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Two Poems on Children's Games

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Two Poems

Kerenhappuch

*We're jumping rope.
You can play too
if you can spell your name.
Can you?
Ok go to the end of the line and wait your turn.
I doubt you'll make it
with so many letters
to spell out for the fast part.
Do you know how to turn the rope?
Ok.*

--Nathan Whiting

Game

<i>She has a green shirt</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>with pink polka dots</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>and blue sneakers with red laces</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>orange shirt</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>dark hair</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>a red coat</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>with big blue buttons</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>and a silver belt</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>she has a chartreuse nose</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>and green eyes</i>	<i>swing</i>
<i>with black centers</i>	

*At the word black everyone jumps from the swings
runs to the fence in front
runs back through the swings to the fence in back
and races for the swings.*

<i>A small girl loses. She says: He has a blond beard and an old blue jacket with black socks</i>	<i>swing swing</i>
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--Nathan Whiting

(Nathan Whiting's book, This Slave Dreads Her Work, is published and available from Hanging Loose Press, 231 Wyckoff St., Brooklyn, NY 11217.