The nine o’clock nursery rhyme news

Task

Your group task is to present a 3-5 minute news bulletin on a story for the nine o’clock news. Turn one of the following nursery rhymes into the top story of the night using relevant news programme techniques:

- Humpty Dumpty
- Little Bo Peep
- Jack and Jill
- Little Boy Blue
- Three Blind Mice
- The Queen of Hearts
- Little Miss Muffet
- Doctor Foster.

Things to consider:

Roles you could adopt
Newsreader, interviewer, expert, eyewitness, characters from the nursery rhyme, outside broadcaster, relative, politician, any other you think relevant.

Techniques you could use
Re-enactments, freeze frame pictures, flashbacks, interviews, discussions in the newsroom, reading to camera, any other techniques of your choice.

Aspects you could include
A brief summary of the story, a link to an outside broadcaster at the scene, an interview in the studio with characters or relatives, an expert’s / politician’s opinion, photographs (freeze frames) or video (re-enactment) of the incident, ideas of your own.

Language and register
Try to use vocabulary that conveys the shock and severity associated with your tale. What makes it newsworthy? What are the issues? Why will the public want to watch this news item?

Try to be inventive so that you give the news item some energy and originality.

Getting started
You could start with the newsreader stating: “Earlier today there was a serious incident in Nursery Rhyme Land…”

Finishing it off
You could end with: “And we’ll bring you more on that story as we receive it.”
### Nursery Rhyme News Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Queen of Hearts</th>
<th>Little Bo Peep</th>
<th>Doctor Foster</th>
<th>Little Miss Muffet</th>
<th>Little Boy Blue</th>
<th>Three Blind Mice</th>
<th>Jack and Jill</th>
<th>Humpty Dumpty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Queen of Hearts</td>
<td>Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep</td>
<td>Doctor Foster went to Gloucester</td>
<td>Little Miss Muffet</td>
<td>Little Boy Blue</td>
<td>Three blind mice</td>
<td>Jack and Jill</td>
<td>Humpty Dumpty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She made some tarts</td>
<td>And doesn’t know where to find them</td>
<td>In a shower of rain.</td>
<td>Sat on a tuffet</td>
<td>Come blow your horn</td>
<td>See how they run</td>
<td>Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall</td>
<td>Humpty Dumpty had a great fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All on a summer’s day.</td>
<td>Leave them alone and they’ll come home</td>
<td>He stepped in a puddle</td>
<td>Eating her curds and whey.</td>
<td>The sheep’s in the meadow</td>
<td>See how they run</td>
<td>All the king’s horses</td>
<td>All the king’s men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Knave of Hearts</td>
<td>Wagging their tails behind them.</td>
<td>Right up to his middle</td>
<td>Along came a spider</td>
<td>The cow’s in the corn</td>
<td>They all ran after the farmer’s wife</td>
<td>And all the king’s men</td>
<td>Couldn’t put Humpty together again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He stole those tarts</td>
<td></td>
<td>And never went there again.</td>
<td>Who sat down beside her</td>
<td>But where is the boy who looks after the sheep?</td>
<td>Who cut off their tails with a carving knife</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And took them clean away.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>He’s under a haystack fast asleep.</td>
<td>Did you ever see such a thing in your life</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>As three blind mice.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>