

Mary's Vegetable Garden

CHARACTERS:

The Story Teller

Mary

Yetta

Anna

Vincenza

Sultana

SCENE

THE STORY TELLER: (*Bowing to the audience.*) I am going to tell you the story of Mary and her vegetable garden:

Mary, Mary, not contrary,
Goes to market each day
On the sunny side of Stanton Street,
Just across the way.

MARY: (*Enters with basket of vegetables, and speaks to all.*) Good morning.

(*Yetta enters.*)

THE STORY TELLER: Here is Yetta, Mary's friend from Russia.

YETTA: Oh, Mary, what gives you such rosy cheeks? You never look pale or faint.

MARY: With good food and plenty of exercise I never need to use paint.

(*Anna enters.*)

THE STORY TELLER: And here is Anna from Romania.

ANNA: Oh, Mary, what makes your eyes so bright, and why is your face so fair?

MARY: I go to bed early, sleep nine hours, and get plenty of good fresh air.

(*Vincenza enters.*)

THE STORY TELLER: Here is Vincenza from Italy.

VINCENZA: Oh, Mary, what makes your step so light, and how do you keep so well?

MARY: With good food and drink, and habits right, there's nothing more to tell.
(Sultana enters.)

THE STORY TELLER: Here is Sultana from Turkey.

SULTANA:

Please, Mary, tell us what food you eat.
And tell us how you buy.
We want to keep well and have rosy cheeks,
And we'll promise you we'll try.

MARY:

I buy each day some carrots and beets,
To keep my complexion clear;
While you use your pennies to buy some sweets
You're very foolish, my dear.

When too much starch my food contains,
I change to beans and peas
Lettuce and onions, too, are good,
And all such foods as these.

YETTA: But we like candy and other sweets. Mary, don't you eat these?

THE STORY TELLER: But Mary, perhaps contrary now, said—

MARY: Only vegetables, please. *(She shares her vegetables with her little friends who stand in a row facing the audience.)*

THE STORY TELLER:

They filled their baskets to the brim,
With all nice things that grow;
Like Mary, they'll all have rosy cheeks,
These pretty maids all in a row.

Then together they all tripped gayly along,
And Mary led the way,
While the vegetable folk stood up in their carts
And cried "Please buy us today."

(All leave stage skipping and humming a song. The Story Teller bows and leaves stage.)

THE END