

Kye, Kye, Kule
Name of Song or Rhyme

“Kye, kye, kule”

Echo Song

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	A Source's Starting Pitch: A4	$\frac{2}{4}$	R1. Meter
M2. Scale	mi pentatonic, plagal (?)		R2. Metronome
M3. Toneset	s, l, d r (m)	♩/♩/♩/♩/♩/♩	R3. Note values
M4. Range	V - 3	☐ Outer: ☐ Inner:	R4. Upbeat
M5. Mel. Form	A B C D E E _v	☐ Iso ☒ Hetero A B B B C C _v	R5. Rhy. Form
M6. Cadences	3 2 1 1 3 x	4 4 4 4 4 6	R6. Beats/phrase
M7. Intervals	r↓l, (P4) d↓s, (P4) s,↑m (M6)	☐ Iso ☒ Bi ☒ Tri ☒ Hetero ☐ Tetra ☐ Other:	R7. Podia
M8. Target Phrases	A: m-r-m B: m-d-m-r C: l,-d-l,-d D: d-m-d E/E _v : s,-m-r-m	A: B: ♯ ♯ C: ♯ C _v : ♯ ♯	R8. Target Phrases
M9. M. Diffic.			R9. R. Diffic.
M10. Other			R10. Other
Cultural			Classroom Use
C1. Context	Action song	Actual Verses on Page 2	U1. # of verses
C2. Ethnicity	Fante		U2. Improv.
C3. Geographic	Central & Western Ghana	Recording on <i>Children's Songs for Games from Africa</i> , Smithsonian Folkways	U3. Listening
C4. Source: Where did this version come from?	Feierabend, J. M. (2003). <i>The Book of Echo Songs</i> (p. 43). GIA Publications, Inc.	Additional Room on Page 2 See page 2	U4. Game Directions/ Movement
C5. Source info	☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☒ Tertiary	♩/♩	U5. Ped. Uses
C6. Research Notes	Additional Room on Page 2 See page 2		U6. Roles
C7. Holiday		Motion	U7. Themes

Leader: Group:

Kye, kye, Ku - le, Kye, kye, Ku - le,

Kye kye Ko - fin - sa. Kye kye Ko - fin - sa.

Ko - fin, sa - lan - ga, ko - fin, sa - lan - ga,

Ka - ka, shi - lan - ga, ka - ka, shi - lan - ga,

Koom - a, den - de, Koom - a, den - de.

All: Koom - a, den - de. Hey!

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Stick Notation:

2/4

m m r m

m m d m r

l, d l, d d

d d m d d

s, m r m

s, m r m

C6. Additional Research Notes

According to Mama Lisa's World, this song is from the Fante people of Ghana. Fantes speak the Fante dialect of the Akan language, and many are bilingual/bidialectal, also speaking Twi.

From a contributor named William on Mama Lisa's World:

"Regarding the 'Kye Kye Kule' song there is no good translation into English, nonetheless it's not a nonsense song at all. This would be like calling 'Hey Diddle Diddle' a nonsense nursery song. It's best characterized as a rhyme, but rhyming in the Ghana language is quite different from English rhymes. It is common to build a new phrase using a substantial part of the previous one as a way to teach rhythm and continuity during language skill development in kids. This song falls in that category, that's why almost every person that went to primary school in Ghana knows it. Pay very close attention and you may be able to spot the 'strategic' repetition of words or phrases from the previous line.

'Kye Kye Kule' is not in Twi or in any Ghanaian language that I'm aware of. The only familiar Twi or Akan word is the common name 'Kofi'. The song has no literal meaning."

U1. Additional Verses

Pronunciation information from Mama Lisa's World:

Phrase 1 is pronounced "Chay chay kool-lay"

Phrase 5 is pronounced "Koom adende"

U4. Game/Dance/Movement Instructions

As the leader introduces each phrase, they show a motion. The group repeats each phrase and imitates the motion.

Phrase 1: Pat head four times

Phrase 2: Tap shoulders four times while twisting from side to side

Phrase 3: Tap on waist four times while twisting from side to side

Phrase 4: Tap knees four times

Phrase 5: Touch ankles on "Koom" and waist on "adende"

Phrase 6: Leader and group touch ankles and waist again, jump up and shout "Hey!"