

I will tell you about Mother Goose.

She **might** be the best-known nursery rhyme character.

Circle the main verb in boldface in each sentence. Underline the auxiliary verb in boldface that works with each main verb.

An **auxiliary verb**, or **helping verb**, works with a main verb. Auxiliary verbs have a variety of purposes. Some auxiliary verbs, such as *could*, *should*, *might*, and *may*, show how likely it is that something will happen. Some auxiliary verbs, such as *did*, *is*, *will*, and *would*, indicate the tense of the main verb.

See Handbook Sections 18c, 18e

Part 1

Underline the auxiliary verb or verbs in each sentence.

1. No rhyme or story has ever been written about Mother Goose.
2. But for many years nursery rhyme collections have displayed the name of Mother Goose on their covers. Why?
3. Some scholars think Mother Goose may have been inspired by a real storyteller.
4. Some say the original Mother Goose might have been Queen Bertha of France.
5. This ancient queen was often called "Goose-Footed Bertha."
6. Others say Mother Goose could have been an American invention.
7. A woman named Elizabeth Goose, who lived in colonial Boston, may have collected stories in a book called *Mother Goose's Melodies*.
8. Nowadays most experts do not believe this explanation.
9. They say that if this were true, someone would have found the book by now, but no such book has ever been found.
10. Many say Mother Goose did not exist in real life; they say she is a made-up character.
11. No one can say for sure how Mother Goose began.
12. Even though she seems to be a fictitious character, she has had a consistent and recognizable appearance for generations.
13. Most illustrators have drawn Mother Goose as an old woman in a pointed hat.
14. In many pictures she is riding on a huge goose.
15. She can often be seen reading to a group of children, too.



We may never know if Mother Goose was a real person.