

Go Round the Border, Susie

Source:

Lydia Parrish

Slave Songs of the Georgia Sea Islands

New York: Creative Age Press, 1942

Chorus

Go 'round the bor - der, Su - sie, Go 'round the bor - der, Su - sie,
Go 'round the bor - der, Su - sie, that long sum - mer day.
1. Out goes the hor - net shoo down my lit - tle one, shoo down my lit - tle one, shoo that day.
Out goes the hor - net shoo down my lit - tle one, Long sum - mer day. (Back to Chorus)

2. That turtle dove started, shoo down my little one
Shoo down my little one, shoo that day
That turtle dove started, shoo down my little one
Long summer day.
(Chorus)
3. H'ist the window, shoo down my little one
Shoo down my little one, shoo that day
H'ist the window, shoo down my little one
Long summer day.
(Chorus)
4. Don't miss no window, shoo down my little one
Shoo down my little one, shoo that day
Don't miss no window, shoo down my little one
Long summer day.
(Chorus)
5. Close in th' assembly, shoo down my little one
Shoo down my little one, shoo that day
Close in th' assembly, shoo down my little one
Long summer day.
(Chorus repeated as needed)

Game Directions

The action in this ring-play is directed by the verses. While the first verse is sung, the players join hands in a circle and swing to its rhythm. In the next verse "That turtle dove started," indicates that a girl has begun to move within the ring. "Out goes the hornet" is the signal for a boy to follow her. With "Hist the window," the players lift their clasped hands. First the girl weaves in and out of the circle, between the uplifted arms. The boy follows suit. "Don't miss no window," explains itself, and the last verse, "Close in th' assembly," means to close the window when the boy and girl are both on the outside. The fun then begins, and the chorus may need to be sung several times while the hornet attempts to catch the turtle dove, who turns in one direction, and then in another, to avoid capture.