

## Tug -of War



Multiple games were played to select teams for Tug of War. An assortment of games from the Schools Manuscript Collection are listed below

### **Dan Dan Thread the Needle**

All the children get into a big line. Two girls get out of the line and catch one another's hands. The line goes in and out under the girls arms and while walking in and out the children sing.

Dan Dan thread the needle sew sew sew  
Let every lady pass but the last man go.

The two girls that are out of the ring. One of the two girls is supposed to have an apple and the other an orange. The one of the girls say "*Which would you rather have an apple or an orange.*" If the girls say an apple. The girl which is not in the ring would say "get behind me". The next girl may say when she is asked which would she rather, have she may say a orange or she may say apple and so on until the last girl. Then it ends up in Tug of War. Whoever falls is out and the girls that do not fall wins the game.

NFC, Vol. 798 pg 291 (Dublin)

### **'Large You, Large I .**

Another game i like is 'Large You, Large I . This is how it is played. Two girls stand in the playground with hands caught outstretched. A row of girls join together and pass in and out under the outstretched arms of the two girls whilst the two say '*Large You, Large I, let everyone pass by, but the very last one*' Then the last girl is held up. The two center girls each take a name one might take a '*Bus*' and the other a '*Train*'. One girl then says to the last one, '*Which would you prefer a bus or a train?*' Then she goes behind the girl whose name she has preferred. That goes on until the last girl is out and then it is a 'Tug - of War' between them.

NFC, Vol 530, Page 105 (Tipperary)



**Robbers.** This is the way we play robbers. We all line up and two at the end catch hands and each wishes for something. Then we all pass out under the arms of the two who wished. While we pass through we all say this rhyme:

Here is the robbers coming through,  
Here is the robbers coming through, coming through.  
What did the robbers do to you?  
They stole my watch, they stole my chain.  
Subber, nibber, nabber.

Then the last girl is caught and asked quietly which of the two wishes she would rather have then she goes behind the girl whose wish she picked. This goes on until all the girls are caught and lined up behind one of the two girls who wished. Then we pull like a “Tug of War” until one side falls to the ground.

NFC, Vol 1026, pg 175 (Donegal)

## Colours

Each child is given a different colour as red, blue, pink, copper etc.. One child is marked out to represent 'Heaven' and is placed about 20 yards away. A second child represents 'Hell' and is placed in opposite direction, also 20 yards away from the row of colour's The Devil who is in hell calls out 'Pink'. The latter runs and tries to get to Heaven before the Devil catches her. At end of game, those in heaven have a tug of war with all who were carried away to hell by the devil. The latter person is selected from amongst the strongest in class.

NFC, Volume 0771 pg 211-2 (Kildare)

## Rhymes for Tug of War

When they are playing a game of tug-o-war they say this rhyme

Lord Luke or Lord John  
Let every-one pass but the very last one.

NFC, Vol 149, Page 342 (Mayo)