

Willie

Oh ___ last _____ Thurs - day morn - ing while play - ing at ball, I ___
met my dear Wil - lie, the fair - est of them all. I ___
asked him to take a walk with me a piece down the road. I'd
show him my fath - er's gar - den and the place of my a - bode.

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff is in 3/4 time and contains the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the piece, featuring a key signature change to one flat (B-flat) and a time signature change to 4/4, before returning to 3/4 for the final line of lyrics. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

“There’s a tree in my father’s garden, dear Willie,” said she,
Where my young men and maidens they wait upon me.
When my young men and maidens are at their own silent rest,
Meet me there, my dearest Willie; you’re the lad I love best.”

Now when her old father the truth came to know
He swore to prove his downfall and fatal overthrow.
Her father lay in ambush this deed for to do
And with a rusty broad sword he pierced her love through.

“Oh, father, dearest father, is this your good will
The blood of my own precious Willie to spill?”
She threw herself down on the ground where he lay,
“May the heavens shine upon him; he’s my own darling boy.”

Oh, the grave it was made ready and Willie laid in.
“Oh, Willie, dear Willie, you’re the joy of my soul.
Oh, I’ll go away to some far country
Where there I know no one and no one knows me.

“Oh, green grows the rushes and the tops of them small,
But love is a root that will conquer them all.
Oh, love is a burden like a load on my breast
And the grave it is the first place I expect to find rest.”