

Nursery Rhyme in Perth

London Bridge is broken down

London Bridge is broken down,
Broken down, broken down,
London Bridge is broken down,
My fair lady.

Build it up with wood and clay,
Wood and clay, wood and clay,
Build it up with wood and clay,
My fair lady.

Wood and clay will wash away,
Wash away, wash away,
Wood and clay will wash away,
My fair lady.

Build it up with bricks and mortar,
Bricks and mortar, bricks and mortar,
Build it up with bricks and mortar,
My fair lady.

Bricks and mortar will not stay,
Will not stay, will not stay,
Bricks and mortar will not stay,
My fair lady.

Build it up with iron and steel,
Iron and steel, iron and steel,
Build it up with iron and steel,
My fair lady.

Iron and steel will bend and bow,
Bend and bow, bend and bow,
Iron and steel will bend and bow,
My fair lady.

Build it up with silver and gold,

Silver and gold, silver and gold,
Build it up with silver and gold,
My fair lady.

Silver and gold will be stolen away,
Stolen away, stolen away,
Silver and gold will be stolen away,
My fair lady.

Set a man to watch all night,
Watch all night, watch all night,
Set a man to watch all night,
My fair lady.

Suppose the man should fall asleep,
Fall asleep, fall asleep,
Suppose the man should fall asleep?
My fair lady.

Give him a pipe to smoke all night,
Smoke all night, smoke all night,
Give him a pipe to smoke all night,
My fair lady.

「London Bridge is broken down」の文献での登場は 1744 年
作者不明

『ロンドン橋落ちた』として、日本でもよく知られているナースリーライムです。ロンドン橋が落ちては、違う建材で何度も再建されていく不思議な様子が書かれています。子どもたちに人気の歌ですが、broken downという言葉のイメージが少し怖いという理由から、falling downと歌われることも多くなりました。ロンドン橋はロンドンのテムズ川に実際に架かっている橋で、歴史上これまで何度も崩落したという記録があります。そのため、このナースリーライムがいつの時代のロンドン橋について書かれたのか、“My fair lady”の正体が誰であるかも分かっていません。