



Dancing with the Nursery Rhyme Stars

By Lois Lewis

NARRATOR 1:

Nearly everyone across Nursery Rhyme Kingdom watches the hit program “Nursery Rhyme Stars Step Out!” Each week, popular characters show their fancy footwork in a dance competition.

NARRATOR 2:

After two months of hard work, the field of 20 pairs of contestants has been narrowed down to just two pairs. Tonight, the winning team will be chosen.

NARRATOR 1:

The audience applauds as the show’s host, Old King Cole, that merry old soul, opens the program. Let’s watch.

OLD KING COLE:

Good evening! This is the final round of our dance challenge. To remind us about the fabulous prize for the winning team, here’s our favorite pickled-pepper man, Peter Piper!

PETER PIPER:

Thanks, King. The winning team will share this huge pot of gold, donated by the End of the Rainbow Bank.

OLD KING COLE:

Thank you, Peter. Let’s meet our three judges. First, give a hand to Her Royal Highness, the Queen of Hearts.

QUEEN OF HEARTS: (as all applaud)

Greetings! I made tarts for one and all.

OLD KING COLE:

Our next judge is the best musician in the land, Little Boy Blue.

LITTLE BOY BLUE: (as all applaud)
I brought my horn to play a tune for the winners.

OLD KING COLE:
And our final judge is Little Miss Muffet.

LITTLE MISS MUFFET: (as all applaud)
I'm sitting on a new tuffet, custom made for this occasion.

OLD KING COLE: (as all applaud and cheer)
Now, here are our finalists! Team 1 is the dynamic duo of Jack Be Nimble and Mary, Mary Quite Contrary.

JACK BE NIMBLE:
I'll be especially quick tonight.

MARY, MARY QUITE CONTRARY:
I'm wearing silver bells and cockleshells for good luck.

OLD KING COLE:
And team 2 is that tumbling twosome, Jack and Jill.

JACK:
I must be careful not to fall down --

JILL:
And break your crown!

OLD KING COLE: (laughing)
All right, let the dancing begin!

NARRATOR 2:
The teams perform such dances as the waltz, the foxtrot, the hustle, the jitterbug, and the twist. Each routine is outstanding.

NARRATOR 1:
The judges put their scores for each team into the computer. Old King Cole announces the results.

OLD KING COLE:
Well folks, at this point, the contest is a tie! But now, it's time for the final dance off. Each team will perform an original dance they have created themselves. Team 1, tell us about your dance.

JACK BE NIMBLE:

We call ours the Candlestick Jump.

NARRATOR 2:

Jack Be Nimble and Mary, Mary Quite Contrary perform complex jumps, steps, and spins around a row of candlesticks. The crowd gives them a standing ovation.

NARRATOR 1:

Jack and Jill clap politely as they watch from the side of the stage.

JILL:

Wow! What a performance! Do you think our idea will work, Jack?

JACK:

I hope it will.

OLD KING COLE:

Well, Team 2, what's the name of your dance?

JILL:

We've named ours the Rhyme Time Boogie.

JACK:

For this dance, we'd like everyone to please stand up.

NARRATOR 1:

Puzzled, the crowd obeys Jack's request.

JACK AND JILL: (together)

Take two steps forward and clap, clap, clap,

Walk like a duck and then jump back.

Slide to the left, slide to the right,

Run in place with all your might!

NARRATOR 2:

The team performs more catchy steps and verses. The audience and the judges follow their movements.

QUEEN OF HEARTS:

Hey, this is fun!

LITTLE BOY BLUE:

I like these steps!

LITTLE MISS MUFFET:

Me too!

NARRATOR 2:

The crowd goes wild as the judges enter their final votes.

OLD KING COLE:

Folks, the judges have decided that the winning team is Team 2, Jack and Jill!

NARRATOR 1:

Everyone cheers as Old King Cole presents the pot of gold to the winners.

OLD KING COLE:

Well Jack and Jill, do you have anything to say at this moment?

JILL:

We're thrilled! It's been an amazing experience. And we'd like to do something special. Jack, would you tell everyone about our plan?

JACK:

Weeks ago, Jill and I decided that if we won this contest, we would use our prize money to help others. So, we are using the pot of gold to set up an education fund for the children of the Old Woman Who Lives in a Shoe.

OLD KING COLE:

How wonderful! Let's hear it for our generous winners!

NARRATOR 2:

The program ends with Little Boy Blue blowing his horn while the audience claps -- and dances -- happily ever after.

