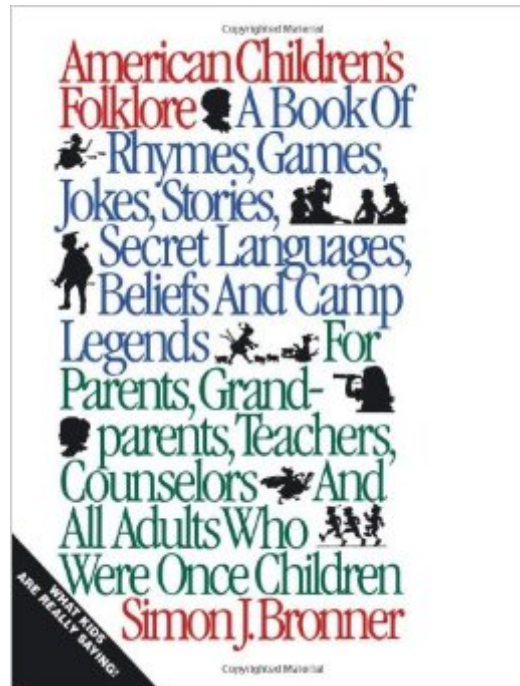


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# American Children's Folklore (American Folklore Series)



## Synopsis

Concentrating on lore gathered since World War II, Bronner has assembled an anthology of what children really say, not what adults wish they would say. It is through such shared lore—songs, expressions, games and beliefs—that children adapt to new situations. Bronner includes secret languages, jump rope rhymes, song parodies, games, taunts, tongue twisters, jokes, and more. These treasures make for nostalgic reading for adults who want to relive their own childhoods or gain a window to their own children's world.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Although definitely not politically correct, this book peers into the world of children, their rhymes, their games, their jokes, and just about everything else that makes up childhood. What makes this book particularly interesting is the social, cultural, and psychological analysis given for each type of joke, rhyme, etc. If it is a gross rhyme the author notes when these became the most popular, the age groups it is most popular with and why. If it is a nonsense joke like elephant jokes then he notes when they were most popular and how they could have represented society changing to deal with civil rights. The book also includes various counting rhymes, games, toys, and other activities that are part of a child's world. For a nostalgic trip back to the days of childhood or a serious study of childhood social structures *American Children's Folklore* is a recommended read.

Great book. I bought a copy in 1988 and couldn't locate it, so here I am buying another copy at 2012 prices (\$26.00 ouch!) A fun book then and still a fun book! Bronner has really done a great job of getting the ditty's, poems, jokes, parodies and games correct! I purchased this because I'm going camping this year with friends who are of the same age. I thought they (we) would get a kick out of the book around the campsite. Yes, there are ethnic jokes, and even Helen Keller jokes, but sorry to say, they're a part of American childhood folklore, then and even now! Buy the book and enjoy the parts you want and like. Maybe even play a different version of Hop Scotch or Red Rover! You're never too old to enjoy your childhood!

As a school teacher I find that children from grades one through five love and repeat the rhymes, jokes and stories in this book.

Looking at this book now in the age of PC, I can see how some people could find some of the content offensive. But they have to realize that this captures folklore that wasn't considered offensive at the time. The book has some really funny jokes and games from childhood...remember making fortune tellers, jacobs ladders, cats cradle? Ooh, and the: "My mom will kill me if she heard me tell one single dead baby joke". I first purchased this book in 1988 to have on hand when my neices and nephew's visited me. I then lent it to a few people through out the years, I recently had to replace it because my children just plain wore the book out.

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