

Jack, Be Nimble

by Mary Ann Hoberman

Jack, be nimble
Jack, be quick
Jack, jump over
the candlestick.

I will not jump, Jane!

That candlestick
Might be quite hot.

I still will not
Jump over it.

I'll jump a wall,
I'll jump a box,
Across a stream
Or over rocks.
But since it is
A silly trick,
I will not jump
A candlestick.

If you're so sure
What I should do,
Go jump yourself!
I dare you to!

Jack, why not?

But Jack, the candle
Is not lit.

It isn't even
Very high
But you won't jump it.
Tell me why?

Just take one jump.
I wish you would.
A single jump,
I think you should.

It isn't lit.
Have you forgot?

It's very short.
Now will you try?

It isn't hard
As you can see.
Just start to run
And follow me.

You tricked me, Jane!
I should have known.
But now go do it
On your own.

The candlestick
Might be quite hot.

I think it looks
A little high.

All right, I will.
I'll jump it now.
But only if
You show me how.

Oh, Jack, you jumped it!
You were good!
You jumped so high!
I knew you could!

Well, here I go.
I'll start way back.
I'll run! I'll jump!
I made it, Jack!

Jack, be nimble!
Jane, be quick!
They both jumped over
The candlestick!