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# Kings And Queens



## Synopsis

First published in 1932, Herbert and Eleanor Farjeon's Kings and Queens of England has attained the status of a children's classic. The charming poems, each one dedicated to a different King or Queen, tell the story of the 41 English monarchs from since William I in a humorous and charming way that has delighted generations of children and their parents. This beautiful facsimile edition features the wonderful original illustrations by the artist Rosalind Thornycroft, and it is the first time that it has been published in this form since 1953.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 88 pages

Publisher: British Library Publishing; Reprint edition (September 1, 2011)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Wonderful book of childrens' poems, one for each English Monarch, from William the First, "the first of our kings, not counting the Ethelreds, Egberts and things" through "John, John, bad King John", "Edward the First was strong and tall, He had the longest legs of all", and "Bluff King Hal was full of beans; he married half a dozen queens; For three called Kate they cried the banns, One called Jane, and a couple of Annes" up to Queen Elizabeth II, with the last edition in 1953. There is a wonderful picture for each monarch, and the expense of reproducing those, by Rosalind Thornycroft, was said to be prohibitive for further editions. Somehow, the Great Wall Printing Co. Ltd has managed to come up with the new edition in 2011. Anyone who wants to teach his/her children about English History and her Kings and Queens is in for a treat if they can get a copy of this delightful and informative book.

I adored this book when I was a child, so much so that a lot of it got stuck in my memory. The book has a one page biography of each of England's reigning kings and queens since 1066. The biographies are in verse, and are highly memorable, as are the portraits that accompany each bio. Recently, when reading a book about Edward I, a few lines began to tinkle in the back of my mind -- "Favours he lavished on/Pretty Piers Gaveston/ Giving him duchies and riches and rings". An internet search led me to this book, and how delighted I am to have found it again! A wonderful present for a young person with a passion for English history, or for an old person who was such in the long, long ago.

Kings and Queens -- along with Heroes and Heroines -- was my favorite book as a child, read to me by my mother until I was old enough to read it myself. It is wonderful light verse, brilliantly illustrated, about the most famous monarchs, from the first Queen Elizabeth to the (current) second. I have quoted this book from memory all my life (e.g., Richard III: Crookback Dick had nephews two, younger than me, older than you.) For years I have searched for this book to no avail. Now, updated and reprinted, it is available through . I bought a bunch of them as presents and I've never heard more enthusiastic thank-you's. ---- Alfred Connable

The poems are longer and catchy. Some have to humorously stretch to find a rhyme, making them almost Seuss-like. This book was revised in the 50's and goes from William I to Elizabeth II, making it current. Though, the poem about Queen Elizabeth is quite short and is more of an ending poem to the whole book. From an American standpoint, I call this book a good supplement. Looking at each poem individually, it doesn't give quite enough information to fully make sense unless you have a decent background of the British Kings and Queens. If your child (or parents too) have an interest in British history, I recommend getting this book together with Our Island Story by H.E. Marshall or having online resources at the ready.

My parents used to read this to us over 60 years ago..... I have now passed copies to my cousins, children, grandchildren & friends that are teachers..... May they have as much fun as I did .  
Thanking you again

I had this book as kid growing up in England and it really helped me keep the kings and queens straight from 1066 on. I bought it for my grandchildren and they really love reading the poems

attached to each monarch.

In witty, rhymed verse, this entertaining volume provides a smart overview of British history through portraits of its rulers. Impossible not to be delighted!

Very funny and entertaining. Great for children age eight onwards and adults too. A very good Christmas present for all ages.

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