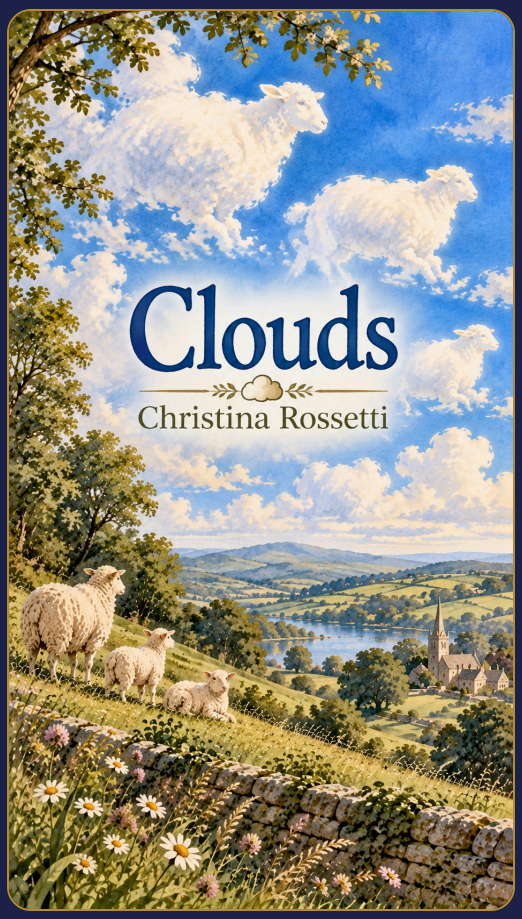
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Sing-Song: A Nursery Rhyme Book (1872)



- ✦ The Poem
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- ✦ Missing Words
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Meet the Poet
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- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
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- ✦ 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 “Clouds” by Christina Rossetti. 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 just eight short lines, Christina Rossetti pretends the white clouds are sheep grazing on a blue hill, which is the sky. When the wind stops, the clouds stand still. When the wind blows, they slowly walk away. The poem ends with a question for children to wonder about: “White sheep, white sheep, where do you go?”

SKILL FOCUS

Comparing: how the clouds are like sheep

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.

What’s inside

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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

Clouds



White sheep, white sheep,
On a blue hill,
When the wind stops,
You all stand still.
When the wind blows,
You walk away slow.
White sheep, white sheep,
Where do you go?

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Clouds" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/clouds-guide.

Christina Rossetti, Sing-Song: A Nursery Rhyme Book (1872). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

Christina Rossetti

1830–1894 ✦ English poet

Christina Rossetti was born in London in 1830. She grew up in a busy, book-loving family: her brother Dante Gabriel Rossetti became a famous painter and poet. Christina began writing poems as a girl, and she became one of the best-loved poets of her time. In 1872 she wrote *Sing-Song*, a book of short, gentle rhymes for little children about animals, the weather, colors, babies and the seasons. Many of her poems ask questions or name the things children see every day.

Questions About the Poet

1. In what city was Christina Rossetti born?

2. What is the name of her book of poems for little children?

3. Christina Rossetti liked to write about things children see every day. What would you write a poem about?

Who Is Talking?

A speaker talks to someone in this poem. Read it again, then answer.

1. Who is the speaker talking to?

2. What question does the speaker ask at the end?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Clouds

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

REMEMBER

1. What does the poet call the clouds?

2. What is the blue hill?

3. What happens when the wind blows?

THINK

4. Why do clouds look like sheep?

5. Where do you think the clouds go?

CONNECT

6. What shapes have you seen in the clouds?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What are the white sheep, and what makes them move?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Clouds

SKILL FOCUS

Comparing: how the clouds are like sheep

Write two ways clouds are like sheep. Then write one way they are different.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

sheep	moving air
cloud	not fast
hill	a woolly farm animal
wind	not moving at all
blows	a high, rounded piece of land
still	the space above us where clouds float
slow	a white or gray puff in the sky
sky	pushes air

Word Sort: Sheep or Cloud?

Write each word in the right box.

woolly · fluffy · baa · floats · eats grass · makes rain · in a field · in the sky

Sheep	Cloud

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Clouds

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ SHEEP
- ☐ WHITE
- ☐ BLUE
- ☐ HILL
- ☐ WIND
- ☐ SLOW
- ☐ STILL
- ☐ GO

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Clouds

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 | go | sheep | slow | still | wind

1. White _____ , white sheep,
2. On a _____ hill,
3. When the _____ stops,
4. You all stand _____ .
5. You walk away _____ .
6. Where do you _____ ?

Make New Rhymes

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

sheep _____ _____ blue _____ _____

wind _____ _____ still _____ _____

DID YOU NOTICE?

Read each line with the word you chose. Does it sound right? Check the poem to see if you were right!

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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. The poet calls the clouds white sheep. Yes No
2. The sheep are on a green hill. Yes No
3. When the wind stops, the sheep stand still. Yes No
4. When the wind blows, the sheep run fast. Yes No
5. The poem asks where the sheep go. Yes No
6. The sheep are really clouds. Yes No

ABC Order

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

sheep white blue hill go

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.

deep · go · kind · nose · still · true

hill _____ slow _____

sheep _____ blue _____

wind _____ blows _____

LISTEN

Find the rhymes: hill and still, slow and go. Can you hear them at the end of the lines?

Clap the Syllables

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

sheep claps: ___	white claps: ___	blue claps: ___
away claps: ___	cloudy claps: ___	windy 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 wind blows.
- ◯ The white sheep are on a blue hill.
- ◯ The speaker asks, “Where do you go?”
- ◯ The wind stops.
- ◯ The sheep walk away slow.
- ◯ The sheep all stand still.

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

The **reader** reads the poem. **Everyone** joins in on "White sheep, white sheep," and on the question at the end. Stand still when the wind stops, and walk slowly when the wind blows!

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read softly and slowly, like clouds drifting by. Let your voice go up at the question.

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.

White sheep, white sheep,
On a blue hill,
When the wind stops,
You all stand still.
When the wind blows,
You walk away slow.
White sheep, white sheep,
Where do you go?

- [ ] 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 “Clouds” by heart!

by Christina Rossetti

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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CCSS RF.1.4b · SL.K.6 · SL.1.6

Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Clouds

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.

White sheep, white sheep,

White sheep,

white sheep,

On a blue hill,

On a

blue hill,

☐ 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?

The speaker talks to the clouds, calling them “white sheep.” The question is “Where do you go?”

Let’s Talk

1. White sheep. 2. The sky. 3. The clouds walk away slowly. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Sort

Sheep: woolly, baa, eats grass, in a field. Cloud: fluffy, floats, makes rain, in the sky. (Children may argue fluffy or woolly fits both!)

Word Search

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

Word Match

sheep: a woolly farm animal · cloud: a white or gray puff in the sky · hill: a high, rounded piece of land · wind: moving air · blows: pushes air · still: not moving at all · slow: not fast · sky: the space above us where clouds float

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. Yes. ABC order: blue, go, hill, sheep, white.

Missing Words

sheep, blue, wind, still, slow, go

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

hill: still · slow: go · sheep: deep · blue: true · wind: kind · blows: nose. Claps: sheep 1, white 1, blue 1, away 2, cloudy 2, windy 2.

Put It in Order

the white sheep are on a blue hill → the wind stops → they all stand still → the wind blows → they walk away slow → “Where do you go?”

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Go cloud watching and tell what shapes you see.
- Glue cotton balls on blue paper to make your own white sheep.
- Read “Flint,” another short Christina Rossetti poem.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Christina Rossetti poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

Clouds ✦ 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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