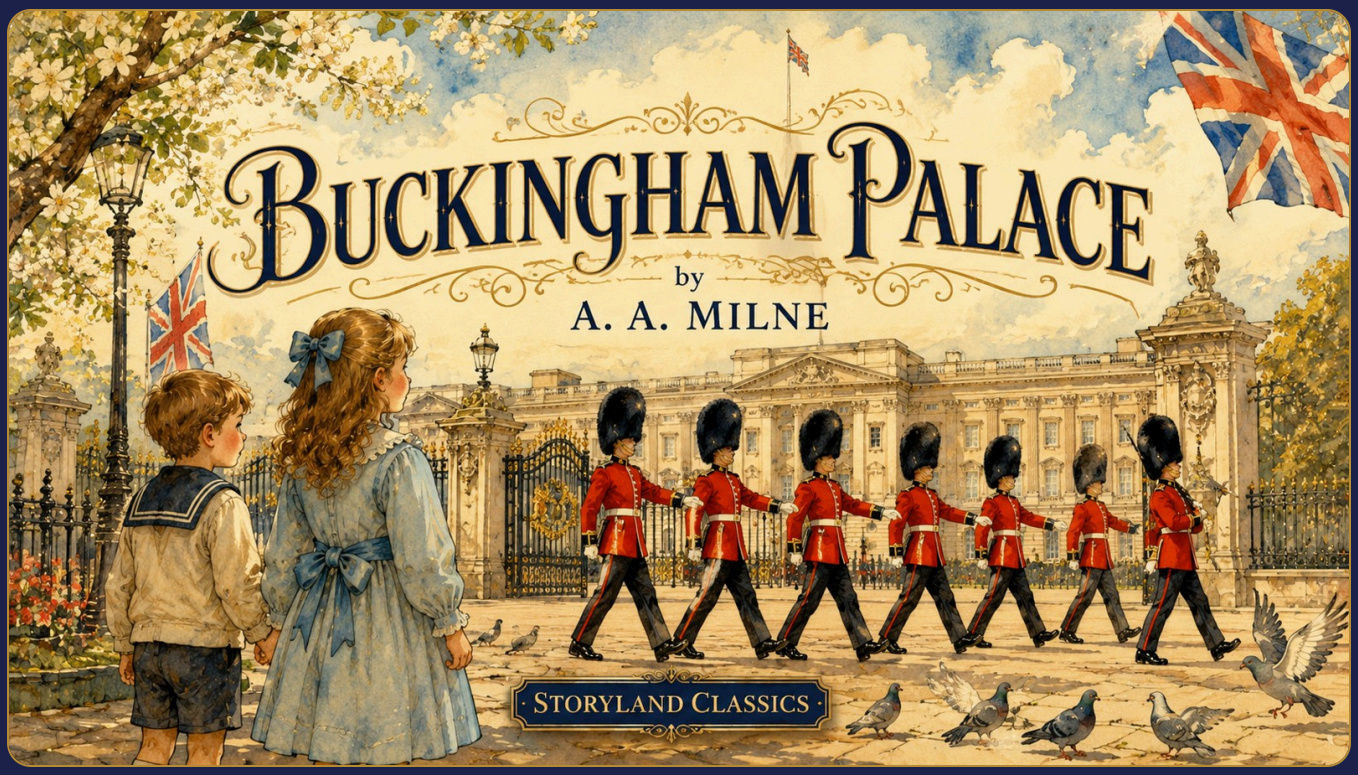
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From When We Were Very Young (1924)



- ✦ The Poem
- ✦ Try It
- ✦ Missing Words
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Meet the Poet
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Answer Key
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Rhyme Hunt & Syllables
- ✦ 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 “Buckingham Palace” by A. A. Milne. Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE POEM

Every verse starts with the same two lines, like the steady beat of marching feet. Christopher Robin goes to watch the Changing of the Guard with Alice, who looks after him, and every verse ends with something Alice says. Children love joining in on “Says Alice!”

SKILL FOCUS

Repetition: lines that come back in every verse

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

Buckingham Palace



They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace—
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
Alice is marrying one of the guard.
"A soldier's life is terrible hard,"
Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace—
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
We saw a guard in a sentry-box.
"One of the sergeants looks after their socks,"
Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace—
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
We looked for the King, but he never came.
"Well, God take care of him, all the same,"
Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace—
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
They've great big parties inside the grounds.
"I wouldn't be King for a hundred pounds,"
Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace—
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
A face looked out, but it wasn't the King's.
"He's much too busy a-signing things,"
Says Alice.

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace—
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
"Do you think the King knows all about me?"
"Sure to, dear, but it's time for tea,"
Says Alice.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Buckingham Palace" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/buckingham.

A. A. Milne, When We Were Very Young (1924). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

A. A. Milne

1882–1956 ✦ The poet who wrote Winnie-the-Pooh

A. A. Milne was born in London, England, in 1882. He wrote plays, stories and funny pieces for magazines. When his son, Christopher Robin, was little, Milne began writing poems about the things a small child sees, wonders about and plays. They were collected in *When We Were Very Young* in 1924, and children have loved them ever since. A few years later he wrote *Winnie-the-Pooh*, about Christopher Robin and his toy bear.

Questions About the Poet

1. In what city was A. A. Milne born?

2. Who was Christopher Robin?

3. What famous bear did Milne write about?

Who Is Talking?

Two people talk in this poem: Christopher Robin, the little boy telling the poem, and Alice, who looks after him. Write **C** for Christopher Robin or **A** for Alice next to each line.

“We looked for the King, but he never came.”	☐
“A soldier’s life is terrible hard.”	☐
“Do you think the King knows all about me?”	☐
“I wouldn’t be King for a hundred pounds.”	☐
“Sure to, dear, but it’s time for tea.”	☐

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Buckingham Palace

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

REMEMBER

1. Where do Christopher Robin and Alice go?

2. What do they look for, but never see?

3. What does Alice say at the very end?

THINK

4. Why do you think Alice says a soldier's life is "terrible hard"?

5. Why is Christopher Robin so curious about the King?

CONNECT

6. Have you ever waited and watched for something special? What was it?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What did Christopher Robin see first? What did he wonder about at the end?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Buckingham Palace

SKILL FOCUS

Repetition: lines that come back in every verse

Write a new verse! Fill in: “We saw _____.” Then write what Alice would say about it.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

palace	a soldier who is in charge of other soldiers
guard	a very big, grand house where a king or queen lives
sentry-box	an old way to say signing, writing your name
sergeant	a soldier who keeps watch over a place
grounds	the money used in England, like dollars
terrible hard	a small hut where a guard stands
a-signing	the gardens and land around a big house
pounds	an old way to say very, very hard

Word Sort: At the Palace: People or Places?

Write each word in the right box.

King · palace · guard · sentry-box · Alice · grounds · sergeant · London

People	Places

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Buckingham Palace

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ PALACE
- ☐ GUARD
- ☐ ALICE
- ☐ KING
- ☐ SOLDIER
- ☐ SOCKS
- ☐ TEA
- ☐ ROBIN

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Buckingham Palace

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.

hard · pounds · same · socks · tea · things

1. "A soldier's life is terrible _____,"
2. "One of the sergeants looks after their _____,"
3. "Well, God take care of him, all the _____,"
4. "I wouldn't be King for a hundred _____,"
5. "He's much too busy a-signing _____,"
6. "Sure to, dear, but it's time for _____,"

Make New Rhymes

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

hard _____ _____ socks _____ _____

same _____ _____ pounds _____ _____

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. Christopher Robin goes to the palace with Alice. Yes No
2. They see the King. Yes No
3. Alice says a soldier's life is terrible hard. Yes No
4. A guard stands in a sentry-box. Yes No
5. Alice wants to be King. Yes No
6. At the end it is time for tea. Yes No

ABC Order

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

palace guard alice king soldier

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.

hard · pounds · same · socks · tea · things

guard _____ box _____

came _____ grounds _____

King's _____ me _____

LISTEN

Say "Palace" and "Alice." They almost rhyme! Poets sometimes use words that sound nearly the same. Can you think of another almost-rhyme?

Clap the Syllables

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

palace claps: ___	guard claps: ___	Buckingham claps: ___
soldier claps: ___	Alice claps: ___	Christopher 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.

- ◯ They look for the King, but he never comes.
- ◯ Christopher Robin asks, “Do you think the King knows all about me?”
- ◯ Alice says a soldier’s life is terrible hard.
- ◯ They see great big parties inside the grounds.
- ◯ They see a guard standing in a sentry-box.
- ◯ A face looks out of a window, but it isn’t the King’s.

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

Everyone (the marching lines) | Christopher Robin | Alice

Everyone says the first two lines of each verse together, like marching soldiers. One reader is **Christopher Robin** and says the third line. Another is **Alice** and says her line and "Says Alice." March in place as you read!

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read slowly and clearly. Give Christopher Robin a curious, excited voice, and give Alice a kind, sensible grown-up voice. Pause before each "Says Alice" so everyone can say it together.

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 _____

_____

_____

_____

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LEARN IT BY HEART

Say It From Memory

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

They're changing guard at Buckingham Palace—
Christopher Robin went down with Alice.
Alice is marrying one of the guard.
"A soldier's life is terrible hard,"
Says Alice.

- [ ] 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 "Buckingham Palace" by heart!

by A. A. Milne

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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CCSS RF.1.4b · SL.K.6 · SL.1.6

Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Buckingham Palace

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.

They’re changing guard at Buckingham Palace

They’re changing guard
at Buckingham Palace

Christopher Robin went down with Alice.

Christopher Robin
went down with Alice.

☐ 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?

"We looked for the King…": Christopher Robin · "A soldier's life…": Alice · "Do you think the King knows…": Christopher Robin · "I wouldn't be King…": Alice · "Sure to, dear…": Alice.

Let's Talk

1. To Buckingham Palace, to watch the Changing of the Guard. 2. The King. 3. "Sure to, dear, but it's time for tea." 4–6. Answers will vary (soldiers stand still for hours and march in heavy uniforms; he wonders whether such an important person knows about him).

Word Sort

People: King, guard, Alice, sergeant. Places: palace, sentry-box, grounds, London.

Word Search

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

Word Match

palace: a very big, grand house where a king or queen lives · guard: a soldier who keeps watch over a place · sentry-box: a small hut where a guard stands · sergeant: a soldier who is in charge of other soldiers · grounds: the gardens and land around a big house · terrible hard: an old way to say very, very hard · a-signing: an old way to say signing, writing your name · pounds: the money used in England, like dollars

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: alice, guard, king, palace, soldier.

Missing Words

hard, socks, same, pounds, things, tea

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

guard: hard · box: socks · came: same · grounds: pounds · King's: things · me: tea. Claps: palace 2, guard 1, Buckingham 3, soldier 2, Alice 2, Christopher 3.

Put It in Order

Alice says a soldier's life is terrible hard → a guard in a sentry-box → they look for the King → parties inside the grounds → a face looks out → "Do you think the King knows all about me?"

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Watch a video of the Changing of the Guard and count the steps the guards take.
- Make a "Says Alice" book: children draw something they saw on a walk and write what a grown-up said about it.
- Read it with A. A. Milne's "Disobedience" and compare Christopher Robin with James James Morrison.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more A. A. Milne poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

Buckingham Palace ✦ 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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