



## Riddles

Riddles are found in many pieces of literature throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They are well liked as a pastime and as a grindstone for the mind. The first book of riddles in England was published in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century by Wynken de Worde.

Two legs sat on three legs with one leg in her lap. Along came four legs and stole away the one leg. Two legs stood up, took three legs in her hand and threw three legs at four legs. Four legs brought one leg back.

A woman on a stool, with a chicken leg on her lap, stolen by a dog. She throws the stool at the dog and then the dog brings back the chicken leg.

I went to the woods and I caught it, I sat me down and I sought it, but since I could not find it, home with me I brought it?

A splinter

What is that, that shineth all the day, and at night it is raked up in its own dirt?

A fire

What is it that goeth through thick and thin and drags it's guts behind?

A needle

What is it that hath his belly full of man's meat and yet his mouth if full of dirt?

An oven

What is higher than a house and yet seems smaller than a mouse?

A star

What is full all day and empty at night?

Shoes

Who is he that runneth through the hedge, his house on his back?

A snail

What is ten men's length and ten men's strength and yet ten men can never make it stand on its end?

A rope

What is it that you can fit twenty in a tankard and yet one will fill a barn?

A candle

What is it that is as small as a nit, and yet serves the king at every bit?

Salt

The more it is the less men fear it, the less it is the more men fear it.

A bridge