

Skipping Rhymes

Skipping rhymes are found in all cultures where children skip. English-language rhymes date as far back as the 17th century. Many different versions of skipping rhymes have evolved over time.

SPANISH DANCER, turn around,

(jumper turns around)

Spanish dancer, touch the ground.

(jumper touches the ground)

Spanish dancer, do a high kick,

(jumper does a high kick)

Spanish dancer, get out of town quick!

(jumper exits and the next jumper begins)

I'm a little DUTCH GIRL dressed in blue,

Here are the things I like to do:

Salute to the captain

(salute)

Bow to the Queen

(bow)

Turn my back on the submarine

(turn around and face the other direction)

I can do the tap dance

(dance)

I can do the splits

(jump up high with legs apart)

I can do the hokey pokey

(turn yourself around)

Just like this!

I LIKE COFFEE, I LIKE TEA

I like the boys and the boys like me

Yes - No - Maybe so

Yes - No - Maybe so

(the answer is revealed when the skipper misses)

LADYBUG, LADYBUG turn around,
Ladybug, ladybug touch the ground,
Ladybug, ladybug, show your shoe,
Ladybug, ladybug, that will do!
Ladybug, ladybug, go upstairs,
Ladybug, ladybug, say your prayers,
Ladybug, ladybug, turn out the lights.
Ladybug, ladybug, say good-night!
(suit actions to words)

Who shall I marry? (skipping at regular speed)

TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SAILOR, (skipping at faster "pepper" speed)

Rich Man, Poor Man,

Beggar Man, Thief,

Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief

* The "Tinker Tailor" skipping rhyme is part of a longer counting game, nursery rhyme, and fortune telling song traditionally played in England. It can be used to count cherry stones, buttons, daisy petals and other items for "counting out", e.g. for choosing who shall be "it" in a game of tag. It can also be played by young girls as a divination game, to "foretell" their futures.

The "Tinker Tailor Soldier Sailor" lyrics were incorporated in a song of the same name by The Yardbirds, a 1960's blues / rock band from England. The song was released in 1967.