

1871

THREE CHILDREN

Lewis Carroll

Carroll, Lewis (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) (1832-1898) - English novelist, poet, photographer, and mathematician, best known for his fantastical childrens' classics. He was a mathematical lecturer at Oxford.

Three Children (1871) - One of Lewis Carroll's poems. Opening lines: Three children (their names were so fearful / You'll excuse me for leaving them out)...

THREE CHILDREN

(To Miss Mary Watson.) THREE children (their names were so fearful You'll excuse me for leaving them out) Sat silent, with faces all tearful What was it about?

They were sewing, but needles are prickly, And fingers were cold as could be So they didn't get on very quickly, And they wept, silly Three!

"O Mother!" said they, "Guildford's not a Nice place for the winter, that's flat.

If you know any country that's hotter, Please take us to that!"

"Cease crying," said she, "little daughter!

And when summer comes back with the flowers, You shall roam by the edge of the water, In sunshiny hours."

"And in summer", said sorrowful Mary, "We shall hear the shrill scream of the train That will bring that dear writer of fairytales hither again."

(Now the person she meant to allude to Was- well it is best to forget.

It was some one she always was rude to, Whenever they met.)

"It's my duty", their Mother continued, "To fill with things useful and right Your small minds: if I put nothing in, you'd Be ignorant quite.

But enough now of lessons and thinking: Your meal is quite ready,
I seeSo attend to your eating and drinking, You thirsty young
Three!" Apr. 10, 1871.

THE END