Sing a song of sixpence lyrics

(Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie)

Sing a song of sixpence a pocket full of rye,
Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie.
When the pie was opened the birds began to sing,
Oh wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king?
The king was in his counting house counting out his money,
The queen was in the parlour eating bread and honey
The maid was in the garden hanging out the clothes,
When down came a blackbird and pecked off her nose!

Action Nursery Rhyme
Lovely lyric to this children's action nursery rhyme. The rye was purchased for sixpence to attract birds. Blackbirds, and other song birds, were actually eaten as a delicacy! However a court jester may well have suggested to the court cook to bake a pie crust and place this over some blackbirds to surprise and amuse the King! It would not be unreasonable for the blackbirds to look for revenge hence "When down came a blackbird and pecked off her nose!" Children love the action in this nursery rhyme of tweaking their nose!

Adapted by Sussane Towers

Narrator   Sussane Towers/ Tamara Miles/Ari Roberts
Royal Cook:    Emma Cox
Bird Seed Seller:   Rebecca Matheson
King:     Thomas Roos
Queen:   Savannah Layt
Maid:   Elyse Nichols

Scene 1
Narrator: - Sing a song of sixpence a pocket full of rye

Rye seller: - Rye! Sweet Rye! Catch your blackbirds with my sweet Rye

Royal Cook: - I’ll have some rye – sixpence worth please. The King loves blackbird pie.

N: Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie

Royal Cook: - I’ll put these black birds into the pie - the King will be so surprise because the birds will still be alive! What a goo trick!
Scene 2

(Royal cook takes pie to the King who is sitting on his throne with the Queen sitting beside him)

Royal Cook: Your Majesty – here is a special pie for you.

King: Oh thank you so much. It looks beautiful

Queen: Oh yes I’ll have some too.

N: When the pie was opened the birds began to sing,

(birds fly out of the “pie” – song plays once through)

King: What a surprise!!

Queen: Oh Yes – and they sing! Let’s all sing with them

SING, SING A SONG
SING OUT LOUD,
SING OUT STRONG

SING OF GOOD THINGS NOT BAD
SING OF HAPPY NOT SAD

SING, SING A SONG
MAKE IT SIMPLE TO LAST
YOUR WHOLE LIFE LONG

DON’T WORRY THAT
IT’S NOT GOOD ENOUGH
FOR ANY ONE ELSE TO HEAR
JUST SING, SING A SONG.

N: Oh wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king?

Scene 3

N: The King was in his Counting House counting out his money

King: One, two, three, four, five

Maid: Two!
King: Two? I’ve lost count! (starts to count again) One, two, three, four, five, six…

Maid: Three!

King: Three? I’ve already counted three …. Now where was I? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven……

Maid: Four!

King: Four? Who’s doing that?! (He sees the maid rolling on the floor laughing at him) Oh it’s you! Wait till I catch you! (Chases the Maid waving his fist angrily)

Maid: You can’t catch me! (The maid runs away. The King runs out of breath and stops and leans on the wall panting)

King: Oh no! I can’t catch her! What shall I do? I know -I’ll ask the Queen to help me. (the King leaves the stage – exit Stage Left)

Scene 4 (the Parlour)

N: the Queen was in the parlour eating bread and honey

King: Queen – Oh Queen (He runs in panting calling out to the Queen)

Queen: What’s wrong King? Why are you out of breath?

King: The maid has been very naughty! She tricked me when I was counting my money and then ran away! I can’t catch her!

Queen: That naughty maid! I know what to do! (The queen whispers in the Kings ear. The king looks very happy with what the queen is telling him and starts to laugh)

King: What a great plan! This will be fun!

Scene 4

N: The maid was in the garden hanging out the clothes.

Maid: (Hanging out the clothes -Laughing) That was such a funny trick I played on the King! He couldn’t catch me – he was too slow! I’m so clever!

N: When down came a blackbird and pecked off her nose.

(Sees the black birds flying towards her…) BIRD NOISES.
Maid: Oh no – the blackbirds are flying right at me!

(The birds attack the maid and peck off her nose – hold her nose as though holding it on)

My poor nose it’s been pecked off! What can I do? I know I’ll use a peg!

(Puts a peg on her nose while she is holding one hand to hide it from the audience)

There! That will keep my nose in on.

(King and Queen along with the Royal Cook come out from their hiding place where they have been watching and are laughing very hard)

Maid: Why are you laughing? The blackbirds pecked off my nose!

King: No they didn’t! You just think they did!

Queen: You don’t have to wear that silly peg!

Maid: But my nose will fall off!

Queen: Here – let me show you! (She takes the peg off the maid’s nose and hands it to her)

Maid: (Surprised and happy) Oh I’m so glad my nose is alright! It was just a joke!

(They all laugh)

King: Let’s all sing our song again!

SING, SING A SONG
MAKE IT SIMPLE TO LAST
YOUR WHOLE LIFE LONG

DON’T WORRY THAT
IT’S NOT GOOD ENOUGH
FOR ANY ONE ELSE TO HEAR
JUST SING, SING A SONG.

ALL: THANK YOU BLACKBIRDS!

About 5 min
THE END