

Text to Musical Masque
from James Whitcomb Riley's Poem
"A Masque of the Seasons"

1st Reading

A kitchen and a Group of Children popping corn. - The Fairy Queen of The Seasons discovered in the smoke of the corn popper waves her wand, and, with eerie, sharp, imperious motions, addresses the bespelled children, who neither see nor hear her nor suspect her presence.

2nd Reading

Summer or Winter or Spring or Fall,
Which do you like the best of all?

When I'm dressed warm as warm can be,
 And with boots, to go
 Through the deepest snow,
Winter-time is the time for me!

3rd Reading

Summer or Winter or Spring or Fall,
Which do you like the best of all?

I like blossoms, and the birds that sing;
 The grass and the dew,
 And the sunshine, too-
So, best of all I like the Spring.

4th Reading

Summer or Winter or Spring or Fall,
Which do you like the best of all?

O little friends, I most rejoice
 When I hear the drums
 As the Circus comes,-
So Summer-time's my special choice.

5th Reading

Summer or Winter or Spring or Fall,
Which do you like the best of all?

Apples of ruby, and pears of gold,
 And grapes of blue
 That the bee stings through-
Fall-it is all that my heart can hold!

6th Reading

Soh! my lovelings and pretty dears,
You've *each* a favorite, it appears,-
Summer and Winter and Spring and Fall,-
That's the reason I send them all!