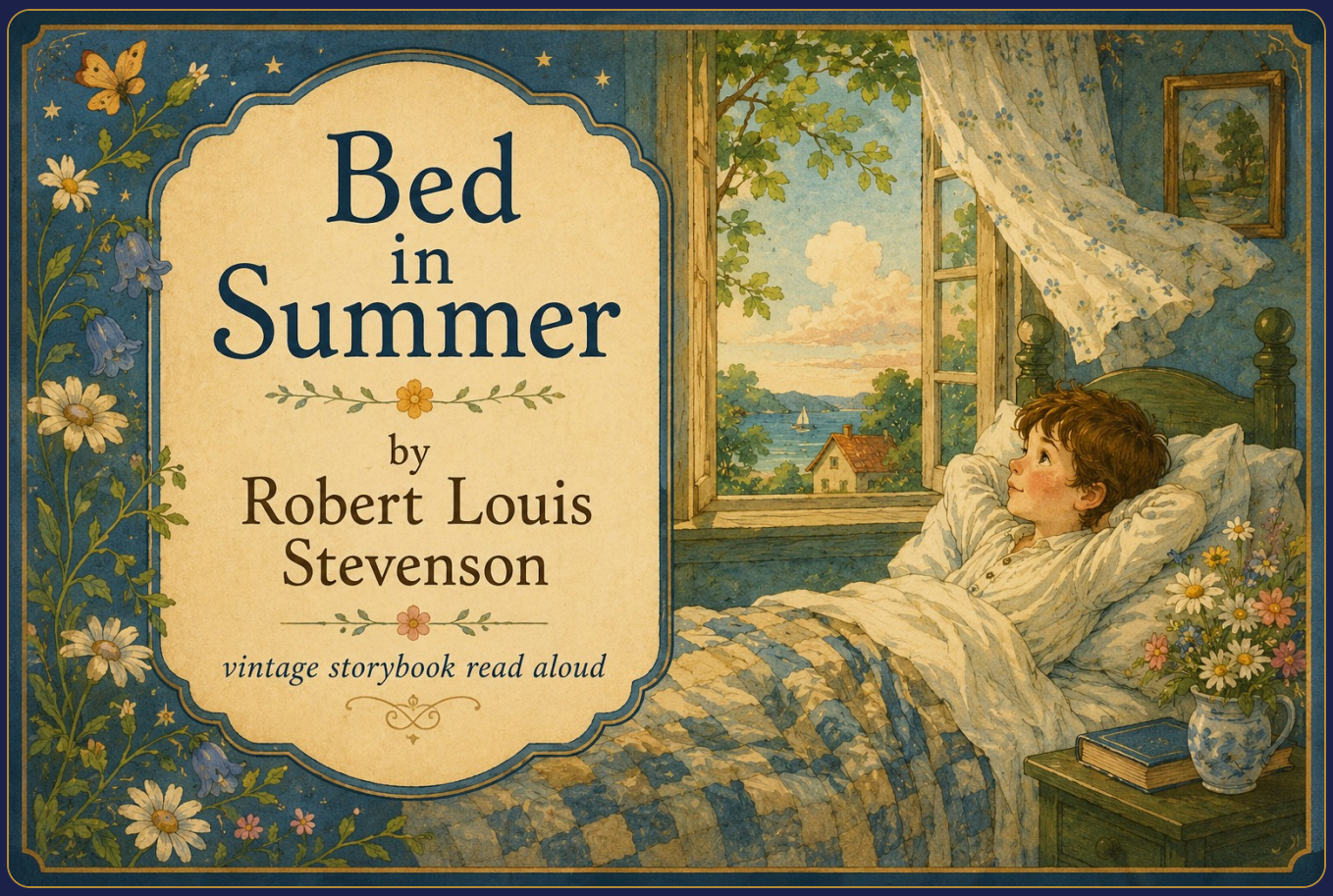
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From A Child's Garden of Verses (1885)



- ✦ The Poem
- ✦ Try It
- ✦ Missing Words
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Meet the Poet
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- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
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- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
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- ✦ Learn It by Heart
- ✦ Standards

Ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K to Grade 2 ✦ Aligned to Common Core

This cover is for your screen. Print from page 2 to save ink.

FOR GROWN-UPS

How to Use This Guide

This free guide goes with the Storyland Classics read-aloud of “Bed in Summer” by Robert Louis Stevenson. Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE POEM

In winter the child gets up while it is still dark and dresses by candlelight. But in summer it is the other way around: bedtime comes while the sun is still shining, the birds are still hopping in the trees and grown-ups are still walking past in the street. The child asks us: doesn’t that seem unfair?

SKILL FOCUS

Compare and contrast, plus a science link to seasons and daylight

A simple routine

1. **Day 1.** Watch the read-aloud together (scan the QR code on the poem page), then read the poem aloud.
2. **Day 2.** Read it again. Meet the poet, then use Let’s Talk and Try It.
3. **Day 3.** Learn the words with the word match, word sort, word search and missing words.
4. **Day 4.** Listen for rhymes and syllables, put the poem in order, and perform it with voices.

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Standards

Every activity is aligned to the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 2. Codes appear at the bottom of each page, and the full table is on the last page.

Younger children

Children who aren’t writing yet can answer out loud or tell a grown-up what to write.

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THE POEM

Bed in Summer



In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Bed in Summer" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/summer.

Robert Louis Stevenson, A Child's Garden of Verses (1885). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

Robert Louis Stevenson

1850–1894 ✦ The poet of A Child's Garden of Verses

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1850. His family built lighthouses all around Scotland's coast. Louis was often sick as a boy and spent long days in bed, where his nurse, Alison Cunningham (he called her "Cummy"), cared for him and told him stories. When he grew up he wrote *Treasure Island* and remembered his own childhood in *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885), which he dedicated to Cummy. He later lived on the island of Samoa, where people called him Tusitala, "teller of tales."

Questions About the Poet

1. In what country was Robert Louis Stevenson born?

2. Why did he spend long days in bed when he was a boy? Who looked after him?

3. Name a famous book he wrote. What did the people of Samoa call him?

Who Is Talking?

This poem is told by one person. Read it again, then answer.

1. Who is telling this poem? How do you know it is a child?

2. Who is the child talking to in the last verse?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Bed in Summer

Young children can answer out loud. Older children can write their answers.

REMEMBER

1. How does the child get dressed on winter mornings?

2. What can the child see and hear from bed in summer?

3. What would the child like to do instead of going to bed?

THINK

4. Why is it dark on winter mornings but light at summer bedtime?

5. Do you agree with the child? Why or why not?

CONNECT

6. What time do you go to bed? Is it light or dark outside?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. How are winter and summer different for the child?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Bed in Summer

SKILL FOCUS

Compare and contrast, plus a science link to seasons and daylight

Compare bedtime in winter and bedtime in summer. Write one thing that is the same and one that is different.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

winter	moving with small jumps
summer	with no clouds
candle-light	the cold season
hopping	a road with houses on it
grown-up	light from a candle
street	to look or feel like
clear	the warm season
seem	an adult

Word Sort: Winter or Summer?

Write each word in the right box.

candle-light · blue sky · dark mornings · birds hopping · snow · long days · cold · warm

Winter	Summer

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Bed in Summer

Find the words from the poem. Words go across (left to right) and down (top to bottom). Circle each word, then check it off.

W	J	W	I	G	L	S	P	I	S
H	T	J	T	R	E	E	U	H	U
P	W	K	F	C	K	D	V	R	M
L	I	M	G	A	W	U	C	V	M
A	N	S	G	N	M	H	J	U	E
Y	T	I	C	D	I	M	K	H	R
W	E	V	Y	L	S	K	Y	E	S
W	R	C	O	E	T	K	M	I	H
E	R	S	T	R	E	E	T	Y	M
D	F	B	I	R	D	S	K	M	G

WORD BANK

- ☐ WINTER
- ☐ SUMMER
- ☐ CANDLE
- ☐ BIRDS
- ☐ TREE
- ☐ STREET
- ☐ SKY
- ☐ PLAY

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CCSS RF.K.1b · RF.K.3c · RF.1.3

Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Bed in Summer

Read each line from the poem. Choose the missing word from the word bank and write it on the line. Then read the whole line aloud.

blue | day | street | tree

1. I have to go to bed by _____ .
2. The birds still hopping on the _____ ,
3. Still going past me in the _____ .
4. When all the sky is clear and _____ ,

Make New Rhymes

Write a new word that rhymes with each word from the poem. Silly words count too!

day _____ _____ tree _____ _____

street _____ _____ blue _____ _____

DID YOU NOTICE?

Every missing word comes at the end of a line, and each one rhymes with another line in the poem. Find its rhyming partner!

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Name _____ Date _____

CHECK YOUR READING

Yes or No?

Read each sentence about the poem. Circle **Yes** if it is true. Circle **No** if it is not.

1. In winter the child gets up while it is still dark. Yes No
2. The child dresses by the light of a candle. Yes No
3. In summer the child goes to bed when it is dark. Yes No
4. The child can hear grown-ups walking in the street. Yes No
5. The child wants to go to bed early. Yes No
6. The birds are still hopping on the tree at bedtime. Yes No

ABC Order

Write these words from the poem in ABC order. Look at the first letter of each word.

winter · summer · candle · birds · tree

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

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Name _____ Date _____

SOUNDS OF THE POEM

Rhyme Hunt

Find each word's rhyming partner in the word bank and write it on the line.

blue · day · day · light · street · tree

night _____ way _____

see _____ feet _____

you _____ play _____

LISTEN

Every two lines end with a rhyming pair. Read the poem aloud and clap on each pair of rhyming words.

Clap the Syllables

Say each word and clap for every part. Write the number of claps.

winter claps: ___	summer claps: ___	candle claps: ___
yellow claps: ___	bed claps: ___	people claps: ___

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each sentence. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ The child sees birds hopping on the tree.
- ◯ In winter the child gets up at night.
- ◯ The child asks: does it not seem hard to you?
- ◯ In summer the child has to go to bed by day.
- ◯ The child dresses by yellow candle-light.
- ◯ The child hears grown-ups' feet in the street.

Retell the Poem

Use the order words to tell the poem in your own words. Say it out loud, or write it.

First, _____

Next, _____

Then, _____

Last, _____

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Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Reader | Everyone (“to bed by day!”)

One **reader** reads the poem. **Everyone** joins in on “I have to go to bed by day” and “To have to go to bed by day?” Ask the last question as if you really want an answer!

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read the winter lines in a sleepy, shivery voice and the summer lines in a grumbly, it’s-not-fair voice.

Read It Three Times

Read the poem aloud three times. Color a star each time. Your reading gets smoother every time!



My Favorite Part

Write about your favorite part of the poem.

My favorite part is _____

because _____

LEARN IT BY HEART

Say It From Memory

Learn this verse by heart. Check off each step as you go.

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

- [ ] Listen to the verse on the read-aloud video.
- [ ] Read it aloud three times with the book.
- [ ] Say it with a grown-up, one line at a time.
- [ ] Say it with the book closed. Peek if you need to!
- [ ] Say it to someone at home or in class.

✦ CERTIFICATE ✦

I can say “Bed in Summer” by heart!

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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CCSS RF.1.4b · SL.K.6 · SL.1.6

Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Bed in Summer

Trace the gray words, then write them on your own on the empty lines. Tall letters touch the top line; small letters reach the dotted line.

In summer, quite the other way,

In summer, quite

the other way,

I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go

to bed by day.

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Who Is Talking?

A child is telling it: the child has to go to bed while grown-ups are still out. In the last verse the child talks to us, the readers (“does it not seem hard to you”).

Let’s Talk

1. By yellow candle-light, while it is still dark. 2. Birds hopping on the tree and grown-ups’ feet going past in the street. 3. Play. 4–6. Answers will vary (summer days are long and winter days are short).

Word Sort

Winter: candle-light, dark mornings, snow, cold. Summer: blue sky, birds hopping, long days, warm.

Word Search

W	J	W	I	G	L	S	P	I	S
H	T	J	T	R	E	E	U	H	U
P	W	K	F	C	K	D	V	R	M
L	I	M	G	A	W	U	C	V	M
A	N	S	G	N	M	H	J	U	E
Y	T	I	C	D	I	M	K	H	R
W	E	V	Y	L	S	K	Y	E	S
W	R	C	O	E	T	K	M	I	H
E	R	S	T	R	E	E	T	Y	M
D	F	B	I	R	D	S	K	M	G

Word Match

winter: the cold season · summer: the warm season · candle-light: light from a candle · hopping: moving with small jumps · grown-up: an adult · street: a road with houses on it · clear: with no clouds · seem: to look or feel like

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: birds, candle, summer, tree, winter.

Missing Words

day, tree, street, blue

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

night: light · way: day · see: tree · feet: street · you: blue · play: day. Claps: winter 2, summer 2, candle 2, yellow 2, bed 1, people 2.

Put It in Order

gets up at night in winter → dresses by candle-light → goes to bed by day in summer → sees birds hopping → hears feet in the street → asks “does it not seem hard to you?”

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Keep a sunset chart: write down what time the sun sets each week. Is it getting earlier or later?
- Draw two windows side by side: one on a winter morning and one on a summer evening.
- Read it with “Escape at Bedtime,” another poem about a child who would rather be awake.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Robert Louis Stevenson poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

Bed in Summer ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

STANDARDS	WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE	WHERE IN THIS GUIDE
RL.K.1 RL.1.1 RL.2.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Let's Talk and Yes or No?; Let's Talk
RL.K.2 RL.1.2	Retell stories and poems, including key details, and show understanding of their message.	Put It in Order and Retell
RL.K.3 RL.1.3	Identify and describe characters, settings and major events.	Let's Talk and Put It in Order
RL.K.4 RL.2.4	Understand words and phrases, including rhyme, rhythm and words that appeal to the senses.	Word Match; Rhyme Hunt (rhyme and repeated lines)
RL.2.5	Recognize types of texts and describe the overall structure (beginning, middle and end).	Put It in Order: beginning, middle and end
RL.1.6 RL.2.6	Identify who is speaking and use a different voice for each character when reading aloud.	Who Is Talking?; Read It With Voices
RL.K.10 RL.1.10	Engage in group reading of poems and stories with purpose and understanding.	The Poem and Missing Words; The Poem (reading together)
RF.K.1b RF.K.1d	Understand the organization of print (left to right, top to bottom).	Word Search; ABC Order (letters of the alphabet)
RF.K.2a RF.K.2b	Hear and work with spoken words, rhymes and syllables.	Rhyme Hunt and Make New Rhymes; Clap the Syllables
RF.K.3c RF.1.3	Read common high-frequency words by sight.	Word Search and Missing Words; Word Search
RF.1.4a RF.1.4b RF.2.4b	Read aloud with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression.	Missing Words (read with purpose); Read It With Voices and Read It Three Times
SL.K.1 SL.1.1	Take part in conversations about the text with classmates and adults.	Let's Talk and Meet the Poet (discussion); Let's Talk (discussion)
SL.K.2	Ask and answer questions about a text read aloud or presented through media.	Read-aloud video (QR code)
SL.K.6 SL.1.6	Speak audibly and express ideas clearly.	Read It With Voices and Learn It by Heart; Learn It by Heart (recite)
L.K.1a L.1.1 L.1.1a	Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words.	Handwriting Practice; ABC Order (alphabetize words)
L.K.2a L.1.2b	Use capital letters and end punctuation.	Handwriting checklist
L.K.4 L.1.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown words and phrases.	Word Match
L.K.5a	Sort words into categories, connect words to real life and act out shades of meaning.	Word Sort
W.K.1 W.1.1	Use drawing and writing to share an opinion and give a reason.	My Favorite Part
W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.	Try It
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.

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