

The Jumblies (Part 1)

This is the first half of a nonsense poem, written by the Victorian writer Edward Lear, called 'The Jumblies'.

1

They went to see in a Sieve, they did,
In a Sieve they went to sea:
In spite of all their friends could say,
On a winter's morn, on a stormy day,
In a Sieve they went to sea
And when the Sieve turned round and round,
And everyone cried, 'You'll all be drowned!'
They called aloud, 'Our Sieve ain't big,
But we don't care a button! We don't care a fig!
In a sieve we'll go to sea!'
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a sieve.



2

They sailed away in a Sieve they did,
In a sieve they sailed so fast,
With only a beautiful pea-green veil
Tied with a riband by way of a sail,
To a small tobacco pipe mast;
And everyone said, who saw them go,
'O won't they soon be upset, you know!
For the sky is dark, and the voyage is long,
And happen what may, it's extremely wrong
In a sieve to sail so fast!'
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.



3

The water it soon came in, it did,
The water it soon came in;
So to keep them dry, they wrapped their feet
In a pinky paper all folded neat,
And they fastened it down with a pin.
And they passed the night in a crockery-jar,
And each of them said, "How wise we are!
Thought the sky be dark, and the voyage be long,
Yet we never can think we are rash or wrong,
While round in our sieve we spin!"
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

