

## BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

### BEFORE SCHOOL

“Quarter to nine! Boys and girls, do you hear?”  
“One more buckwheat, then; be quick, mother dear!”  
“Where is my luncheon-box?” “Under the shelf,  
Just in the place where you left it yourself.”  
“I can’t say my table!” “Oh, find me my cap!”  
“One kiss for mamma, and sweet sis in her lap.”  
“Be good, dear!” “I’ll try.” “9 times 9’s 81.”  
“Take your mittens!” “All right! Hurry up, Bill, let’s run!”  
With a slam of the door they are off, girls and boys,  
And the mother draws breath in the lull of their noise.

### AFTER SCHOOL

“Don’t wake up the baby! Come gently, my dear!”  
“O mother, I’ve torn my new dress; just look here!  
I’m sorry! I only was climbing a wall.”  
“Oh, mother, my map was the nicest of all;  
And Nelly, in spelling, went up to the head!”  
“Oh, say, can I go out on the hill with my sled?”  
“I’ve got such a toothache!” “The teacher’s unfair!”  
“Is dinner most ready? I’m just like a bear!”  
Be patient, worn mother, they’re growing up fast;  
These nursery whirlwinds, not long do they last.  
A still, lonely house would be far worse than noise;  
Rejoice and be glad in your brave girls and boys.

*R. I. Schoolmaster*

*Songs and Rhymes for the Little Ones, 1884. – p.123*