

Closet Key

Name of Song or Rhyme

"I have lost the closet key"

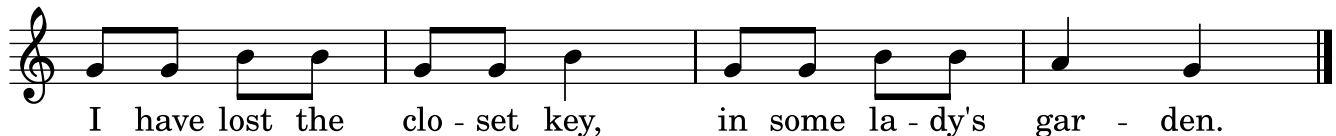
Singing Game

First line of song or rhyme (text only)

Song type

Use a checkmark (✓) or "X" in appropriate boxes

Melodic	Melodic/Cultural Analysis	Rhythmic/Uses Analysis	Rhythmic
M1. CSP	F Source's Starting Pitch: F4	$\frac{2}{4}$	R1. Meter
M2. Scale	do trichord		R2. Metronome
M3. Toneset	(d) r m		R3. Note values
M4. Range	1 - 3	☐ Outer: ☐ Inner:	R4. Upbeat
M5. Mel. Form	A B A C	☐ Iso ☒ Hetero A B A B	R5. Rhy. Form
M6. Cadences	3 3 3 1	4 4 4 4	R6. Beats/phrase
M7. Intervals		☒ Iso ☒ Bi ☐ Tri ☐ Hetero ☐ Tetra ☐ Other:	R7. Podia
M8. Target Phrases	A: d-m-d-m B: d-m-r-m C: d-m-r-d	A: B:	R8. Target Phrases
M9. M. Diffic.			R9. R. Diffic.
M10. Other			R10. Other
Cultural			Classroom Use
C1. Context	Circle game	<i>Actual Verses on Page 2</i> (3)	U1. # of verses
C2. Ethnicity	African-American		U2. Improv.
C3. Geographic	Virginia		U3. Listening
C4. Source: Where did this version come from?	Heath, C. Q. (1984) <i>The Song Garden, Book One</i> (p. 40). Kodály Institute at Capital University.	<i>Additional Room on Page 2</i> See page 2	U4. Game Directions/ Movement
C5. Source info	☐ Primary ☒ Secondary ☐ Tertiary	d-r-m	U5. Ped. Uses
C6. Research Notes	<i>Additional Room on Page 2</i> See page 2		U6. Roles
C7. Holiday		Household, Seeking	U7. Themes



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Stick Notation:

2/4

d d m m d d m

d d m m r m

d d m m d d m

d d m m r d

C6. Additional Research Notes

This song originates in the book *On the Trail of Negro Folk-Songs* by Dorothy Scarborough (1925). Dorothy Scarborough is known through this book to not have collected these songs ethically, and to use rather abusive language towards African-Americans. The book says the following concerning this song: “John Stone, of Virginia, sends this game-song, which was given him as used by Negroes. ‘The d***ies [censored] would form a ring, as in “dropping handkerchief,” but with hands behind them. One with a key would walk around the ring and place the key in some one’s hands. Led by the walker, all would sing... The one having the key would then hide it again and sing as before.’” It is at the discretion of the educator to use this song, given the manner in which it was collected. Dr. Grimsby in my Level I Materials class made it a point that this song should be included in a collection, as it showcases “Black joy” amidst oppression.

U1. Additional Verses

Verses from *On The Trail...* [Text has been modified to remove offensive rendering of AAVE.]

1. I done lost the closet key
In them ladies’ garden.
2. Help me to find the closet key
In them ladies’ garden.
3. I done found the closet key
In them ladies’ garden.

U4. Game/Dance/Movement Instructions

Students sit in a circle. Teacher sings song. A seeker is chosen to hide their eyes while the key is hidden. Once the key is hidden, the seeker walks around the circle looking for the key. Students in the circle sing louder or softer depending on closeness to the key. The softer they sing, the further away the student is, the louder they sing, the closer the student is to the key.