

# 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.

*men*  
Lavender's blue, *dilly dilly* 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.

*ladies*  
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.

*1*  
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.

*Men may*  
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.



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

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

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

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

There they did play, diddle diddle,  
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All the fine day, diddle diddle,  
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I've heard them say, diddle diddle,  
Since I came hither  
That you and I, diddle diddle,  
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Therefore be kind, diddle diddle,  
While here we lie,  
And you will love, diddle diddle,  
My dog and I.

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

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

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

