The Star Apple
contribution by Bea Ferguson

I heard this extended riddle from David Campbell many years ago and have been telling it ever since to young children who are always amazed by the 'magic' at the end. Encourage children to join in with the repeated phrases.

There was once a little girl called Sally and she was bored, bored, bored. Her mother suggested all kinds of things for her to do, playing on her bike, painting, going out to play with her friend, cleaning her room! Nothing worked, she was just plain bored.

Eventually her mother said, “I know what you can do. Why don’t you go and look for a little red house with no windows and no doors and a star inside.”

“A little red house with no windows and no doors and a star inside,” said Sally. “Where on earth will I find that?”

“That’s for you to work out,” said her mother.

So Sally went to see the man next door because he was old and wise and knew everything.

“Mr Martin,” said Sally, “Mummy says that I’ve got to look for a little red house with no windows and no doors and a star inside. Do you know where I’ll find one?”

“A little red house with no windows and no doors and a star inside,” said Mr Martin. “I’ve no idea, but why don’t you go and ask the farmer. He’s got lots of houses on his land and maybe he will know.”

So Sally went to see the farmer. She knocked at the farmhouse door. “Hello Mr Brown,” said Sally. “Mummy says I’ve got to find a little red house with no windows and no doors and a star inside. Do you know where I’ll find one?”
“Let me see,” said Mr Brown. “I’ve got a house with a red door on my land, but I don’t have any houses without windows or doors, and I don’t know whether any of them have a star inside. Why don’t you go and ask your Granny; she’s a very clever lady, she’s bound to know where to find one.”

So Sally went to her Granny’s house. “Granny,” said Sally, “Mummy says I’ve got to find a little red house with no windows and no doors and a star inside. Do you know where I’ll find one?”

“Well,” said Granny, “I might just know and I’ll give you a clue. Go and ask the wind.”

“The wind,” said Sally, “how do I do that?”

“You know that hill at the bottom of my garden,” said Granny. “Well go to the top of that and shout loudly and ask the wind.”

So Sally went to the bottom of Granny’s garden and she climbed to the top of the hill and then she shouted, “Wind! I’ve got to find a little red house with no windows and no doors and a star inside. Can you help me to find it?”

Just then the wind began to blow and it blew the branches of a tree at the top of the hill. The branches swayed and moved in the wind and suddenly PLOP!, down at Sally’s feet fell - an apple!

Sally picked up the apple and took it into Granny. “Look what the wind has given me,” she said. “It’s a little red house and it’s got no windows and no doors, but it doesn’t have a star inside.”

“Are you sure?” asked Granny. She took a knife from the drawer and took the apple and cut it in half across the middle. And do you know what was inside? A star!

Maybe the next time you are having an apple, you can ask a grown-up to cut it in half across its middle and you see if you find a star in your apple too.