

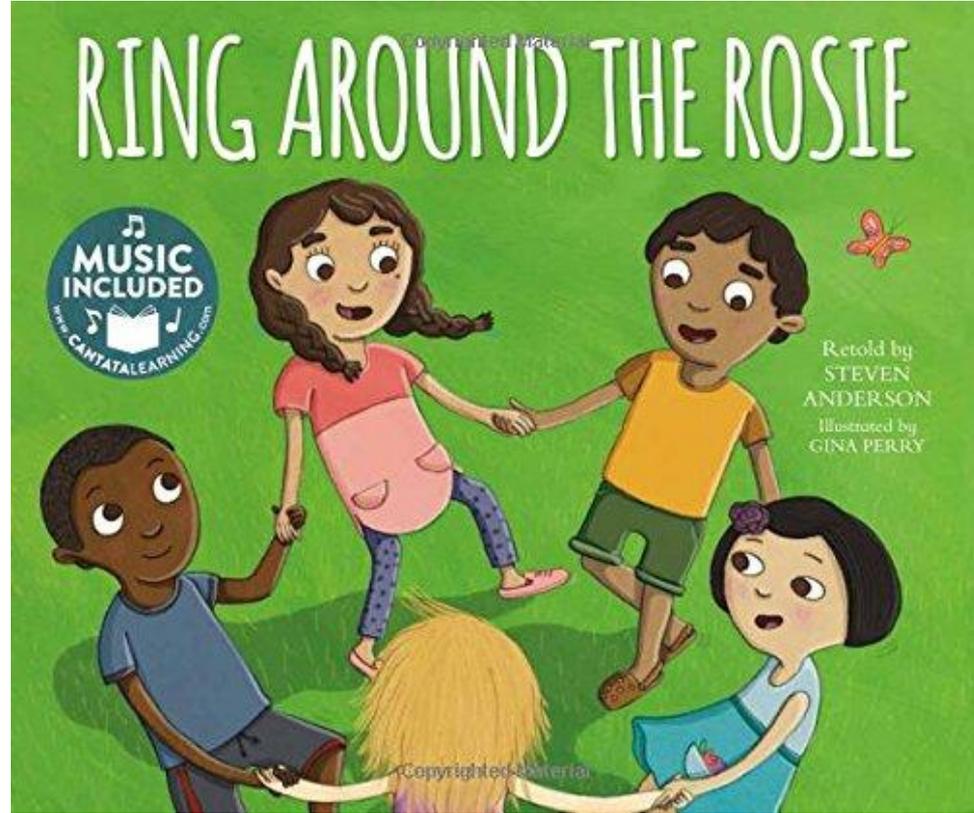
# Ring Around the Rosie

Where it really comes  
from

# Ring Around the Rosie

Our history book in 6th grade says that “some believe that Ring Around the Rosie is about the Black Death”

But we now KNOW that it isn't.



# First, let's listen to the music.

Let's sing Ring Around the Rosie together.



# We can also understand every word of the song

But English has changed! It's like clothes. Do we all wear clothes like this anymore? No! But they did in 1349! Just like the clothes, the language has changed.



# Now, let's listen to music from the 1300s.

The Black Death happened in 1349. That is 672 years ago!

Here is some music that was performed in 1349.



**Turn to a friend and ask:**

Do those words REALLY  
sound like the words in Ring  
Around the Rosie?

# Now let's look at the words

## Ring Around the Rosie

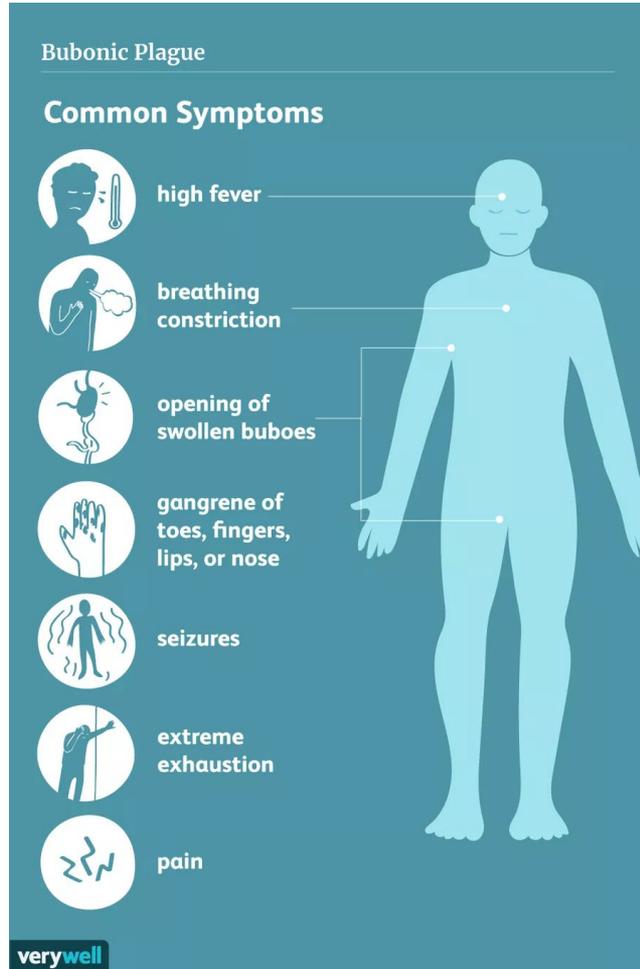
- We are told it means: the red rings or rashes from the plague.
- But you don't get a rash or red rings when you get plague!
- You get large swollen lumps instead, a fever, and coughing, but no rash



# Check it out!

No rash=

No ring around the rosie



# Next, a Pocket full of Posies

- The word pocket is not used in English until 150 years AFTER the plague
- So they never would have said “pocket”, they would have said “poche”
- Posies also didn’t mean flowers back then, a posey was writing on the inside of your wedding ring!
- In fact, the first time anyone used “posey” to mean a flower, was in the 1570s, 240 years AFTER the Plague.



# Finally, you never kept flowers in your pocket

We all know about plague doctors, people thought that bad smells brought the plague. So they kept sweet smells by their noses, not in their pockets.



# Ashes, Ashes or Atchoo, Atchoo (or a tissue)

- People in Medieval times rarely burned their dead because they believed it meant that the dead person MIGHT not be able to go to heaven.
- Sneezing sounds also aren't right because you do not sneeze when you have the plague. You only cough.
- A tissue is also not right because a tissue was only invented for us to wipe our noses about 150 years ago, nearly 500 years AFTER the plague

# We all fall down

- If you fall down, you don't have to die! Let's have someone try it now.

**In Fact, the MUSIC was first published in 1796!**

In Germany, 450 years AFTER the plague

# Here are some of the earliest words

*A ring, a ring o'roses*

*A pocket full of posies*

*One for Jack and one for Jim and one for little Moses*

*A curchey in and a curchey out*

*And a curchey all together*

# French Children's Dance

German song from the late 1700s

French children's dance from the early 1800's

First written down in the 1830's

Not using the same words

First suggested as a plague song in 1951

