

School Outing Briefing

by J. Richards

Right, girls and boys and mums and dads
This meeting is about
How we can all be safe today
So please don't make me shout

Now, last time we went on a trip
I wasn't very keen
On things that you got up to
That I'd rather not have seen

Of course, it's always just a few
Who spoil it for the rest
But, please, today I'd like to see
You all behave your best!

I've put you in six groups of five
The mums and dads will lead
So go to your group leader
If there's something that you need

Don't pester them for money, though
Or nag them for some food
Or get them running after you
And please, please don't be rude!

The forecast is blue skies
But I can see them turning grey
So we'd better take our plastic macs
And brollies anyway

Before we take the underground
You'll each receive a map
And do be sure to listen
When you're told to "*mind the gap!*"

Last time you were too noisy
As we waited for the train
There were a few complaints
So don't let that occur again

The worse thing was the reason
For the noise that you were making
The girls could not stop screaming
At the snake that Seth was taking

So let me make it clear my friends-
No pythons, chimps or camels,
And make sure I don't catch you
Feeding furry little mammals!

Now, don't forget museums are
Quite quiet, somber places
That do not like small children
Having noisy running races

In fact we're very lucky
They will let us in at all
When you think what happened last time
With that wretched cricket ball

The boy concerned said:
"Oh, it's just a silly garden gnome!"
But the "silly gnome" had smashed
A statuette from ancient Rome!

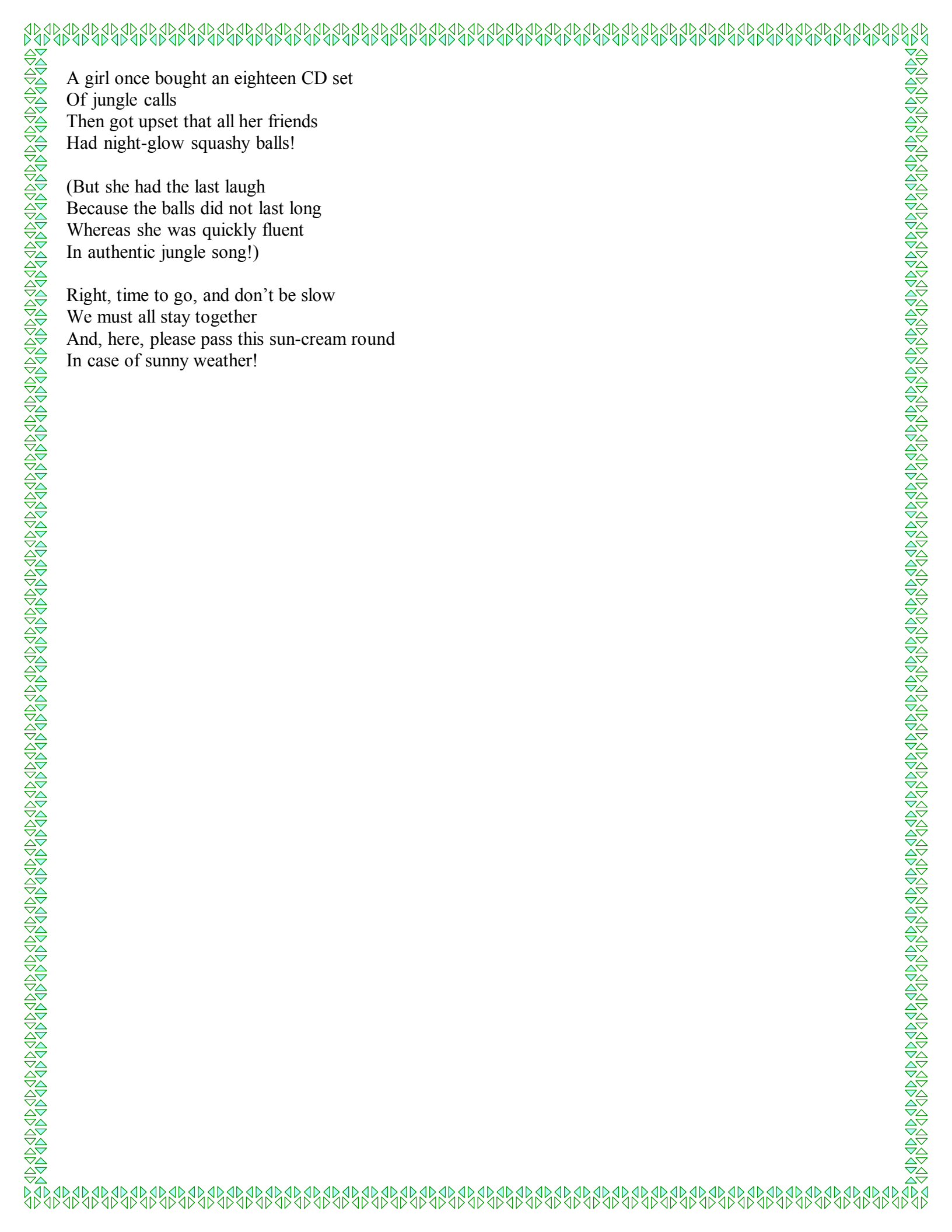
We'll walk and look but please don't touch
Unless you're told you can –
Unravel one more mummy
And we're sure to face a ban!

Oh, if you see a "WET FLOOR" sign
Please don't pretend it's ice
Some parents sold their house to pay
A Ming vase 'knock down price!'

Now, parents, I'll remind you
That your mobiles pose a threat –
Last year we lost five children
While a mother phoned her vet

We're pleased the operation
On her dog was a success
But the kids were found, quite happy,
On the train to Inverness!

The gift shops: well, I love them too,
But don't just spend, spend, spend
For if you do I know that
You'll regret it in the end –



A girl once bought an eighteen CD set
Of jungle calls
Then got upset that all her friends
Had night-glow squashy balls!

(But she had the last laugh
Because the balls did not last long
Whereas she was quickly fluent
In authentic jungle song!)

Right, time to go, and don't be slow
We must all stay together
And, here, please pass this sun-cream round
In case of sunny weather!