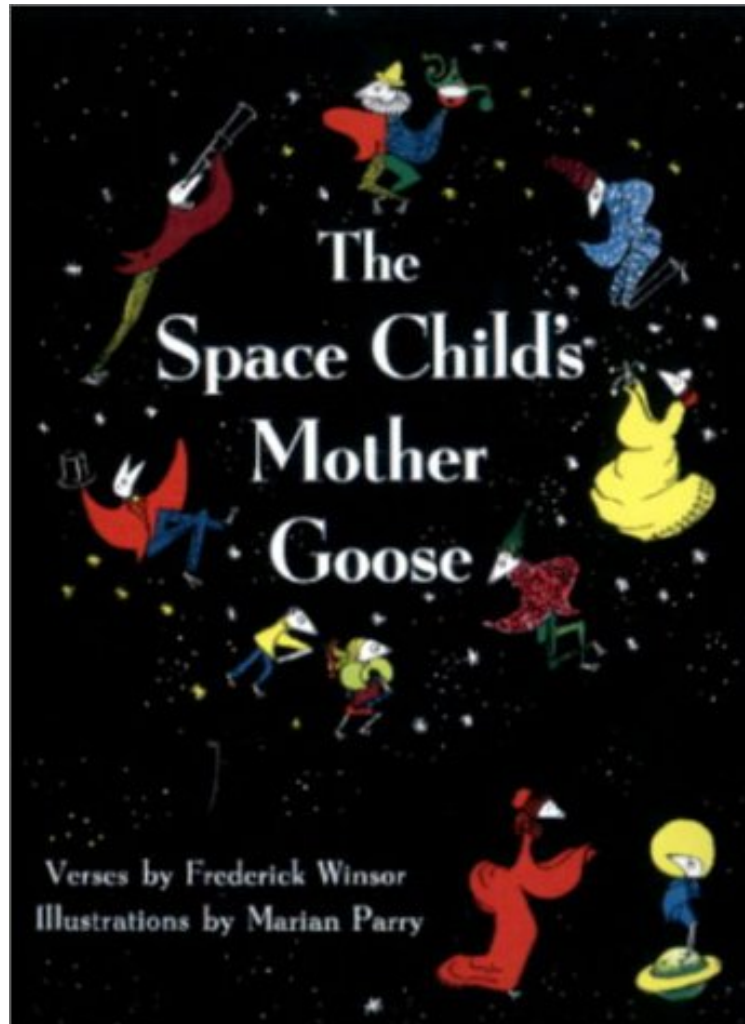


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## The Space Child's Mother Goose

*Frederick Winsor, Marian Parry (illustrator)*  
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**Frederick Winsor, Marian Parry (illustrator) : The Space Child's Mother Goose** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Space Child's Mother Goose:

39 of 39 people found the following review helpful. Twisted, Charming, Educational, and Just Plain Fun By Patrick Shepherd Rubber-band mathematics, telekenisis, Moebius strips and Klein bottles, multi-dimensional space-folds, a model of a scientific theory, postulates and relative time frames would not seem to be material suitable for children, but this slim book will quickly disabuse you of that idea. This book is a marvelous re-working of the old Mother Goose rhymes, updated to today's scientifically oriented world. I first read this book just after it was published, when I was about eleven years old, and was immediately captivated. It made no difference that I didn't understand some of the terms being used. The thing that caught me was the skill with which these modern-day and science-fictional items

were folded into those well known rhymes, how well they fit and gave new, quite twisted, and in many cases hysterically funny meaning to them. Reading them today, these verses are still just as funny, if not more so than I found them to be in my youth, as I now can catch the fact that Winsor buried many sly references to Greek literature, outmoded scientific theories, and even satire about academic politics within their brief lines. My favorite along this latter line is 'The Theory that Jack Built', which contains a fatal flaw, hidden by mummery, obfuscation, and bells and whistles, which all gets blown away when the Space Child presses the 'Go' button. The illustrations are just as marvelous, and do much to help someone who might not completely understand the scientific terms to see just what is being referenced, while being very individualistic in style and maintaining the humorous tone of the whole book. Along with these visual aids, there are often 'definitions' at the bottom of the page, some even more abstruse than the item being defined, but just as funny. Don't forget to read the 'Answers' at the back of the book, which in addition to some appropriate real definitions, also provide some rather unique explanations of some of the terms used in this book, including one which takes a viscous dig at Congress. Give this one to your son or daughter, but not till you've read it yourself. You might get a few questions, and there might be a few puzzled frowns, but I'd almost guarantee you'll also be the recipient of some laughs and smiles. --- Reviewed by Patrick Shepherd (hyperpat) 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not your ordinary Mother Goose By Amy Geffre So I got this book for my three-year-old thinking it would just be a rhyming sort of book concerning some of the more broadly understood concepts about space (e.g. "the sun is a star, and it's out there quite far" and so on) but was greatly pleased to see that this was not the case. It's certainly a more stimulating alternative to the usual children's rhyming stories. It's a complex, lyrical and entertaining discussion of several branches of physics and academia that both my little one and I enjoy. It contains lots of expansive concepts and extraordinary words, which, combined with the whimsical art and writing style make for not only a fun read, but also some interesting learning opportunities that are currently comprised of discovering new words and sounds and sophisticated sentence structure, but I'm certain will blossom to a lot of creative and interpretive thinking. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For Space Grownups Too! By Jeanne C. Neely A true joy for a science nerd/former hippie chick and space(d) child like me. I still have the paperback copy I bought in the sixties, but I decided to add the hardcover version to my library. You don't have to be a kid to enjoy this book, but it helps if you never quite grew up.

A witty collection of 1950s Space Age poetry for the scientific minded individual, accompanied by unusual black white line drawings.

...quirky, long out-of-print classic. Winsor's rhyming verses bring a wide variety of scientific theories, thought, and spirit to life. -- BookSense.com Daily Pick on July 24th, 2001 Books That Most Often Brought A Smile To Our Face: The Space Child's Mother Goose, ...just plain, quirky fun. -- Publishers Weekly From the Publisher Only a few years ago [1950s] we walked on solid earth. Today we whirl through space. Space is big. It is not cozy. Both with these verses and drawings... cheerfulness breaks in. Suddenly, science seems merry. And space begins, with the rhyme on page 1, to feel a little more like home. About the Author Frederick Winsor, Jr. was born in Massachusetts in 1900. He earned a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and spent his working life in architecture and related areas. His friends were scientists, teachers, lawyers, artists and writers. For most of his adult life he wrote light verse. He produced poems for family occasions, to amuse his friends and to entertain his children. He also wrote lyrics for amateur musical shows, many of which were produced by the St. Botolph Club of Boston. A voracious reader, he devoured detective fiction faster than the bookstores could keep him supplied and he was delighted by the emergence of science fiction to which he turned with enthusiasm. He retired in 1951 and wrote The Space Child's Mother Goose over the next few years, inspired perhaps by the development of space research and the birth of his first grandchild. He was working on a second book of verse when he died unexpectedly in 1958. Marian Parry is an author, illustrator and watercolor artist. Her books have been published by Knopf, Simon Schuster, Greenwillow, Heritage Press and Limited Editions, Pharos Verlag (Switzerland) and Scholastic Books. She has had many one-person shows. Her work is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Houghton Library of Harvard University and the Smith College Rare Book Room. The main archive of her work is in the print collection of the Boston Public Library. She was a fellow in the Bunting Fellowship Program, Radcliffe Institute and is the founder and senior instructor of the Watercolor Program for the Radcliffe Seminars at Harvard University. Marian and her husband live in Cambridge, Massachusetts. They have two grown children and a grandson.