

Oats and Beans and Barley Grow

Oats and beans and barley grow,
Oats and beans and barley grow,
Do you or I or anyone know
How oats and beans and barley grow?

First the farmer sows his seed,
Then he stands and takes his ease,
Stamps his foot, and claps his hand,
And turns around to view the land.

Waiting for a partner,
Waiting for a partner,
Waiting for a partner.
So open the ring and let one in.

Now you're married you must obey,
You must be true to all you say;
You must be kind, you must be good,
And help your wife to chop the wood
Chop it in and carry it in,
And kiss your partner in the ring.

Children skip round in a ring, holding hands and singing, with one player, the farmer, in the middle. The farmer scatters seed, takes his ease with hands on hips, stamps his foot and claps his hand, turns around to view the land, and chooses a partner from the circle, who takes her place beside him while the rest sing the last verse. The first player then joins the ring; the game begins again with the 'wife' playing the part of the farmer.

Oranges and Lemons

Oranges and Lemons, say the bells of Sain Clemens;
I owe you five farvins, say the bells of Saint Martins;
When will you pay me? say the bells of Old Bailey;
When I grow rich, say the bells of Shoreditch;
When will that be? say the bells of Stepney;
I do not know, say the great bells of Bow.
Here comes a candle to light you to bed,
Here comes a chopper to chop of your head;
Chip, chop, chip chop, the last man's head.

Children pick whether they want to be oranges or lemons. The two top players make an arch for the rest to pass through and round to the back of the line. For the final two lines of the song the arch is brought down on the shoulders of the players until they 'chop of the head of a player who now stays at the top of the line.

The Mulberry Bush

Here we go round the mulberry bush,
The mulberry bush, the mulberry bush;
Here we go round the mulberry bush,
On a cold and frosty morning.

This is the way we wash our clothes,
Wash our clothes, wash our clothes;
This is the way we wash our clothes,
On a cold and frosty morning.

Here we go round the mulberry bush.....

repeat with variations in the verse that could include
iron our clothes
scrub the floors
wash our hands
turn the mangle
(all actions that relate to Victorian life)

A-Hunting We Will Go

A-Hunting we will go,
A-hunting we will go,
We'll catch a fox and put him in a box,
And never let him go.

We'll ask John Brown for tea,
We'll ask John Brown for tea,
If he can't come, we'll ask his son,
and all his family.

Stand in two lines with partners opposite. The top pair hold hands and go up and down the middle while all the other people clap, and then the two people at the top cast and go down outside of the lines and make an archway at the bottom. The other people go through the arch and move up to the top of the line.

The Big ship sails on the alley alley oh;
The alley alley oh, the alley alley oh;
The big ship sails on the alley alley oh,
On the last day of September.

We all dip our heads in the deep blue sea,
The deep blue sea, the deep blue sea;
We all dip our heads in the deep blue sea,
On the last day of September.

The captain said, 'This will never never do,
Never never do, never never do;
The captain said, 'This will never never do,
On the last day of September'.

Players hold hands in a line with one (at the top) placing their free hand against a wall to form an arch. The person at the other end then leads the line through the arch and as the last player passes through the girl at the wall will be twisted round and her arms crossed. The leader of the line then passes through the arch between the player at the wall and their neighbour, and this second player is also forced to turn round with arms crossed. When all players have crossed arms a circle is made and players dance around to sing the second verse. They then loosen hands, wag their forefingers and sing the third verse.

Poor Jenny

Poor Jenny is a-weeping,
A-weeping, a-weeping,
Poor Jenny is a-weeping,
on a bright summer's day.

Why are you weeping
weeping, weeping,
Why are you weeping,
On a bright summer's day?

I'm weeping for a loved one,
a loved one, a loved one,
I'm weeping for a loved one,
On a bright summer's day.

Stand up and choose your loved one,
Your loved one, your loved one,
Stand up and choose your loved one
On a bright summer's day.

Shake hands before you leave her
You leave her, you leave her
Shake hands before you leave her
On a bright summer's day.

The farmers in his den

The farmer's in his den,
The farmer's in his den,
E I E I
The farmer's in his den etc..