

Opening extract from

# **Michael Rosen's Book of Very Silly Poems**

Written by

**Various**

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**Michael Rosen is a funny one,  
He's got a nose like a pickled onion,  
He's got a face like a squashed tomato,  
And feet like fried fish.**

PUFFIN BOOKS

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# Festering Food



## Gunerania's wedding cake

The king he baked a wedding cake upon a sunny  
day,

The king he baked a wedding cake, it was in the  
month of May,

The king he baked a wedding cake, he filled it  
with old clocks,

A cabbage, and an octopus, some apples and red  
socks.

*He mixed it, he whisked it, he threw it on the floor,  
He crushed it, he mushed it, and it slithered out the  
door.*

The king he baked a wedding cake and the glue he  
used was runny,

The king he baked a wedding cake with spiders and  
some honey,

The king he baked a wedding cake, he filled it with  
rusty nails,

A crocodile, a felt-tip pen, and a pinch of powdered  
snails.

*He folded it, he moulded it, he squeezed it through his  
toes,*

*He sliced it, and diced it, 'til the flour went up his nose.*

The king he baked a wedding cake, he added ripe  
bananas,

The king he baked a wedding cake, it was striped  
like his pyjamas,

The king he baked a wedding cake, it was sixty-one  
feet high,

It weighed ten tons, it squashed his thumbs, which  
made the poor king cry.

*He iced it, he sliced it, he packed it with black slugs,  
He covered it in manky moss, and a crust of orange  
bugs.*

The king he baked a wedding cake with rats and  
cats and bats,

The king he baked a wedding cake with a thousand  
buzzing gnats,

The king he baked a wedding cake, he gave it to  
the queen,

It made her sick for fifty years and turned her blue  
and green.

*She bashed him, she thrashed him, she hit him with a  
frog,*

*She swung him, she flung him, and slapped him with a  
log.*

*Robert Soulsby and class 1S, Brookvale Junior School*



'Neath the crust of the old apple pie

'Neath the crust of the old apple pie  
There is something for you and for I;  
It may be a pin that the cook has dropped in,  
Or it may be a dear little fly, (dear little fly).  
It may be an old rusty nail,  
Or a piece of dear puppy dog's tail,  
But whatever it be, it's for you and for me,  
'Neath the crust of the old apple pie.

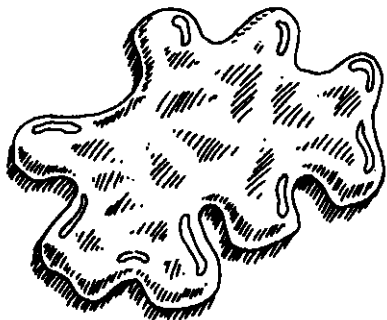
*Traditional North American*



## Quick, quick

Quick, quick,  
The cat's been sick,  
Where, where,  
Under the stair,  
Hasten, hasten,  
Fetch a basin,  
Alas alack, 'tis all in vain,  
Pussy's eaten it up again.

*Traditional*



## School dinners

School dinners,  
School dinners,  
Iron beans,  
Iron beans,  
Sloppy semolina,  
Sloppy semolina,  
I feel sick,  
Get a bowl quick.

*Traditional*

## Peanut butter

There are three ways  
to get peanut butter off  
the roof of your mouth:



One way is to shake your  
head back and forth.



If that doesn't work,  
you could kind of whistle.



If that doesn't work,  
you could scrape it off  
with your first finger.

There are three ways  
to get peanut butter off  
your finger.



One way is to shake it off.



Another way is to blow it off.



If that doesn't work,  
you can scrape it off  
with your two front teeth.

There are three ways  
to get peanut butter off  
the roof of your mouth . . .



*Traditional*

# Clothes for Clots



## I can't do my bally bottom button up

I can't do my bally bottom button up,  
Can't do my bally bottom button up.  
It's so tight, serves me right,  
I must have eaten too much grub last night.  
I can't do my bally bottom button up,  
And though you think it's fun,  
What's the use of buttoning the other bally  
    buttons,  
When the bally bottom button's undone?

*J. P. Long*

## Black socks

Black socks, they never get dirty,  
The longer you wear them the stronger they get.  
Sometimes I think I should wash them,  
But something inside me keeps saying,  
'Not yet, not yet, not yet, not yet, not yet.'

*Traditional*



## Undressed

We're walking through the air,  
I've lost my underwear,  
I'm going to Mothercare  
to buy another pair  
to wear . . .

*Anon*

# Personal Peculiarities

