

Catch a Little Rhyme

By Eve Merriam

Once upon a time
I caught a little rhyme

I set it on the floor
but it ran right out the door

I chased it on my bicycle
but it melted to an icicle

I scooped it up in my hat
but it turned into a cat

I caught it by the tail
but it stretched into a whale

I followed it in a boat
but it changed into a goat

When I fed it tin and paper
it became a tall skyscraper

Then it grew into a kite
and flew far out of sight ...

Eve Merriam, "Catch a Little Rhyme" from *Catch a Little Rhyme* (New York: Atheneum, 1966).
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Eve Merriam was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and attended Cornell as well as the University of Pennsylvania. Merriam was a poet, playwright, and teacher, who wrote more than 50 books of poetry and prose. She is best-known for her controversial book *Inner City Mother Goose*, which was adapted into the Broadway musical *Inner City*. Merriam also wrote numerous books of children's poetry and was awarded the National Council of Teachers of English Award for excellence in children's poetry.

