

All Around the Green Apple Tree

Informant/Performer:
Group of children, Wiergate High School
Burkeville, Newton County, TX, 1939

Source:
Library of Congress AFS 2656 A3
Collected by John & Ruby Lomax

(So) All a-round the green ap - ple tree, where the grass grows so sweet,
Miss [Mar - gie], Miss [Mar - gie], please turn back your back,
He wrote you a let - ter to turn back your back.
(Mr.)
(She)

Transcribed by Anne Laskey

*This note sung only on repetition of song

Game Directions

The players form a circle and march around hand in hand as they sing. As each child is addressed by name, she turns out and rejoins hands facing out from the center of the circle. The game continues until all players are facing out.

Background Information

From the fieldnotes:

Wiergate is the headquarters of the Wier Lumber Company, which employs many Negro workmen. While we were waiting to see the Wier officials, we drove over to "the quarters," or Negro settlement; on the school grounds we saw a group of small girls circling around and singing. We could not catch the words. Recess was soon over. As the children were marching in, Mrs. Lomax asked one of the girls what they were playing. "Seed-tick," she replied. With the permission of the principal and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Mack, an assembly was called. The same group of little girls sang and played "Seed-tick" into the microphone. This was followed by others in rapid succession before the buses came to take the children to their home:

Here comes Uncle Jesse
All around the green apple tree
Ring around a rosey (Ring Round Rosey)
Seed tick
Lost my handkerchief yestiday
London Bridge
Little gal, little gal (chant)

Editors' note: these recordings can be heard on the Library of Congress Website at
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/lohtml/lohome.html>