

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