

Lavender's Blue

Many a nursery rhyme was far in spirit from the nursery in its earliest version. Here is one, dating from 1672, that has as its prototype a song called "Diddle-diddle, or The Kind Country Lovers." I have eliminated nine verses, not for bowdlerization, but because they incline to dullness.



Allegretto

D A7 D G A7 D

Lav - en - der's blue dil - ly dil - ly Lav - en - der's green,

mf

G A7 D Em7 A7 D

When I am king, dil - ly dil - ly You shall be queen.

Some current versions substitute dilly dilly for diddle diddle. Take your choice.

36

dilly dilly

1 Lavender's blue, diddle diddle,
Lavender's green,
When I am king, diddle diddle,
You shall be queen.

2 Lavender's green, diddle diddle,
Lavender's blue,
You must love me, diddle diddle,
'Cause I love you.

3 Down in the vale, diddle diddle,
Where flowers grow,
And the birds sing, diddle diddle,
All in a row.

4 A brisk young man, diddle diddle,
Met with a maid,
And laid her down, diddle diddle,
Under the shade.

5 There they did play, diddle diddle,
And kiss and court,
All the fine day, diddle diddle,
Making good sport.

6 I've heard them say, diddle diddle,
Since I came hither
That you and I, diddle diddle,
Might lie together.

7 Therefore be kind, diddle diddle,
While here we lie,
And you will love, diddle diddle,
My dog and I.

8 For you and I, diddle diddle,
Now all are one,
And we will lie, diddle diddle,
No more alone.

9 Lavender's blue, diddle diddle,
Lavender's green,
Let me be king, diddle diddle,
You be the queen.

10 Lavender's green, diddle diddle,
Lavender's blue,
You must love me, diddle diddle,
'Cause I love you.



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