

# The Closet Key

Informant/Performer:  
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Source:  
Dorothy Scarborough with Ola Lee Gullledge  
*On the Trail of Negro Folk-Songs*  
Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1925

The musical notation is written on two staves in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is divided into 'Solo' and 'Group' sections. The first staff shows the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff shows the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Solo* *\** *Group*

I have lost the clos - et key In some la - dy's gar - den;

*Solo* *\** *Group*

I have lost the clos - et key In some la - dy's gar - den.

\* changed to B in Ruth Crawford Seeger's *American Folk Songs for Children*.

2. Help me find the closet key  
In some lady's garden;  
Help me find the closet key  
In some lady's garden.
3. I have found the closet key  
In some lady's garden;  
I have found the closet key  
In some lady's garden.

## Game Directions

Players form a ring with hands behind them.

Verses 1 - 2: One player with a key walks around the outside of the ring and places the key in someone's hands, while leading the singing.

Verse 3: The player with the key leads the singing. Walker rejoins the circle and the player with the key becomes the new leader.