

# A Spring Flower Garden

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## Characters

MISS SPRINGTIME	DAFFODIL
PUSSY WILLOW	JOHNNY-JUMP-UP
PRIMROSE	LILY
TRAILING ARBUTUS	DANDELION
SNOWDROP	BLUEBIRD
CROCUS	BILLY BUMBLE BEE
VIOLET	BUTTERFLY BEAU

## Costuming

MISS SPRINGTIME: in long, clinging costume of pale green with silver crown or silver star in her flowing hair; a silver wand wound with green; garlands of flowers draped about her.

PUSSY WILLOW: in gray, with gray fur cap and coat.

PRIMROSE: in pale yellow, with skirt scalloped to represent petals.

TRAILING ARBUTUS: a small girl in pink dress with green sash and ribbons.

SNOWDROP: in white dress with green sash and cap.

CROCUS: a little girl in bright yellow dress.

VIOLET: in purple dress, sash, and ribbons, or white dress with purple sash and ribbons; if possible, carries a bunch of violets.

DAFFODIL: a green dress with wide yellow sash and hair ribbons, or a white dress with yellow sash and ribbons; may carry a large bouquet of daffodils.

JOHNNY-JUMP-UP: a boy in a yellow suit.

LILY: in pure white; may carry a white lily bell.

DANDELION: in green with yellow cap made to imitate a dandelion.

BLUEBIRD: a little boy in blue with blue stockings and cap, and blue paper wings.

BILLY BUMBLE BEE: a wee boy in black with yellow bands and white paper wings.

BUTTERFLY BEAU: a boy in black with large orange wings made of crepe paper with dots of different colors pasted upon it.

When the entertainment starts the flowers, grouped in a semi-circle, are all asleep, partly hidden by the green with which the stage is banked. Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" is played softly upon the piano, or phonograph, or piano and violin together are even better. After a moment MISS SPRINGTIME enters keeping step to the music. If she can be taught a little dance to this beautiful melody, it will be found very effective. While the music plays very softly, she recites:

I come! I come! ye have called me long—  
I come o'er the mountains with light and song!  
Ye may trace my step o'er the wakening earth  
By the winds which tell of the violet's birth,  
By the primrose-stars in the shadowy grass,  
By the green leaves opening as I pass.

Come forth, O ye children of gladness! come!  
Where the violets lie may be now your home.  
We of the rose-lip and dew bright eye,  
And the bounding footstep, to meet me fly!  
With the lyre, and the wreath, and the joyous lay,  
Come forth to the sunshine—I may not stay.

—Felicia Hemans.

(She steps over to PUSSY WILLOW and touches her lightly with her wand. PUSSY WILLOW awakes, comes forward, and speaks)

## PUSSY WILLOW

In her dress of silver gray  
Comes the Pussy Willow gay—  
Like a little Eskimo,  
Clad in fur from tip to toe.  
Not another flower is found  
Peeping from the bark or ground.  
Only Mother Willow knows  
How to make such suits as those;  
How to fasten them with skill,  
How to guard against the chill.  
Did she live once long ago,  
In the land of ice and snow?  
Was it first by Polar seas  
That she made such coats as these?  
Who can tell?—We only know  
Where our Pussy Willows grow.  
Fuzzy little friends that bring  
Promise of the coming spring.

—Elizabeth Foulke.

(She steps to one side.)

MISS SPRINGTIME (going to PRIMROSE and touching her with her wand)

Wake up, little Primrose,  
And don't have a fear;  
The winter has vanished  
And summer is near.  
All the flowers are nodding,  
But soon they'll arise  
To bloom in the sunshine  
Under blue skies.

## PRIMROSE (waking up)

Mild offspring of a dark and sullen sire!  
Whose modest form, so delicately fine,  
Was nursed in whirling storms  
And cradled in the winds.

Thee, when young spring first questioned winter's sway,  
And dared the sturdy blusterer to the fight,  
Thee on this bank he threw  
To mark his victory.

In this low vale the promise of the year,  
Serene, thou openest to the nipping gale,  
Unnoticed and alone,  
Thy tender elegance.

—Henry Kirk White.

MISS SPRINGTIME (next touching TRAILING ARBUTUS)

Come, Trailing Arbutus,  
'Tis Springtime who cries  
To each sleepy flower,  
"Come, open your eyes."