

Old Betty Larkin

Name of Song or Rhyme

“Hop around, skip around, Old Betty Larkin”

Play Party

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	D Source's Starting Pitch: D4	$\frac{2}{4}$	R1. Meter
M2. Scale	re pentatonic		R2. Metronome
M3. Toneset	(r) m s l d' r'		R3. Note values
M4. Range	1 - 8	☐ Outer: ☐ Inner:	R4. Upbeat
M5. Mel. Form	A B C D	☐ Iso ☒ Hetero	R5. Rhy. Form
M6. Cadences	4 4 4 1	A A A B	R6. Beats/phrase
M7. Intervals	r↑l (P5) l↓m (P4) s↓r (P4) l↑r' (P4) s↑d' (P4)	☒ Iso ☒ Bi ☐ Tri ☐ Hetero ☐ Tetra ☐ Other:	R7. Podia
M8. Target Phrases	A: r-l-s-l-m-s B: s-r-m-s C: l-r'-d'-r'-l-s D: d'-l-s-m-r	A: B:	R8. Target Phrases
M9. M. Diffic.	Phrases 1 and 3 have similar contour, but different intervals		R9. R. Diffic.
M10. Other			R10. Other
Cultural			Classroom Use
C1. Context	Play party	Actual Verses on Page 2	U1. # of verses
C2. Ethnicity	Appalachian		U2. Improv.
C3. Geographic	Perry County, Kentucky	Recording on <i>American Playparties</i> , Pete & Mika Seeger, Smithsonian Folkways	U3. Listening
C4. Source: Where did this version come from?	Chosky, L., & Brummitt, D. (1987). <i>120 Singing Games and Dances for Elementary Schools</i> (pp. 93-94). Prentice-Hall, Inc.	Additional Room on Page 2 See page 2	U4. Game Directions/ Movement
C5. Source info	☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☒ Tertiary	re pentatonic 	U5. Ped. Uses
C6. Research Notes	Additional Room on Page 2 See page 2		U6. Roles
C7. Holiday		Motion	U7. Themes



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Stick Notation:

2/4

<i>r r r</i>	<i>l l l</i>	<i>s l l m s</i>	

<i>s s s</i>	<i>s s s</i>	<i>r r r m s</i>	

<i>l l l</i>	<i>r' r' r'</i>	<i>d' r' r' l</i>	<i>s</i>

<i>d' d' l s</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>r</i>	

C6. Additional Research Notes	
Jean Ritchie recorded this song with Alan Lomax on May 5, 1949, and later published it in <i>A Garland of Mountain Song</i> (1953). This song appears in <i>The Handy Play Party Book</i> , and also in <i>Sail Away</i> . In the 1923 book <i>The Quare Women: A Story of the Kentucky Mountains</i> , a reference is made to a “play-game and song Old Betty Larkin”.	
U1. Additional Verses	U4. Game/Dance/Movement Instructions
2. Needle in a haystack, Old Betty (Billy) Larkin... Also, my dear darling. 3. Steal, steal, Old Betty (Billy) Larkin... Also, my dear darling.	Formation: Double Circle Verse 1: Couples, holding hands in a skating position [promenade] with boys on the inside, step clockwise around the circle while “Betty” or “Billy” steps counterclockwise inside the circle. Verse 2: Drop hands, boys (inside circle) step in front of their partners so that all form a single circle facing clockwise. “Betty” or “Billy” weaves in and out around the circle clockwise in the style of a <i>grand right and left</i> as they sing “Needle in a haystack”. Verse 3: On “Steal,” “Betty” or “Billy” take the nearest person as a partner in a skating position. All others take their own partners in the same way. The one left out, the former partner of the chosen one, becomes the new Betty or Billy.