

## THE SINGING GAMES OF MUNSTER CHILDREN

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### **Skipping--A Definition**

Skipping is an activity that usually goes on in a group, although it can be done alone. Skipping is usually associated with girls, but boys also join in depending on the context and circumstances. A shorter rope can be used if only one person is skipping while a longer rope is used for group skipping. The beat or rhythm of the rhyme dictates the rhythm of the skip or jump. The rhythm or pace of the jump or skip is also influenced by the beat of the rope against the surface of the ground that's being skipped on. This relationship between the rhythm of the rhyme and the turning of the rope is very important because if the coordination between the two is lost, the flow is interrupted causing the rope to be tripped up thereby stopping proceedings.

### **The Language of Skipping**

Girls have their own terminology associated with skipping. For instance, in Cork City, if you are not skipping but instead are turning the rope for those skipping, you are known to be "on the rope." If, while skipping, a girl causes the rope to stop, the term used is that she has "downed the rope." When the suggestion in a group is announced to skip, or to "play skipping," shouts of "begs not on" (again heard by Cork children) might be heard, which means that the person doesn't want to be one of the group to turn the rope for the others to skip. There can also be pre-skipping rituals, such as the reciting of a counting-out rhyme or the wrapping of the rope with the bend between the thumb and first finger being one end and just above a bent elbow of one group member being the other end for the rope to be wrapped. The elbow is usually at a 90 degree angle to the rest of the arm below the elbow, and the hand of the person performing this ritual is usually vertically positioned above the elbow. Each girl in the group then grabs hold of a piece of the rope and whoever picks the parts of the rope nearest the ends of the rope, have to be "on the rope," that is, have to turn the rope for the rest of the group.

### **Classification Systems**

Brian Sutton-Smith and various other scholars have attempted to classify skipping and skipping rhymes either from activities that are carried out while skipping or from the subject matter of the rhymes themselves.

Sutton-Smith, according to Abrahams, divides the skipping games into "those in which the turners attempt to trip the jumpers, those skipped through in turn, those calling for special jumping skills, those using multiple ropes, those calling for divination, and those calling for imitation. These are not mutually exclusive categories but simply as a basis of discussion and description" (xx).

Bruce Buckley is another researcher who attempted a classification system, and a simple one at that. In his article, "Jump-Rope Rhymes-Suggestions for Classification and Study," he broke skipping down into four categories based on what the jumper does. They are: "Plain Skipping," where the person skipping just jumps up and down while reciting a rhyme, for example:

Gypsy, Gypsy, Caroline,  
 Washed her hair in turpentine  
 The turpentine makes it shine,  
 Gypsy, Gypsy, Caroline.  
 (Cape Clare Island, Co. Cork, Ireland. Spring  
 1982)

"Action Skipping," where actions are carried out during the skipping process, as in:

All in together, girls.  
 Never mind the weather girls.  
 When I count two, tip your shoe.  
 When I count four, tip the floor.  
 When I count six, do some tricks.  
 When I count eight, tip the gate. (Run out and tip the  
 gate.)  
 (Cork City, Ireland, Spring 1980)

"Call In/Call Out Skipping," where a girl is called in to skip with another who then leaves the rope to allow the girl she called in to skip alone. She in turn, calls another in. An example is:

Vote, Vote, Vote for Devalera.  
 And we call in Mary at the door. (Mary runs in to skip.)  
 Mary is the one we all like the best.  
 And we don't like Veronica anymore. (Veronica runs out.)

(Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland. 1981)

Bruce Buckley's last category is "Endurance Skipping," where the person's skipping ability is tested in terms of speed and energy. The following is an example:

I had a motor bike, No. 48  
 I went around the c-o-r-n-e-r,  
 (Run out, go around one of the  
 turners and back  
 in again.)  
 And never pulled my brake.

A policeman caught me,  
 And put me in jail.  
 How many years was I there.  
 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, etc. (The rhythm of the rope speeds  
 up to test how long the person  
 can last under pressure.)  
 (Cork City, Southside. 1981)

Other researchers have attempted to classify skipping games and rhymes, not from the actions but from the rhymes and their contents. We could look at Roger Abraham's *Jump-Rope Rhymes--Dictionary* (1969) as a classification system in itself whereby he classifies rhymes in an alphabetical order and thus becomes a great help to those working with this genre of game rhymes. Yet another classification system is Francelia Butler's approach, in which rhymes are differentiated according to the themes of the rhymes. In her work, *Skipping Around The World* (1989), she has chapter headings that read as follows: Mystery and Romance; Hope and Hopelessness; Sex and Skipping; Protest; Political and Personal; Skipping to Silliness; Food and Feet; Pondering Death; and Rhymes of Joy.

Yet another classification has been done by Robert Cosbey, *All in Together Girls* (1980), in which skipping song-games fall naturally into three categories: (1) where everyone gets a quick turn at skipping, somewhat like the "call in/call out" category of Bruce Buckley; (2) central character games which tend to be longer and tend to be more favored according to the girls he studied in Saskatchewan, Canada; these would be rhymes where only one girl is skipping and all the attention is placed on her to see if she performs the actions correctly or how long she can skip in a quick fashion; (3) group-skipping games, where the emphasis is on coordination. Two or more persons skipping together is common in this type of skipping, and this group effort can make the process more difficult,

simply because there are more people involved and consequently there's more chance for error. The rhyme:

All in together girls.  
 Never mind the weather girls.  
 When I count your birthday  
 Please run out  
 (Cork City, northside, Spring, 1980)

is a typical rhyme for this type of skipping.

### **The Collection**

The following game rhymes were collected between 1979 and 1983, when I lived and worked in Cork City. They were collected from girls (mostly) and boys between the ages of 6-12. Initially, my collecting was confined to Cork City, but later my interest and curiosity grew, and I started collecting in the county of Cork and then around Munster. In my travels, I visited primary schools where I interviewed children in the classroom and, if the time and weather permitted, I then accompanied the children to the school yard where some of the games were demonstrated. Also, I observed children in their "natural" environments, i.e. the street, the terrace, the lane, the road, the estate, the back or front garden, the wood, the playground, the field or whatever kind of space they found themselves in. These different environments threw up different kinds of props and challenges for children to work with, and they manipulated these environments in all kinds of creative ways under their own terms and using their own code of legislation away from adult interference.

In my collecting, I used a note book, tape recorder, 35mm camera, and video camera, and during the four years I spent collecting, I amassed a lot of material that includes hundred's of pages of notes, about thirty hours of audio tapes, hundreds of photographs, mostly black and white and some color, and two video tapes of games and rhymes.

These games and rhymes are, for the most part, taken for granted by most adults and even considered trivial. But the more I observed children and collected their games and rhymes, the more I realized how important they were from the point of view of learning. Some writers have called what children do amongst themselves as the other educational system they have in their lives. They are an example of pure folklore, in that they are passed on from children to children by word of mouth, and in so doing, give games and rhymes generational continuity. The mere fact that children, as a group, tend to be conservative, also makes for traditions to be maintained. But they are also creative and will change a rule or change a word or line of a rhyme to suit the local environment, if they feel it makes

sense. And even though these rhymes were collected in Munster, it doesn't make them peculiar to the area. The rhymes sung by Cork and Clonmel children can also have versions heard in Chicago or Cambridge or the Caribbean. They have a far-flung existence, reflecting travel across continents and ocean stretches.

A lot of these games go on in groups of two and more, and this allows them to be transmitted to other children, increasing our understanding of the group process, how groups work, who makes the decisions, how they are made and how the rules of the game are worked out. Games also teach them about those who lead and who follow, who has power and who doesn't, and what it means to have it, versus not to have it. Through games, children also observe how conflicts are resolved and how harmony within the group is important for the game to continue. The need for cooperation is perceived, and the experience of competition is also discovered along with what it's like to manipulate, cheat, get caught and possibly go undetected. A sense of morality is learned, a morality that may not always seem fair, depending on the personalities present. Along with learning to listen to the other person's point of view, and from this the idea of compromise and consensus can be appreciated. The joys of winning are savored, and the disappointments of loss are tolerated. Physical skills are demonstrated, sometimes bringing the big boys down to size, strategies are refined, and chances taken, that succeed from time to time.

The whole area of children's folklore in Ireland is an area that is only recently getting the attention it deserves. While one of the biggest folklore collection anywhere in the world is housed in the folklore library at UCD, entitled "The Schools Collection," carried out in 1937-38, by foresightful folklorists of the time, publications on the subject of children's folklore have been relatively sparse. References to games and rhymes played and sung by Irish children have appeared in the work of Lady Alice Gomme that she carried out in the 1890s. To assist her in her two part publication, *The Traditional Games of England, Scotland and Ireland*, she had informants in Cork, Down, Dublin, Kerry, Leitrim and Waterford. These 1894 and 1898 works, published by David Nutt, London, as Part 1 of the *Dictionary of British Folklore* (1894), and Part 11 in 1898, were later published by Dover Publications in New York in 1964. The next major work pertaining to Ireland was written in wonderful style, in 1949 by Leslie Daiken, *Children's Games throughout the Year*, followed some years later by another collection, this time Dublin street rhymes, *Out Goes She*. Little, if nothing, was published until Sean O'Suilleabhain's, *Irish Wake Amusements* (1967), translated from the original Irish, *Caitheamh Aimsire ar Thoraimh* (1961), by the author, which dealt with, among other things, dancing, riddling and rhyming, mischief making, and pranks at wakes. Some of these activities, no doubt, were also played outside the environment of the "wake" and were probably passed on to or imitated by

children. The same author also has a thorough classification of games in, *A Handbook of Irish Folklore*, published in 1970. Eilis Brady's excellent book, *All In! All In!*, a selection of Dublin children's traditional street games with rhymes and music, was published in 1975 by the Folklore Commission at UCD. This was the first serious publication on the study of children's games and rhymes in Ireland. In more recent times, Bill Meek has collected rhymes and songs that appear in his humorous and informative book, *Moonpenny*, published in 1985 by Ossian Press in Cork. In 1986, Mercier Press in Cork published, *The Irish Children's Songbook*, by Carmel O'Boyle. This has some children's game rhymes. And in the last couple of years, Maurice Leyden's fine book, *Boys And Girls Come Out To Play, A Collection of Irish Singing Games*, has been published by Appletree Press in Belfast.

In the Irish language, *Cniogaide Cnagaide, Rainn traidisiunta do phaisti*, written by Nicholas Williams, was published in 1988 by An Clochomar Tta I Baile Atha Cliath, and *Cluichi agus Caitheams Aimsire, Amuigh faoin Aer I gConnamara*, written by Brian Mac Suibhne was published in 1991 by Clo Iar-Chonnachta.

Along with these publications, articles on games and rhymes, along with other aspects of children's folklore, have appeared from time to time, both in the Irish language and English, in *Bealoideas, the Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society*, *Ulster Folklife*, *An Stoc, The Journal of the Irish Folk Song Society*, *Irishleabhar na Gaeilge*, and in articles by Connradh na Gaeilge, An Cumann le *Bealoideas* Eireann, and Oifig an tSolathair. Children's games and rhymes have also been published in other publications by the Folklore Commission in UCD, such as Sean O'Connell's book, *Stories and Traditions from Iveragh*. And, games have also appeared in books on the folklore of a particular county or counties that have been collected by locals in the area aided and advised in their collecting methods by The Folklore Commission. One such book would be *Along the Black Pig's Dyke*, folklore from the Armagh area. This book also researched the *School's Collection*, in the Folklore Archives in UCD, for games and rhymes of the area.

Autobiographical, biographical and fictional works also have reference to children's games. They include: *Borstal Boy*, by Brenden Behan; *Teems of Times and Happy Returns*, by Dominic Behan; *The Green Fool*, by Patrick Gallagher; *Dubliners*, by James Joyce; *Knocknagow*, by Charles J. Kickham; *Beyond the Hills: An Ulster Headmaster Remembers*, by Haughton W. Crowe; *Paddy the Cope: An Autobiography*, by Patrick Gallagher; and *Janey Mack, me shirt is black*, by Eamonn Mc Thomais.

### **The Function of Games and Rhymes in the Late 20th Century**

The more I read about and collect children's folklore in general and games and rhymes in particular, the more I realize how important they are on different levels. They are the kinds of activities that are taken for granted by most people and are even considered trivial. But there is more to them that meets the eye. They are a pure folk form. They are not taught or controlled by adults (although some adults try to do so), and they pass freely between children on a street, in a school, in a village, town and city and even hop over borders and bodies of water resulting in rhymes like, "Cinderella dressed in Yella," being sung by children in Bandon, Boston and Birmingham, with perhaps some slight variation, but with most of the words intact. We live in a world that has rapidly changed and in which more and more technological inventions change our behavior. Children now have a much greater variety of things to do, whether they watch TV, play video games, or explore "virtual reality" using CD ROM. These new developments are exciting and create all kinds of creative opportunities for children and mankind in general. But questions repeatedly asked by educators, parents, and play scholars are, how do they effect children's ability to interact with other children, how suitable are these inventions to a deepening of our understanding of each other, how do they benefit the notion of community, are children becoming more sedentary and obese, and less active, and what are the implications for how they effect learning, do we in fact know more about knowledge, life, and ourselves as result of modern technology, and will they make us more happy? These are important questions as we learn how to navigate the information superhighway, and deal with the knowledge explosion.

### **Cross References**

Cross references have been done in relation to most of the Irish publications and articles on the subject of rhymes (in the English language only) over the past one hundred years or so. Unfortunately, at this time, it does not include any of the more than 1100 manuscripts that make up the "Schools Collection" that are housed in the Folklore Archives in UCD. Along with the Irish authors on the subject, I have included the two volumes by Lady Alice Gomme, *The Traditional Games of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales*, from the 1890s. This is because of her Irish informants from the counties of Cork, Down, Dublin, Kerry, Leitrim, and Waterford, who gave her information on games and rhymes from these areas. I have also included as part of my cross referencing, Roger Abraham's, *Dictionary of Jump-Rope Rhymes*, published in 1969, and last but certainly not least,

I have included two publications by the greatest contributors to the area of Children's Folklore, Iona and Peter Opie. The publications include, *The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren* (1959), and *The Singing Game* (1985). The cross-referencing is done after the rhyme, or if there are a number of variants, after the final variant.

### Notes to the Rhymes

Notes on each rhyme appear beneath each rhyme, or if there is more than one variant, beneath the first variant. The author's name is mentioned first followed by the year of publication in brackets. Then the page number, and when known, the place where the rhyme was collected along with the year or decade it was collected. If there was a different first line collected by someone else but the rest of the rhyme was the same, I have written the first line. Conversely, if the first line is the same but the rest of the rhyme is different, I have included the entire rhyme.

### Skipping Rhymes

The classification system used in this chapter on, "Skipping Rhymes," was devised by Bruce Buckley. His article, in the summer 1966 issue of *Keystone Folklore Quarterly*, "Jump-Rope Rhymes: Suggestions for Classification and Study," as the title suggests, discusses the pros and cons of different classification systems for Jump-Rope Rhymes. While his system is not perfect, it does provide a good working model for the study of Jump-Rope Rhymes. His system is broken down into Action skipping, Plain Skipping, Run In-Run out Skipping and Endurance Skipping. These are the four headings under which I will look at the Skipping Rhymes of Munster Children.

### Action Skipping

In action type skipping, girls carry out different actions while skipping. The words of the rhyme tell the action to be performed.

1.

Cowboy Joe from Mexico,  
 Hands up, stick 'em up,  
 Drop our gun, pick 'em up.  
 Cowboy Joe from Mexico.  
 North, south, east and west,  
 Jacobs biscuits are the best.

If they're not, send them back,  
To the north, south, east and west.

(Miss on "Mexico," you walk down to end of road and  
back up again.

Miss on "Mexico" twice, you're out.  
Miss on "north.....west," you have to tell which is  
N,S,E,W. If you don't, you're out.)  
Cork City, Northside, (Spring 1981).

1a.

Cowboy Joe from Mexico,  
Hands up, stick 'em up,  
Drop you guns, pick 'em up.  
Cowboy Joe from Mexico.  
North, South, East and West,  
Jacobs Biscuits are the best.  
If they crack, send them back,  
North, South, East and West.  
Crosshaven, Co. Cork, Presentation Convent,  
(Spring 1980).

1b.

Cowboy Joseph Mexico,  
Hands up, stick them up,  
Drop your guns, pick them up.  
Cork City, St. Catherine's  
School, Bishopstown,  
(Spring, 1980).

1c.

Cowboy Joe from Mexico.  
Hands up, pick 'em up,  
Drop your guns, pick 'em up.  
o-U- T spells out. (Run out.)  
Ennis, Co. Clare (Spring 1981). Also used as a  
"counting out" rhyme, a process *for* starting a  
game. This process is known as "abbling" in  
Ennis.

1d.

Cowboy Joe from Mexico,  
 Lost his knickers in the snow.  
 Cowboy Joe from Mexico,  
 Hands up, stick 'em up,  
 Drop your guns, and pick 'em up,  
 Cowboy Joe from Mexico.  
 North, south, east and west,  
 Jacobs biscuits are the best.  
 If they crack, send them back,  
 To the north, south, east and west.

Ballintemple area, Cork City, (Spring, 1980).

(Abrahams [1969],33, 141; McCaughan [1971-2],20, (Belfast); Colgan, [1980],20, (Lisbum, Co. Antrim)

2.

Jelly on the plate, jelly on the plate,  
 Going wibbly, wobbly, wibbly, wobbly,  
 Jelly on the plate.

Sausage on the pan, sausage on the pan,  
 Twirl (or twist) around, twirl around,  
 Sausage on the pan.

Baby in the cradle, baby in the cradle,  
 Ma,ma,ma,ma,  
 Baby in the cradle.

Money on the floor, money on the floor.  
 Pick it up, pick it up,  
 Money on the floor.

Tomato on the floor, tomato on the floor,  
 Squash it down, squash it down,  
 Tomato on the floor.

Egg on the pan, egg on the pan,  
 Twist a loo, twist a loo,  
 Egg on the pan.

Robber in the house, robber in the house,

Kick 'im out, kick 'im out.  
Robber in the house.

Sweets on the table, sweets on the table,  
Pick 'em up, pick 'em up.  
Sweets on the table.

Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring 1981).

(Brady [1975], 86; Leyden [1993],129; Behan [1958], Band 3; Abrahams [1969],284; McCaughan [1971-2],21)

2a.

Money on the ground, money on the ground,  
Pick it up, pick it up,  
Money on the ground.  
Jelly on the plate, jelly on the plate,  
Wiggly, woggly, wiggly, woggly,  
Jelly on the plate.

Cork City, St. Catherine's Primary School,  
Bishopstown, (Spring, 1980).

For verse one, girls in Mallow, Co. Cork,  
Ardfert, Co. Kerry, girls say "wibbly, wobbly."

3.

Fud judge, call the judge,  
Mammy's havin' a baby,  
Daddy's going crazy,  
Push him down the acrobats,  
First floor, stop,  
Second floor, turn around,  
Third floor, tip the ground,  
Fourth floor, get out of town. (run out.)

Tralee, Co. Kerry, (Spring 1981).

(Abrahams [1969] 148)

Down the road in Killarney, girls sing the following version:

3a.

Fud judge, call a judge.

Mammy's got a new born baby judge.  
 She wrapped it up in tissue paper.  
 Threw it down the alligator,  
 First floor, stop.  
 Second floor, splits.  
 Third floor, twist around  
 Fourth floor, tip the ground,  
 Fifth floor, all out.  
                   St. Oliver's School. Killarney, Co Kerry,  
 (Spring, 1981).

3b

Rock, Rock call the Doc!  
 Mammy's having a new born baby Doc.  
 Wrap him up in tissue paper,  
 Send it down the alligator,  
 First floor, stop!  
 Second floor, splits,  
 Third floor, turn around,  
 Fourth floor tip the ground,  
 Fifth floor, get out of town.  
                   Limerick City, (Spring, 1981).

4.

I'm a little girl guide,  
 All dressed in blue.  
 These are the actions I can do.  
 Salute to the officer,  
 Bow to the Queen,  
 Run around the corner (run out one side, around a  
 turner and run back in.)  
 And buy an ice cream.  
                   Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring, 1981).

(Abrahams [1969],206; Brady [1975],86; McCaughan [1971-72],22)

In the Glen area of Cork City in the Spring of 1980, girls sang about a "dolly all dressed in blue" that "can stand up straight, bend one knee, salute to the captain, and bow to the Queen." In the Mayfield area, "the girl guide is all dressed in "white" and "brown," while in Schull, Co. Cork, it's not a doll at all they sing about, but:

4a.

There was a little beet root,  
 Dressed in pink.  
 Her mammy didn't want it,  
 So she sent it to the ink.  
 The ink didn't like it,  
 So she sent it to the pen.  
 The pen said close your eyes,  
 And count to ten.

A different colour again shows up in Ennis, Co. Clare. The colour is green. And instead of a dolly it's a "teddy bear all dressed in green, sent a letter to the Queen, the Queen didn't like it, so she sent it to the King, the King said close your eyes and count to 16"(with eyes closed). The same rhyme was sung in Tipperary town and Cork City but a "dolly" instead of a "teddy bear" is mentioned in Tipperary town and a "rag doll" enters the rhyme in the north side of Cork City, where girls count to 17. In Waterford City, the "dollie" is also dressed in green and is "put in a match box, and sent to the Queen." While in another Waterford City, there's a version that goes:

4b.

I have a little Teddy Bear all dressed in green.  
 These are the actions he must do.  
 Stand up straight, bend one knee,  
 Salute to the officer and bow to the Queen.  
 Run around the corner and into a shop(run out and come  
 back)  
 And out I come with my lollypop.  
 Waterford City, Presentation convent, (Spring  
 1980).

5.

Banana Splits, banana splits,  
 (you have to have the rope between your legs on  
 "splits")  
 Banana, banana, banana splits.  
 Hoppy splits, hoppy splits, (hop while you skip)  
 Hoppy, hoppy, hoppy splits.  
 Twirly splits, twirly splits, (twirl while you skip)

Twirly, twirly, twirly, splits.  
 One eye splits, one eye splits, (close one eye)  
 One eye, one eye, one eye splits.  
 Two eyes splits, two eyes splits, (close two eyes)  
 Two eyes, two eyes, two eyes split.  
 One arm splits, one arm splits, (one arm behind back)  
 One arm, one arm, one arm splits.  
 Two arm splits, two arm splits, (two arms behind back)  
 Two arm, two arm, two arm splits.  
 Crosshaven, Co. Cork, (Spring, 1981).

(Abrahams 31)

In Cork City, south side, girls go "hoppy," "one eye" and "two eyes split."

In Presentation Convent, Tralee, girls sang:

Sa.

Banana, banana, banana, splits.  
 Repeat over and over.  
 (For "splits", you have to have the  
 rope between your legs when you stop.  
 Presentation Convent, Tralee, (Spring 1981).

6.

Not last night but the night before,  
 Twenty four robbers came knockin' at the door.  
 As I went down to let them in,  
 This is what the said to me.  
 Jason, Jason do the splits.  
 Jason, Jason do the kicks.  
 Jason, Jason turn around.  
 Jason, Jason tip the ground.  
 Mallow, Co. Cork, (Spring, 1981).

Over in Doneraile, Co. Cork, I collected in the Spring of 1981, the first two lines are the same as Mallow but the verse has only two more lines:

"I went down to let them in,  
 Spanish lady do the splits, kick, turn around, tip the  
 ground."

The Ardfert, Co. Kerry version of this rhyme, which I picked up from girls at a boarding school in Ring, Co. Waterford, is much longer and encompasses the rhyme "Jelly on the Plate" on to the end of it. It goes:

6a.

Not last night but the night before,  
 Twenty five robbers came knockin' at my door.  
 I went outside to let them in,  
 And this is what they said to me.  
 Spanish Lady turn around,  
 Spanish Lady tip the ground.  
 Spanish Lady do the splits.  
 Spanish Lady show your knee.  
 Jelly on the plate, jelly on the plate,  
 Wiggly, wiggly, wiggly wiggly  
 Jelly on the plate.  
 Sausage on the pan, sausage on the pan,  
 Turn it over, turn it over  
 Sausage on the pan.  
 Robbers in the house, robbers in the house,  
 Kick them out, kick them out,  
 Robbers in the house.

In Cork City, the home of the Irish Ballet Company in the early 1980s, "ballet dancers," instead of Spanish Dancers, "do the splits, do the kicks, turn around and tip the ground."

(Opie [1959], 23, [Portsmouth, Dundee]; Abrahams [1969], 100: for the whole rhyme; Abrahams [1969], 180, for "Spanish Dancers" lines); Abrahams & Rankin [1980], 134, (Counting Out Rhyme))

7.

Money on the ground, money on the ground  
 You've got to pick it up, pick it up.  
 Money on the ground.  
 Jelly on the plate, Jelly on the plate,  
 Wiggly, wiggly, wiggly, wiggly,  
 Jelly on the plate.  
 Cork City, St. Catherine's School,  
 Bishopstown, (Spring 1980).

(Abrahams 284; Leyden 129)

8.

Up the Mississippi,  
 If you miss a loop you're out. (swing rope high)  
 Hop the Mississippi,  
 If you miss a loop you're out. (Hop on one leg)  
 Down the Mississippi,  
 I you miss a loop, you're out. (skip low)  
 Smoke the Mississippi,  
 If you miss a loop you're out. (pretend you're  
 smoking)  
 Swim the Mississippi,  
 If you miss a loop you're out. (perform swimming  
 strokes)

(Cork City, Blarney St, (Spring 1979).

In Ballintemple, Cork City, girls go: "up the Mississippi, down and twirl the Mississippi." The Listowel, Co. Kerry version collected in Spring 1981, is similar to the Blarney Street version in Cork City, in its actions.

In the Waterford version of the skipping rhyme girls say:

9a

Down the Mississippi where the boat go push.  
 Up the Mississippi where the boat goes push

(As each girl runs in she pushes the girl before her out of the rope on "push," thus also putting the rhyme in the "run in/run out" category of skipping rhymes.)

(Abrahams 120)

In Tralee, Co. Kerry, the version is different again and has the "Teddy bear" rhyme tagged on to the end of it.

9b.

Up the Mississippi,  
 Where the girls are very pretty,  
 Where the boys are very ugly,  
 If you miss a loop you're out.  
 Teddy bear, Teddy bear, twirl around,

Teddy bear, Teddy bear, tip the ground,  
 Teddy bear, Teddy bear, say your prayers,  
 Teddy bear, Teddy bear, go to bed.

10.

The Teddy Bear rhyme is sung by itself in some parts of Munster, such as:

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear go upstairs.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear say your prayers.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear turn off the light.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear say good night.  
 Ennis Girls School, Co.Clare.

(Daiken [1949], 64; Abrahams [1969], 545; Brady [1975],84; Ni Fhloinn [1982],70, [Cavan]; MacThomais [1982],19, [Dublin, 1920'2-30's]; Kane [1983],81, [Belfast 1910-20]; Meek [1985], 38; Leyden [1993],131)

10a.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear twirl around.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear tip the ground.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear go upstairs.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear say your prayers.  
 Cork City, Southside, (1981).

10b.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear turn around.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear touch the ground.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear go upstairs.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear say your prayers.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear turn off the light.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear say good night.  
 Cuil Aodh National School, Co.Cork,  
 (Spring, 1980).

10c.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear twirl all around.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear tip the ground.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear go upstairs.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear say your prayers.  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear turn out the light,

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear say good night,  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear 1,2,3.  
 Tipperary Town, (Spring, 1981).

10d.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear go upstairs,  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear say your prayers,  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear turn off the light,  
 Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear say good night.  
 Clonminch Road, Ennis, Co.Clare, (Spring,  
 1981).

11.

Telly on the telephone,  
 Miss a loop you're out.  
 Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, (Spring, 1981)

(Each person skips for the length of the rhyme, then jumps out, to be immediately followed by another person who cannot miss a loop. Otherwise she has to take the rope.)

(Brady 77)

11a.

There's somebody on the telephone,  
 Calling up Maria. (Maria jumps in, other person jumps  
 out.)  
 Maria is on the telephone,  
 Calling up Joanne.etc. (Joanne jumps in, Maria jumps  
 out,  
 without missing a loop.)  
 Barrett's Terrace, Cork City (Spring, 1979).

12.

Christopher, Columbus was a mighty man,  
 He sailed to the ocean in a tin can.  
 The waves grew higher and higher and over. (skip  
 higher as the rope is raised)

Croom, Co. Limerick, (Spring, 1981).

(Abrahams 30)

13.

George Washington never told a lie.  
 She ran around the corner,  
 And stole a cherry pie. (run out and in again.)  
 His father said for punishment,  
 She has to run to the gate,  
 And be back by ten.

Tralee, Co. Kerry, (Summer, 1980).

(Abrahams 53)

14.

Charley, Charley stole some barley,  
 From outside the baker's shop.  
 The baker came out and gave him a clout,  
 And made poor Charley hop all around the baker shop,  
 Full Stop. (hop on one leg and then suddenly stop rope.)

Waterford City, (Spring, 1981).

(Abrahams 24)

15.

Bang, bang you're dead,  
 Twenty bullets in your head,  
 Drop your gun, pick 'em up.  
 Bang, bang you're dead.

Put out your hands for "drop your guns."  
 Touch the ground for "pick 'em up."  
 Touch the ground for "you're dead."

Cork City. St Catherine's School, Bishopstown,  
 Spring, 1980).

16.

Little Black Doctor, how's your wife?  
 Very well thank you, she's alright.  
 She won't eat a biscuit, nor a tube of lipstick.  
 O-U-T spells out.  
 O-V-E-R spells over.  
 U-N-D-E-R spells under.  
 I-N spells in,  
 Like a bottle of gin.  
 Lady, lady tip the ground,  
 Lady, lady twirl around,  
 Lady, lady show off your shoe,  
 Lady, lady right through  
 A house, a fire, a fire brigade.  
 A woman sat down with a drink and gin.  
 Drink and gin was a very nice drink,  
 So out pops you.

Listowel, Co. Kerry, (Spring, 1980)

(Brady 77)

17.

George Washington, went to France.  
 To teach the ladies how to dance.  
 This is how he taught them.  
 Ladies, Ladies turn around.  
 Ladies, Ladies tip the ground.  
 Ladies, Ladies tip you shoe,  
 Ladies, Ladies that will do!

Meadowlands Estate, Tralee, Co. Kerry,  
 (Spring, 1980).

(Brady 85; Meek 9; Leyden 115, Ball Rhyme known as "Charlie Chaplin  
 went to France"  
 Daiken 34, Ball Rhyme)

18.

Shirley Temple is a star,  
 S-T-A-R.  
 She can do the Hokey Pokey,  
 She can do the splits,

She can turn all around,  
 Just like this!  
 Mallow, Co. Cork, (Spring, 1981).

19.

Monday night I'm all alone,  
 Tuesday night on the phone,  
 Wednesday night I call a friend.  
 I call Jacinta.  
 Oh, Jacinta, pretty, pretty Jacinta,  
 All the boys and all the girls,  
 They love Jacinta.  
 Izzy, busy twirl around,(twirl.)  
 Izzy, busy, tip the ground, (tip the ground.)  
 Izzy, busy show your shoe. (put one foot out.)  
 Izzy, busy I love you.  
 Gurrabrath Ave, Cork City, (Summer, 1979).

(Daiken [1949], 63; Brady [1975], 82; MacThomais [1982], 79, [Dublin 1920's-30's]; Opie [1985] 339--41, circle game)

20.

Piggy on the railway,  
 Picking up sticks.  
 Along came a driver,  
 And broke piggy's nose.  
 Oh said Piggy that's not fair,  
 Oh, said the driver, I don't care.  
 Piggy on one leg, one leg, one leg. (hop on one leg)  
 Piggy on two legs, two legs, two legs.  
 Piggy on three legs, three legs, three legs (+one hand)  
 Piggy on four legs, four legs, four legs.  
 (bend over while skipping so that your two hands touch  
 the ground as you feet touch the ground.)  
 Listowel, Co. Kerry, (Spring, 1980).

(Mac CoIl and Behan, Band 1, Folkways Recording, FW 8501, [1958]; Opie [1969],37, (Originated around the turn of the century. Comes from the old Scots ditty "Pussy at the fireside suppin' up brose."). Opies have six variants "Paddy", "Piggy," "Polly," "Peggy," "Tommy," and "Teddy," Meek [1985],87; Abrahams [1969], 158; Abrahams/Rankin [1980], 189, "Paddy on

the railway, picking up stones./Up came the engine and broke Pady's bones./  
"Ah," said Paddy, "That's not fair."/ "Puff," said the engine, "I don't care.")

21.

Up the ladder, down the ladder, abc.  
Down the ladder, up the ladder, 123.  
(skip up and down the rope while skipping.  
Tralee, Co. Kerry, (Spring, 1980).

(Leyden 136)

22.

Pineapple stand,  
Pineapple stand,  
Pineapple, pineapple,  
Pineapple stand. (Stand on rope at the end of rhyme.)  
Waterford City, (Spring, 1981).

23.

Over the moon, just like a spoon.  
The moon is light, and I'm so bright.  
Over the moon just like a spoon.(skip up and down the  
rope.)  
Waterford City, (Spring, 1981).

24.

All in together girls,  
Never mind the weather girls.  
When I count two, tip your shoe.  
When I count four, tip the floor.  
When I count six, do some tricks.  
When I count eight, tip the gate. (run out and tip a  
gate.)

Cork City, Northside, (Spring, 1979).

(Daiken [1949], 71 (Great Britain); Abrahams [1969], 6; Ni Fhloinn [1982],  
70, [Cavan])

25.

Upsy, downsy, twirl all a roundsy.  
Clap and if you miss a loop you're out.  
Waterford City, (Spring, 1980).

26.

Dr. Bannister lost one eye. (close one eye while skipping.)  
lost two eyes.(close two eyes while skipping.)  
lost one leg. (skip on one leg.)  
then one arm. (one hand behind the back.)  
then drop down dead. (roll out of rope.)  
Waterford City, (Spring, 1980).

### Plain Skipping

Plain skipping means that someone skips without any particular actions other than jumping up and down to the rhythm of the rope while singing some rhyme.

27.

Singing the letters of the alphabet while skipping is a simple form of plain skipping.

A,B,C.....X,Y,Z.  
X,Y,Z, sugar in my tea,  
Now I know my A,B,C.  
Will you play with me.  
Cork City, (Spring, 1980).

(Brady (1975),75; Leyden (1993), 134; Abrahams (1965) 5)

The alphabet is also used in a prophetic sense when girls want to find out who their boyfriend might be. Whatever letter the rope "downs" on, is the first letter of some boy's name she might know. It also enters the following little rhyme:

28.

Lemon and lime be on time,

Start with alphabet A,B,C....  
 (If you miss, you're "on the rope.")  
 Cork City, St. Catherine's School,  
 Bishopstown, (Spring, 1981).

29.

Skippy, skippy, skippy, the bush Kangaroo.  
 Skippy, skippy, skippy, the bush Kangaroo.  
 (Repeat as many times as you want.)  
 Cork City, North Presentation Convent, 2nd  
 class, (Spring, 1979).

30.

Chocolate Biscuits down the lane.  
 If you want one spell your name.  
 A-N-G-E-L-A. Angela.  
 Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, (Spring, 1980).

(Porcheddu [1992],122-3, Counting Out Rhyme, Cork  
 City)

30a.

Chocolate Biscuits down the lane,  
 If you want one spell your name.  
 S-A-M-A-N-T-H-A, Samantha.  
 Cork City, northside, (Spring, 1979).

30b.

Chocolate biscuits down the lane.  
 If you want one spell your name.  
 S-U-S-A-N-N-E, Susanne.  
 Cork City, St. Catherine's School,  
 Bishopstown, (Spring, 1979).

31.

1,2,3,4,5,  
 I caught a little fish alive,  
 6,7,8,9,10.  
 Then I let him go again.  
 Why did you let him go?  
 Because he bit my finger so.

Which finger did he bite?  
 The little finger on the right.  
 Ennis Girls Primary School, Co. Clare, (Spring,  
 1980).

(Abrahams (1969)150-51

32.

Cinderella bright and yella,  
 Went upstairs to kiss a fella,  
 Made a mistake and kissed a snake.  
 How many doctors did she meet?  
 1-----10.  
 Presentation Convent, 5th class. Tralee, Co.  
 Kerry, (Spring, 1980).

(Leyden (1993), 132; Abrahams (1969), 30; McCaughan [1971-2], 20 ;  
 Porcheddu [1992],180, Counting Out Rhyme, Cork City)

32a.

Cinderella, dressed in yella,  
 Went to the ball to meet her fella.  
 She made a mistake and kissed a snake.  
 That was the end of Cinderella.  
 Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring, 1980).

32b.

Cinderella, dressed in yella,  
 All dressed up to kiss her fella.  
 By mistake she kissed a snake,  
 How many doctors did she need?  
 (Count up to as many as you can, and you miss, the  
 other person is in.)  
 Cork City, St. Catherine's School,  
 Bishopstown, (Spring, 1979).

32c.

Cinderella, dressed in yella.  
 Went upstairs to get her umbrella.

On her way she met her fella.  
 How many kisses did she give him?  
 1,2,3,..... etc.  
 Mallow, Co. Cork, (Spring, 1979).

33.

Johnny in the water, Johnny in the sea,  
 Johnny broke a window, and he blamed me.  
 I told Ma, Ma told Da.  
 Johnny got a beating, Ha, Ha, Ha.  
 Tralee, Co.Kerry, (Spring, 1980).

33b.

I had the German measles,  
 I had them very bad.  
 They put me in warm blanket,  
 And put me in a van,  
 The van was very shakey,  
 I nearly fell out,  
 When I got to hospital,  
 I heard a baby shout,  
 Mammy, Daddy take me home,  
 From this hospital, from this home.  
 I've been here a week or two,  
 And now I want to be with you.  
 Here comes Dr. Bannister,  
 Coming down the banister,  
 Half way down he ripped his pants,  
 And now he's doin' the cha, cha, dance.  
 Waterford City, (Spring, 1980).

(Opie [1985],455, Handclapping rhyme, "I had the Scarlet Fever,"  
 Porcheddu [1992] 191, "recited just for fun." Cork City.)

34.

Little Willy Wagtail,  
 Born in a sea shell.  
 Christened in a handkerchief,  
 Oh Willy Wagtail.  
 I know a woman whose name is Miss,  
 Every Sunday morning she walks like this.

("block the rope with your foot on 'like this'" - 10 year old girl who was part of the game.)

Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring, 1981).

(Brady [1975], 74)

35.

Gypsy, Gypsy, Gypsy from Carrigaline,

Washed her hair in turpentine.

The turpentine made it shine,

Gypsy, Gypsy, Gypsy from Carrigaline.

Sacred Heart School, Glasheen Road, Cork,

(Spring 1979) and Carrigaline, Co. Cork,

(Spring, 1980).

(Brady 57, [Ball Rhyme], [Dublin])

35a.

Gypsy, Gypsy, Caroline,

Washed her hair in turpentine,

The turpentine makes it shine,

Gypsy, Gypsy, Gypsy Caroline.

Cape Clare Island, Co. Cork, (Spring, 1981).

35b.

Car, Car, Caraline,

Wash her hair in turpentine,

The turpentine made it shine,

Car, Car, Caraline.

Ennis Girls School, Co. Clare, (Spring, 1980).

36.

Policeman, Policeman don't catch me.

For I've got a wife and family.

How many children have you got?

Twenty four and that's a lot.

(count to 24.)

Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring 1980).

(Daiken [1949], 69; Daiken [1963], 27; Brady [1975], 97; Behan & MacColl [1958], Band 3, Folkways 8501; MacThomais [1982], 107, (Street Chant), [Dublin 1920's-30's])

37.

Mrs. Brown went to town,  
 With her knickers hanging down.  
 Mrs. Green saw the scene,  
 And put it in the magazine.  
 Tralee, Co. Kerry, (Spring 1980).

(Abrahams [1969],130; Leyden [1993],132; Opie [1985] 441 [Handclipping]; Brady [1975], 65, [Ball rhyme])

38.

Seven girls names I do know,  
 Wish me luck 'cause here I go.  
 One, Angela,  
 Two, Mary  
 Three, Stephanie.  
 Four, Assumpta.  
 Five, Jacinta,  
 Six, Helen,  
 Seven, Ann.  
 (This format is used also as a ball bouncing rhyme.)  
 Waterford City, Spring (1980).

39.

Down in the meadow where the grass grows green.  
 A tomcat sat on a sewing machine.  
 The sewing machine sews so fast,  
 So fast it sews the tomcat's ass.  
 Ennis Girls Primary School, Co.Clare, (Spring,  
 1980).

The following rhyme is widespread in Cork City and is used for plain skipping, but also has versions that involve endurance skipping (turning the rope very fast). Here is a plain skipping version.

40.

Down in the alley-o,  
 Court hand Sally-o,  
 See all the girlsio,  
 Kissing all the boysio.  
 Out comes missio,  
 Have you seen my brother-o,  
 Oh no missio,  
 She's down in the alley-o.  
 The rip, the rap,  
 The sailor broke his back,  
 Slips on a banana skin,  
 And that was that.

Cork City, The Glen area, (Spring, 1979).

This rhyme might then lead into another rhyme to keep the rhythm going.

Elsewhere on the Northside of Cork City, a different version is heard:

40a.

Down in the alley-o.  
 Where they play release-o.  
 See all the boys-e-o.  
 Kissing all the girls-e-o,  
 Up jumps Miss-e-o,  
 Have you seen my daughtero,  
 No, no, miss-e-o,  
 She's down in the alley-o.  
 Rip, rap,  
 Sailor broke his back,  
 Slipped on a banana skin  
 That was that.  
 Era, but, sure, I must,  
 Learn to say my A, B, C . . . Z.

Gurranabrather Ave. Cork, (Spring, 1979)

(Daiken [1963], 45, MacThomais, [1982],144, [Dublin 1920's-30's])

In Presentation Convent, Tralee, girls sang this following rhyme, that was learnt in Garrettstown, Co. Cork by one of the girls in 5th class, while she was on holiday. It's a rhyme that was sung on the terrace that I lived on when I was growing up in the 1950s and was still being sung by my nieces in 1979.

40b.

Down in the alley-o,  
 Where they play release-e-o.  
 See all the boys-e-o,  
 Kissing all the girls-e-o.  
 Up jumped miss-e-o.  
 Have you seen my Mary-o,  
 No, no miss-e-o,  
 She's down in the alley-o.  
 The rip, the rap,  
 The sailor on the seashore,  
 Please play a loop for me.  
 Are you comin' , are you comin' ,  
 Are you comin' , to the fair,  
 We went, and we went,  
 But the fair wasn't there.

Barrett's Terrace, Cork, (1979)

40c.

Down in the alley-o  
 Courting Sally-o.  
 Picking up cinders, breaking windows.  
 My mother said to be good,  
 And not to interfere with the gypsies in the wood.

Farranree, Cork City, (Spring, 1979).

41.

There's a boy over there.  
 And he's winkin' his eye.  
 He tells me that he loves me,  
 But he's telling a lie.  
 His hair is all curly,  
 And his shoes are all shine.  
 He ain't got no money,  
 So he wont be mine.

Look whose coming down the street,  
 Brenda Sheehan isn't she sweet.  
 She's been married twice before,  
 And now she's knocking on Brendan's door.  
     Presentation Convent, Tralee, Co.Kerry, (1980).  
     Barrett's Terrace, Cork City, (1950's & 1970s-  
     80s.)

Around Gurrabrath Avenue on the Northside of Cork City, the same words to the above rhyme are sung added to by the following lines.

41a.

Mrs. Murphy is Brendan coming out?  
 Yes my love at half past three.  
 Half past three is much too late,  
 So marry me in the morning at half past eight.  
 How many kisses did she give him?  
 5-10-15-20-25-30 etc.  
 (When you "down" the rope, that's the number of  
 kisses the girl gave.)

The next rhyme, from Cape Clare Island, is a combination of "The Wind Blows High" and "Down in the Valley where the green grass grows," with a few lines from the song, "I'll tell me Ma," thrown in the middle.

42.

The rain, the rain, the rain blew high,  
 The rain blew falling from the sky.  
 Mary, Mary said she'd die,  
 If she didn't get the fella,  
 With the marble eye.  
 He is handsome, he is pretty,  
 He is the man from Kerry City,  
 Let the girls say what they like,  
 Padraigh Murphy will have a wife.  
     Cape Clare Island, Co. Cork, (Spring, 1981).

(Abrahams 209; Daiken [1949], 61, Belfast and Cork; Brady [1975], 92; Meek [1985], 59; Leyden 140; Behan, [1958], band 2, Folkways 8501;

McCaughan, [1971-2], 22; Opie [1985], 134-6, Circle Game, MacThomais [1982], 49, [Dublin 1920's-30's]

In Ring, Co. Waterford, version, the rain "came tumbling from the sky," and the fella has a "roman" eye. He comes from any town or city you want, and the rhyme ends as follows:

42a

Will she marry him? Yes/No. (whatever you "down the rope" on)  
 How many children? (count while you skip)  
 What colour dress? (list colours while skipping).  
 Ring, Co. Waterford, (Spring 1980).

In one Tralee, Co. Kerry, version, it's "the wind" that "blows high," creating, "all the scattering in the sky." The rhyme then resumes as follows:

42b.

She is handsome, she is pretty,  
 Tell me who she loves?  
 He loves her, he kisses her.  
 Oh my darling won't you tell your name to me?

While another version from Tralee, (Spring, 1980) goes as follows:

42c.

The wind, the wind, the wind blew high.  
 The wind came rushing from the sky.  
 Gay thought she would die,  
 All because of her poor boy.  
 He is handsome, he is pretty,  
 He is from Killkenny city.  
 And if you want to know his name,  
 His name is Colin Costello.  
 Do you love him? Yes/No.

43.

She sells sea shells on the seashore.  
 And the sea shells that she sells,  
 Are sea shells no more.

Crosshaven, Co. Cork, Presentation Convent,  
 (Spring 1979).

(Meek [1985], 79)

### Run In/Run Out Skipping Rhymes

Run in/run out rhymes take different forms. A girl might be skipping alone and then calls in a friend to skip with her. Or, calling the friend in might be a signal for her to exit the rope at the same time. In some rhymes, a girl might skip for a number of loops, but in other rhymes she will only skip for one loop and be followed by another girl, who only skips for one loop and so on. In this kind of situation, where a girl skips for just one or more loops of the rope, the pattern for running in to skip and running out when it's your time, is that of a figure eight. Whatever the situation may be, timing is crucial and if a girl's timing is off, she'll "down" the rope, causing her to "take the rope." Also, if she doesn't enter on the right loop, she may also have to "take the rope."

The following short rhyme is popular around Munster.

44.

Down the Mississippi if you miss a loop you're out.  
 (This line is repeated over and over as one girl jumps in  
 while another is exiting from the other side on "out."  
 Cork City, St. Catherine's School, Bishopstown,  
 (Spring, 1980)

44a.

Down the Mississippi where the boats go push.  
 (Repeat the line over and over with the girl jumping into  
 the rope pushing the girl skipping out of the rope.  
 Waterford City, (Spring, 1980).

(Abrahams [1969],44)

44b.

In Waterford City, (Spring, 1980) also, girls say:

Up the Mississippi where the boats go push.  
 (Repeat the line over and over with one girl jumping in  
 and pushing the girl who is skipping, out.)

The same procedure goes on in Ennis, Co. Clare (Spring, 1980), but the rhyme is different.

44c.

Down in the meadow where the ghost goes boo.  
 Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring, 1980).

44d.

In Ennis also, is heard the words:

Up the Mississippi if you miss a loop you're out.  
 (The same procedure is followed, whereby one girl  
 jumps in and the girl before her exits).

45.

Christopher, Columbus was a mighty man,  
 He sailed to the ocean in a tin can.  
 The waves flew higher and higher and over. (skip  
 higher as the rope is raised)  
 Croom, Co. Limerick, (Spring, 1980).

(Abrahams [1969], 30)

45a.

Christopher, Columbus was a mighty man,  
 He sailed to America in a tin can.  
 The wind it blew higher and covered his head.  
 Close your eyes and count to ten.  
 Limerick City, (Spring, 1980).

46.

George Washington never told a lie.  
 She ran around the corner,  
 And stole a cherry pie. (run out and in again.)  
 His father said for punishment,  
 She has to run to the gate,  
 And be back by ten.  
 Tralee, Co.Kerry, (Spring, 1980).

(Abrahams [1969], 53)

47.

Vote, Vote, Vote for De Valera,  
 And we call in Mary at the door, (Mary runs in)  
 Mary is the one we all like the best,  
 And we don't like Veronica anymore. (Veronica runs out)  
 (The rhyme is repeated with Mary skipping alone and a  
 new girl is called and Mary runs out.)  
 Ennis, Co. Clare, 9Spring, 1980).

(Brady [1975], 80; Abrahams [1969], 201; Daiken [1949], 69; Daiken [1963], 25; Behan & MacColl [1958], Band 4, Folkways 8501; MacThomais, [1982], 111, [Dublin, 1920's-30's])

In St. Patrick's School in Mayfield, Cork City, collected in the Spring of 1979, girls sing "love" instead of "like", otherwise the rhyme is the same.

On the Northside of Cork City also, girls sing the following version:

47a.

Vote, Vote, Vote for De Valera  
 And we call in Michelle at the door  
 If Michelle don't come in,  
 There'll be war in Spangle Hill,  
 And we won't like Orla anymore, shut the door.

Meanwhile over in Tralee, Co. Kerry, girls sing:

47b.

Vote, vote, vote for DeValera,  
 And we call in Deirdre, at the door,  
 Elaine is the one,  
 Who will have a lot of fun,  
 And we won't call her in anymore,  
 Shut the door, No.4.

48.

I like coffee, I like tea,  
 I like Sarah in with me. (Sarah runs in)  
 I hate coffee, I hate tea,  
 I hate Sarah in with me. (Sarah runs out.)  
 Croom, Co. Limerick, (Spring, 1980) & Sacred  
 Heart School, South Douglas Rd, Cork (Spring,  
 1979).

(Daiken [1949], 33, Ball Game, [Co.Antrim] Abraham [1969], 85; Opie  
 [1985], 358; Porcheddu [1992], 143, [Counting Out Rhyme], (Cork City);  
 Leyden [1993], 130)

In Doneraile, Co.Cork (Spring, 1979), the rhyme is extended to go as  
 follows:

48a.

I like coffee, I like tea,  
 I like Sarah in with me.  
 I don't like coffee, I don't like tea,  
 I don't like Sarah in with me.  
 Now that she's in,  
 I can't get her out,  
 How many pushes must I give her?  
 1-2-3-4 ..... (until she "downs"),  
 Hard or soft? (hard or soft belts to get her out).

In Ring, Co. Waterford, after the first two lines, girls sing the alphabet,  
 whatever letter she "downs" on, tells her boyfriend's name. Say the rope  
 downs on "P", then the boys name is used as follows:

48b.

I like coffee, I like tea,  
 I like Michelle in with me.  
 A,B,C, .....P.  
 Peter and me under a tree,  
 Will I marry him? Yes/No!

If the girl "downs" the rope on "yes," it's a way of prophesizing that she will marry him. The opposite also applies.

48c.

I like coffee, I like tea.  
 I like sitting on a blackman's knee.  
 Cork City, (Spring, 1979).

49.

As I was in the kitchen,  
 Doin' a bit a stitchin',  
 In came a boody man,  
 And I ran out. (run out of rope, next girl runs in.)  
 Crosshaven Co. Cork, (Spring, 1979), Ennis,  
 Co. Clare, (Spring 1980), Cork City, (Spring, 1979)

(Abrahams [1969], 12; Daiken [1949], 63 [Great Britain]; Daiken [1963], 33 [Dublin])

49a.

As I was in the kitchen,  
 Doin' a bit a stitchin'  
 In came a booby man,  
 And I ran out.  
 (You run out then and the other person after you  
 comes in.)

49b.

In the southside of Cork City, girls use "boogey man," instead of "boody man" and "booby man."

49c.

In Doneraile, Co. Cork, there is a combination of two different rhymes. It goes:

Seashells cockleshells,  
 Evy, ivy over.  
 Mother in the kitchen,  
 Doing a bit of stitchin' .  
 How many stitches did she drop?  
 (Count up until you "down" the rope.)

In another Cork City (Spring 1979) version, the following lines opens the verse:

Bluebells cockidy-shells,  
 Evor, ivor overhead.  
 As I was in the kitchen,  
 Doin' a bit a stitchin'.  
 In came a boody man,  
 And I ran out.

(Abrahams [1969],18; Brady [1975], 83; Ni Fhloinn [1982], 70, (Cavan)

51.

Tiger Tim, swallowed a pin,  
 That's the end of Tiger Tim. (run out)

Cape Clare Island, Co. Cork. This rhyme can then lead into another rhyme to keep the flow going.

(Brady [1975], 65 (Ball Rhyme))

51a.

On the northside of Cork City, the following lines are added to the two lines above:

Steve McGarrett, ate a carrot,  
 That's the end of Steve McGarrett.

52.

I am a little girl guide all dressed in blue,  
 These are the actions that I do.  
 Stand up straight, bend one knee,  
 Salute to the captain, and bow to the queen.  
 Cork City, St. Catherine's Primary School, Bishopstown  
 (Spring, 1979).

(Daiken [1949], 65; Abrahams [1969], 70; McCaughan [1971-2], 22; Brady [1975], 86)

52a.

I am a little rag doll all dressed in green.  
 My mother didn't like me, she gave me to the queen.  
 The queen didn't like me, she gave me to the King,  
 The King said shut your eyes and count to seventeen.  
 (Count up to seventeen with your eyes closed. If you miss  
 before seventeen, you go on the rope turning.)  
 Cork City, St. Catherine's School, Bishopstown  
 (Spring 1979).

(Abrahams [1969], 78; McCaughan [1971-2], 20)

52b.

I have a little dolly all dressed in Blue.  
 The Queen didn't like her,  
 So she sent it to the King,  
 The King said close your eyes,  
 And count to sixteen.  
 Ennis, Whitehall Estate, Co. Clare, (Spring  
 1980).

52c.

I'm a little Dutch girl,  
 All dressed in Green.  
 These are the actions I must do.  
 Salute to my master,  
 Bow to my Queen,

Run around the corner,  
 And buy an ice-cream. (Run out of rope and back in)  
 How many ice creams did I buy?  
 Limerick City, (Spring, 1980).

52d.

I have a little Teddy Bear,  
 All dressed in green.  
 These are the actions he must do.  
 Stand up straight, bend one knee.  
 Salute to the officer,  
 And bow to the Queen.  
 Run around the corner, (Run out of rope and back in.)  
 And into the shop.  
 And out I come with a lollypop.  
 Waterford City, (Spring 1980).

(Abraham [1969], 82)

53.

I had a little bumper car, No. 48.  
 I went around the corner,  
 And couldn't pull my brakes.  
 Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, (Spring 1981).

(Abrahams [1969], 80)

53a.

Bumper Car, Bumper Car, No.48.  
 Turn around the corner, (Run out and back in.)  
 And pull on the brakes. (stick leg out to stop rope.)  
 Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring 1980).

53b.

I had a little Bumper Car  
 His name is 48.  
 I ran him around the corner,  
 And then I pulled my brakes. (when rope stops, you  
 have to stop with it.)

Presentation Convent, Tralee, Co. Kerry,  
(Spring 1980).

53c.

I had a little Baby Car, No.48.  
I went around the corner and, (run out and back in.) Then  
I pulled my bakes. (stop the rope with your foot.)  
Waterford City, (Spring 1980).

53d.

I have a little Bubble Car, No.48.  
I go around the C-O-R-N-E-R. (Run out and in while  
you spell 'Corner.')

Cork City, Northside, (Spring 1979).

53e.

Bubble Car, Bubble Car, No.28.  
Turn corner, (Run out and around one of the girl's  
turning the rope and back in.)  
And pull down the brakes. (Stop the rope with your  
leg.)

Mallow, Co. Cork, (Spring 1979).

53f.

I have a little Bunny Car, No. 48.  
Goes around the corner, (run out and back in.)  
And then it stops its brakes. (Stick out leg to stop  
rope.)

Cork City, Northside, (Spring 1979).

53g.

I have a little Motor Car, No.48  
I went around the corner, (run out and back in.)  
And I had to put on my brakes. (block rope.)  
A policeman caught me,  
And put me into jail.  
How many years was I there?

1,2,3, ..... 30.  
 (If you miss, first off the rope gets to jump.)  
 Cork City, Southside, (Spring 1979)

53h.

I have a bobby car, No. 98.  
 I go around the corner, (run out and in.)  
 Then I pulling brakes,  
 Just like this. (stop rope with leg.)  
 Ballintemple, Boreenmanna Road, Cork City,  
 (Spring 1979).

53j.

Bubble Car, Bubble Car, No. 28.  
 Turn around the corner,  
 And pull down my brakes.  
 Mallow, Co. Cork, (Spring 1979).

53k.

I'm a little Bumper Car, No.48.  
 I went around the corner.  
 I forgot to pull my brakes.  
 My brakes didn't work,  
 I went tumbling down the hill.  
 And into a duck pond,  
 There I stood still.  
 Croom, Co. Limerick, (Spring 1980).

53m.

I am a little Bunny Car, No.48.  
 I live around the C-O-R-N-E-R, (Run out and in.)  
 Pulling my brakes.  
 The brakes didn't work,  
 So I brought her to the G-A-R-A-G-E, (Run out and  
 around one of the girl's turning the rope and back in)  
 And then I pulled my brakes.  
 (Go out and in again on "brakes." Rope must land

between legs. If not, repeat the line "So I brought her to the G-A-R-A-G-E, and "Pull the brakes again.")

Crosshaven, Co. Cork, (Spring 1979).

53n.

I have a little Buggy Car, No. 48.

I go around the corner, (run out and in.)

And then I pull my brakes.

Glasheen area, Cork City, and Barrett's Terrace,  
Cork City, (Spring 1979).

Mayfield area of Cork City is similar except "drive" is used instead of "go."

53p.

I had a little buggy car, when I am 64.

I go around the c-o-r-n-e-r,

And then I pull my brakes. (rope must stop between your legs.

If it doesn't, you're out. If it does, you go to the end of the line.)

Cork City, St. Catherine's School, Bishopstown,  
(Spring 1979).

53q.

I had a little motorbike, it's number was 48.

I went around the corner,

And forgot to put on the brakes

The policeman caught me and put me in jail,

How many years was I there?

("Start skipping fast and keep trying to skip as long as you can. When he misses, then you go out.")

Fieldnotes-girl playing in the game.)

Cork City, St. Catherine's School,  
Bishopstown, (Spring 1979).

54.

George Washington went around the corner. (run out and in.)

And bought a penny pie.  
 He slapped it in the face of his father.  
 And his father said,  
 George do not tell a lie.  
 You were very bold George.  
 Don't do it again.  
 You were very bold George,  
 Don't do it again.  
 Jump out now and leave me alone. (girl jumps out.)  
 George don't do it again.  
 Presentation Convent, 5th class. Tralee, Co.  
 Kerry, (Spring 1980).

(Abrahams [1969], 53)

54a.

Little George Washington never told a lie.  
 He ran around the corner, (run out around the turner and  
 back in before the next line ends)  
 And stole a cherry pie.  
 How many pies did he steal?  
 (Count up to ten.)  
 Cork City, Southside. St. Catherine's School,  
 Bishopstown, (Spring 1979).

54b.

Georgie Porgy puddingy pie,  
 Ran around the corner, (run out and in.)  
 And stole a penny pie.  
 When he went home he told his Dad.  
 Run around the corner,  
 And be back by 10. (run out and back by 10.)  
 1..... 10.  
 Tralee, Co. Kerry. Presentation Convent, 5th  
 class, (Spring 1980).

55.

There is a lady on the mountain,  
 Who she is, I do not know?  
 All she wants is gold and silver,  
 And she wants is a fine young man.

So I call in my Collette dear, (Collette runs in.)  
 While I run out to play. (girl runs out.)  
 Repeat again.  
 Cork City Southside, (Spring 1979).

(Gomme [1894], Daiken [1949], 75, (Circle Game); Abrahams [1969], 155 [Texas 1963]; McCaughan [1971-2], 23, [Belfast 1968]; Brady [1975],103, Circle Game, [Dublin]; Leyden [1993],14)

56.

Two little dicky birds,  
 Sitting on a wall.  
 One named Peter, other named Paul.  
 Flyaway Peter, flyaway Paul, (run out)  
 Come back Peter, come back Paul. (come back to skip.)  
 Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring 1980).

(Daiken [1949], 69; Abrahams [1969],198; Brady [1975],81, [Dublin]; Leyden [1993],130)

56a.

Two little dicky birds,  
 Sitting on a fence.  
 One named Peter, the other named Paul.  
 Flyaway Peter, flyaway Paul. (run out)  
 Come back Peter, come back Paul. (come back to skip.)  
 Cuil Aodh, Co. Cork, (Spring 1980).

57.

There's somebody under the bed.  
 I don't know who it is.  
 I got a shock in earnest,  
 And I called Joanne in.  
 Joanne light the candle,  
 Joanne light the gas.  
 Run in, Run out,  
 There's somebody under the bed.  
 Cork City, Northside, (Spring 1979).

(Daiken [1949], 63, [Great Britain]; Abrahams [1969], 190-1; Brady [1975], 78, [Dublin]; Leyden [1993], 126; MacThomais [1982], 63, [Dublin 1920s-30s] )

58.

Susanne on the telephone,  
 Calling in Georgina.  
 Georgina on the telephone,  
 Calling in Mary.  
 Mary on the telephone,  
 Calling in Sheila.  
 Cork City, St. Catherine's School,  
 Bishopstown, (Spring 1979).

The girl skipping calls another girl in to skip with her. Then the new girl calls in another girl who is next in line to skip with her. As the new girl comes in, a girl is going out the other side of the rope.

(Brady [1975], 77, [Dublin], Jinny on the telephone, /Miss your loop you're out/O- U - T spells Out.

59.

All in together girls,  
 Never mind the weather girls,  
 When it is your birthday please jump out,  
 Jan. Feb.....December.  
 Is it the first, the second, the third .....etc.  
 (Jump out on the month of your birthday. Then, when all the girls have jumped out for their birthday, everyone jumps in again for the days of the month, and jumps back out for the day their birthday falls on.  
 Cork City, St. Catherine's School,  
 Bishopstown, (Spring 1979).  
 Tralee, Co.Kerry, (Spring 1980), Limerick City,  
 (Spring 1980) Waterford City, (Spring 1980).

(Daiken [1949], 71, [Great Britain]; Abrahams [1969], 6, [Texas]; Brady [1975], 95, [Dublin]; NiFhloinn, [1982], 70, [Cavan], from "Schools Collection," 1937-8 )

59a.

All in together  
 This frosty weather,  
 When I count your birthday  
 The rope must be empty.  
 Jan. Feb. March ..... Dec.  
 Monday, Tuesday ..... Fri.  
 One, one and a half,  
 Two, two and a half,  
 Three, three and a half.  
 Four, four and a half.....  
 Five..... eleven or twelve.

Ennis Girls Primary School. Co. Clare, (Spring  
 1980).

### Endurance Skipping

Endurance skipping means that a test of endurance is put to the person while skipping. This usually involves turning the rope faster than normal to see how fast and how long the person can skip. It's also associated with lines in the rhymes that have a "prophetic" aspect to them, like, "How many children will you have?" Also these "prophetic" lines have the tendency to be tagged on at the end of a rhyme, but they can also stand alone as rhymes unto themselves as in the following rhymes, some of which are only one line long.

60.

Salt, mustard, ginger, cayenne pepper.  
 Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring 1980).

(The rope is turned more quickly as the one line verse progresses from salt to pepper. The line is then repeated until the girl skipping 'downs' the rope).

(Gomme [1898], 204, [Deptford, England]; O'Suilleabhain, [1942], 668, [Ireland?]; Daiken [1949], 63, [Great Britain]; Abrahams [1969], 175, [Texas], Brady, [1975], 78, [Dublin]; Kane [1983], 80, Skipping & Ball Rhyme, [Belfast]; Leyden [1993], 126)

61.

High, low, jolly, pepper.  
Limerick City, (Spring 1980).

For "high," the rope is raised off the ground and then turned. The person skipping then has to jump higher when skipping. For "low," she has to skip lower than normal. For "jolly," she twirls around. For "pepper," the rope is turned fast.

(Abrahams [1969], 63)

In another Limerick version, the one line goes as follows:

61a.

High, low, quick, slow, medium, pepper (fast). All the others are self explanatory.

In Cork City (Spring 1979), the version is more elaborate.

61b.

High, low, medium, slow, jolly, rocky, happy, pepper.

For "high," you turn the rope high.

For "low," you turn the rope low.

For "medium," you turn the rope in a "normal" fashion, neither fast nor slow.

For "slow," you turn the rope slowly.

For "jolly," the rope is "wiggled" and the girl jumping has to jump over it and go down low as she does it. She does it ten times.

For "rocky," shake the rope as you are turning it, creating an unevenness as the rope turns.

For "happy," you hop over the rope.

For "pepper," the rope is turned very fast.

(Abrahams [1969], 63)

61c.

In St. Catherine's School in Bishopstown, Cork, girls sing the same rhyme, but instead of saying "jolly", they say "dolly." For "dolly," you go

down low and skip. Whatever of these you "down" on, "you have to do ten times with the rope going real fast." (Fieldnotes-one of the girl's skipping).

In Tralee, Co. Kerry, girls sing:

61d.

High, low, medium, walky, talky.

The same explanation holds for "high," "low," "medium," as in 61b above. For "walky," the girls turning the rope walk while turning the rope, so that sometimes you might find yourself skipping sideways. For "talky," the girl turning the rope talks to you while you are skipping. They ask you five questions like:

Where do you live?

Whose your boyfriend?

What's your age?

Then you turn to the other girl and she asks you more questions.

Oak Park, Tralee, Co.Kerry, (Spring 1980).

61e.

High, low, jolly, pepper.

Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring 1980).

61f.

High low, medium, slow.

Ennis, Co. Clare, (Spring 1980).

62.

Roundy, Suzi, bluebell, pepper.

(Faster and faster ten times.)

If you "down," on "roundy," you twirl around or walk around in circles.

For "Suzi," you skip for 13 ordinary steps.

For "bluebell," jump from side to side over the rope.

For "pepper," skip ten times at a fast pace.

Cork City, Southside, (Spring 1979).

The following rhyme, sung in Tralee, Co. Kerry, and has an endurance line at the end that goes, "tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor," during which time the rope is turned fast.

63.

Mrs. Brown she lives by the shore.  
 She's got children three and four.  
 The eldest one is twenty one.  
 And she's going to marry a  
 Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor.

Mrs. Brown: (Daiken [1949], 64 [Great Britian]; Abrahams [1969],131; Brady [1975],65, [Dublin]). Tinker, Tailor etc: (Daiken [1949], 63, [Great Britian, 68, [Dublin]; Daiken [1963], 26, [Dublin]; Brady [1975], 90, [Dublin]; Leyden [1993], 135)

Another Tralee, Co. Kerry, collected in Spring 1980, the version goes as follows:

63a.

Mrs. Brown lived by the shore.  
 She had children two and four.  
 Oldest one is twenty four.  
 She's going to marry a  
 Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor,  
 Rich man, poor man, beggarman, thief. (Speed up the  
 rope.)  
 She's going to marry in high heels, low heels, flat heels.  
 Is she going to wear rags, cotton, silk, wool?  
 (For the last three lines, the rope is speeded up.)  
 (Leyden [1993], 135-6, for the last two lines).

Sometimes girls in Tralee, Co. Kerry sing the following by itself:

63b.

Who will you marry?  
 Tinker, tailor, Beggerman, sailor. (Whomever you down  
 on, you'll marry).

Will you be a Queen, Princess, or a maid?  
 Will you wear high heels, low heels,  
 Ragged shoes, patched shoes?  
 What will you go to Mass in?  
 Carriage, car, walk or a horse?  
 Then whatever the girl "downed" on, in each line, is  
 called out at the end of the rhyme.  
 Presentation Convent, Tralee.Co. Kerry,  
 (Spring 1980).

63c.

Another Tralee, Co. Kerry version ends with the following lines:

1,2, Tinker, Tailor, Captain, Sailor,  
 Lord Mayor, General, Duke,  
 Went to London all dressed in Blue.

A Cork version sung by girls in the Northside (Cathedral Road) is similar to the first Tralee version (#63 above) with a few minor changes.

63d.

Mrs. Brown she lives by the shore.  
 She has children three and four.  
 And the eldest one is twenty four,  
 And she's getting married to the boy next door.  
 Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor. (Speed up rope.)

Another Cork City version goes as follows:

63d.

Old Misses Brown,  
 She lives by the shore.  
 Mercy Convent Primary School, Southside,  
 Cork City, (Spring 1979).

In the Glen area of Cork City, girls sing:



65b.

Cinderella, dressed in yella,  
 Went upstairs to kiss her fella.  
 By mistake she kissed a snake  
 How many kisses did she give him?  
 1,2,3 ..... etc.  
 (Skip faster and faster until you down.)  
 Ennis Girls School, Co. Clare, (Spring 1980).

66.

Fire, fire, false alarm,  
 I fell into my boyfriend's arms.  
 How many kisses did he give me?  
 1,2,3,4, ..... etc. (skip fast.)  
 (If you miss, you go to the end of the line.  
 Cork City, Southside.St. Catherine's School,  
 Bishopstown, (Spring 1980).

(Abrahams [1969],49)

67.

Jelly on the plate,  
 Jelly on the plate,  
 Wobbly, Wobbly, Wobbly,Wobbly.  
 Jelly on the plate.  
 Sixpence on the floor,  
 Sixpence on the floor,  
 Go pick it up, go pick it up.  
 Sixpence on the floor.  
 Baby in the pram,  
 Eating bread and jam.  
 How many slices did she get?  
 5-10-15-20-25-30..... ! (Turn the rope fast.)  
 Mallow.Co Cork.

(Abrahams [1969], 99; Brady [1975],86; Leyden [1993],129)

67a.

Jelly on the plate,  
 Jelly on the plate,  
 Wiggly, wobbly, wiggly wobbly,  
 Jelly on the plate.  
 Sausage on the pan.....  
 Turn it over, turn it over,  
 Sausage on the pan.  
 Baby on the floor.....  
 Pick it up, pick it up,  
 Baby on the floor.  
 Robber in the house.....  
 Kick him out, kick him out,  
 Robber in the house.  
     Ballytruckle, John's Hill, John's Park,  
     Waterford City.

The next rhyme, a divination rhyme, is a combination of two rhymes, "Strawberry Custard" & "John And Mary went for a ride."

68.

Strawberry custard, cream on top.  
 Tell me the name of your sweetheart.  
 A.....Z.  
 John and Mary went for a ride,  
 Around the countryside.  
 John asked Mary will you be my bride.  
 Yes/No.  
 Maybe so. (Skip fast for last two lines.)  
     Listowel, Co. Kerry.

("Strawberry custard etc": Gomme 2, [1898],202; Opie, [1947],22; Daiken [1949],67, [Tipperary], 70 [Great Britain];Abrahams [1969], 73,

(John and Mary etc: Abrahams [1969], 99-100, [Texas])

68a.

John and Joan went for a ride.  
 John asked Joan would you be my bride.  
 Yes, No, maybe so.

How many kisses did he throw?  
 10,20,30,40..... 100.  
 How many children did he get?  
 Were they triplets, twins?  
 What kind of house- palace, cottage, house?  
 Will you be a tramp, queen or princess?  
 Waterford City.

69.

S-H-O-P,  
 S-H-O-P.  
 S-H-O-P,  
 Repeat while turning the rope fast.  
 If you "down on" 'S', you skip slow.  
 If you down on 'H', you hop on one leg.  
 If you down on 'O', you skip ordinary.  
 If you down on 'P', you skip fast.  
 Limerick city.

70.

Firecracker, firecracker,  
 Bumb, bumb, bumb.  
 The boys got the muscles,  
 The teachers got the brains.  
 The girls got the sexy legs,  
 And we won the game.  
 Extra, Extra, read all about it.  
 We won the game.  
 I give you a nickel,  
 I give you a dime,  
 And I'll bet you,  
 I'll be back in time. (run out and back by a certain time.)  
 Croom, Co. Limerick.

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