“Jack and Jill”

Written in American Sign Language
by Cherie Wren

A SignWriting® Children’s Story
Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown and Jill came tumbling after.
The Jack & Jill translation was created in a workshop at the RID Region 2 Conference. The workshop was entitled “Hickory Dickory What” by Greg Camp. In that workshop we
learned to use ASL poetry for interpreting children's nursery rhymes. The workshop participants, as a group, created the translation, and then I, Cherie Wren, wrote the translation in SignWriting.
ASL poetry expresses rhyme in Sign Language. How? By using the same handshapes throughout the poem. Sometimes only one handshape is used, sometimes two handshapes, and sometimes three handshapes.
For example, Jack and Jill rhymes by using the Index-Handshape in every sign. There is one exception in the sign for the pail of water, but all other signs use the Index-Handshape throughout. Little Miss Muffet rhymes using the 3-Handshape.