

Bird in a cage / Kagome, kagome

<https://riverofsong.uk/>

A circle guessing game from Japan; the meaning of the words are obscure but you can find out more at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kagome_Kagome.

I first came across it in 'Teachers handbooks Language resources' published by Scholastics in 1987 which credited it to 'Folk songs from the East' compiled by Janet Tobbitt published by A&C Black 1959.

One player is chosen to sit in the centre of the circle with their eyes covered; the other children join hands and walk gently round them. On 'all fall down' those in the ring sit down and when the song stops, the child in the centre tries to name the person sitting directly behind them. If successful the child identified sits in the centre and the game begins again.

Ka - go - me, ka - go - me, Poor lit - tle bird in a bam - boo cage.
What time will they set you free? Mid - night or at dawn of day?
Crane and old tur - tle must all fall down. Who is that be - hind you, can you say?



Kagome, kagome,
Poor little bird in a bamboo cage.
What time will they set you free?
Midnight or at dawn of day?
Crane and old turtle must all fall down.
Who is that behind you, can you say?



かごめかごめ 籠の中の鳥は
Kagome kagome / Kago no naka no tori wa
いついつ出やる 夜明けの晩に
Itsu itsu dcyaru / Yoake no ban ni
鶴と亀が滑った
Tsuru to kame ga subetta.
後ろの正面だあれ
Ushiro no shoumen dare.