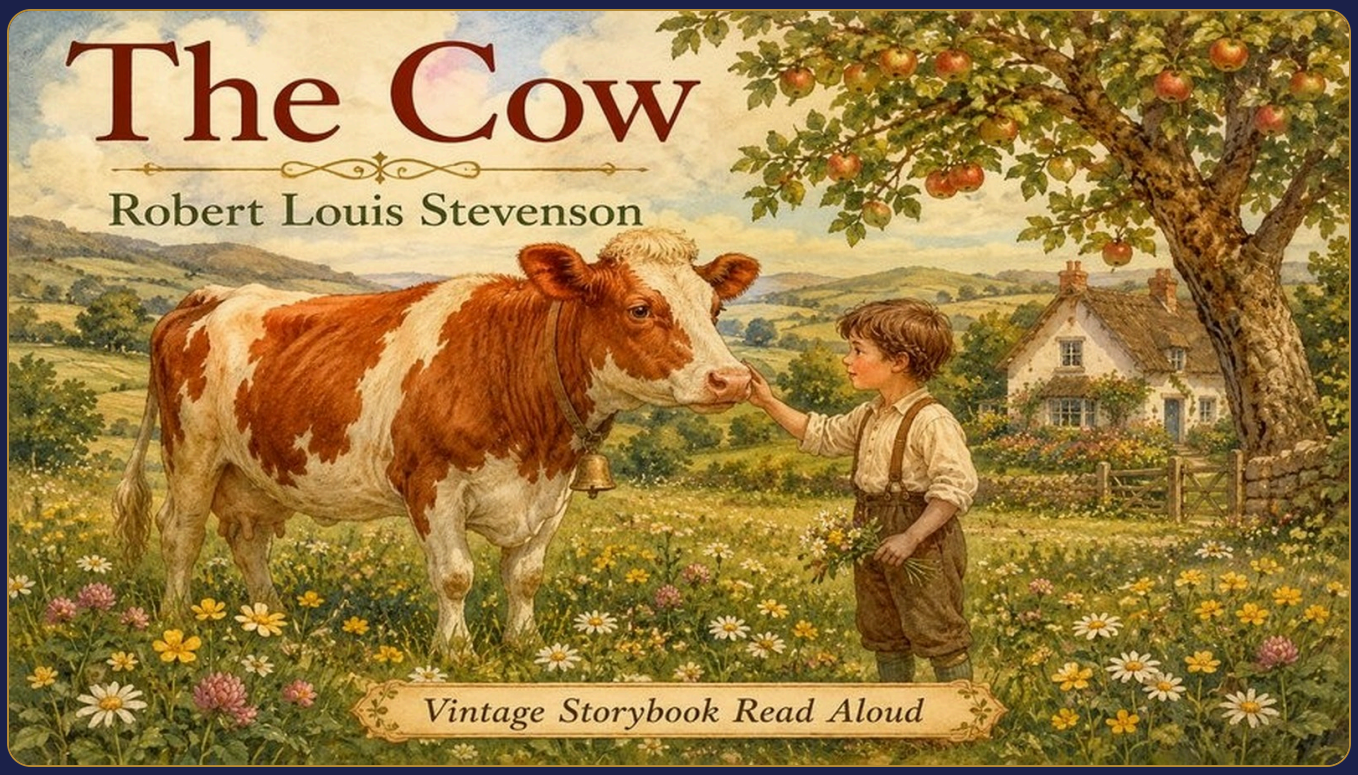
Storyland Classics

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
- ✦ 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 “The Cow” 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

A child loves the friendly red and white cow who gives cream to eat with apple tart. The cow wanders and moos all day in the open air, blown by the wind and wet with the rain, walking in the meadow grass and eating the meadow flowers.

SKILL FOCUS

Describing words (adjectives)

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

The Cow



The friendly cow all red and white,
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream with all her might,
To eat with apple-tart.

She wanders lowing here and there,
And yet she cannot stray,
All in the pleasant open air,
The pleasant light of day;

And blown by all the winds that pass
And wet with all the showers,
She walks among the meadow grass
And eats the meadow flowers.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "The Cow" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/cow.

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 does the child feel about the cow?

2. What does the cow give the child?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Cow

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

REMEMBER

1. What colors is the cow?

2. What does the cow give the child?

3. What does the cow eat?

THINK

4. The cow "wanders" but "cannot stray." Why can't she wander away?

5. How do you think the cow feels out in the meadow?

CONNECT

6. What foods come from cows? Which one do you like best?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What does the cow do all day, and why does the child love her?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Cow

SKILL FOCUS

Describing words (adjectives)

Pick a farm animal. Write three describing words for it and draw a picture.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

friendly	wander off and get lost
cream	a grassy field
lowing	kind and nice to be with
stray	short falls of rain
pleasant	mooing
showers	an apple pie
meadow	the thick top part of milk
apple-tart	nice

Word Sort: From a Cow or Not?

Write each word in the right box.

cream · apple · milk · grass · butter · flowers · cheese · rain

Comes from a cow	Does not

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Cow

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ COW
- ☐ CREAM
- ☐ APPLE
- ☐ TART
- ☐ MEADOW
- ☐ GRASS
- ☐ FLOWERS
- ☐ WINDS

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Cow

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.

air · day · flowers · grass · might

1. She gives me cream with all her _____ ,
2. All in the pleasant open _____ ,
3. The pleasant light of _____ ;
4. She walks among the meadow _____
5. And eats the meadow _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

might _____ _____ air _____ _____

day _____ _____ grass _____ _____

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. The cow is red and white. Yes No
2. The cow gives the child cream. Yes No
3. The child does not like the cow. Yes No
4. The cow eats the meadow flowers. Yes No
5. The cow lives inside the house. Yes No
6. The cow gets wet when it rains. Yes No

ABC Order

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

cow · apple · tart · meadow · grass

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.

air · day · flowers · grass · might · tart

white _____ heart _____

there _____ stray _____

pass _____ showers _____

LISTEN

This poem rhymes on every other line. Read it slowly and listen: white and might, heart and tart.

Clap the Syllables

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

friendly claps: ___	apple claps: ___	meadow claps: ___
cow claps: ___	pleasant claps: ___	flowers 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.

- ◯ She walks in the meadow grass.
- ◯ The child loves the friendly cow.
- ◯ She eats the meadow flowers.
- ◯ She gives cream to eat with apple-tart.
- ◯ She wanders lowing here and there.
- ◯ She is blown by the winds and wet with showers.

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 (“Moo!”)

One **reader** reads the poem. **Everyone** says a soft, friendly “Moo!” at the end of each verse. Put your hand on your heart for “I love with all my heart.”

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read slowly and gently, like a cow wandering in a field. Sway a little as the wind blows in the last verse.

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.

The friendly cow all red and white,
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream with all her might,
To eat with apple-tart.

- [ ] 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 “The Cow” 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

The Cow

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.

The friendly cow all red and white,

The friendly cow

all red and white,

I love with all my heart:

I love with all

my heart:

☐ 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, and loves the cow “with all my heart.” The cow gives cream to eat with apple-tart.

Let’s Talk

1. Red and white. 2. Cream, to eat with apple-tart. 3. The meadow grass and the meadow flowers. 4–6. Answers will vary (she is in a fenced field, so she cannot get lost).

Word Sort

Comes from a cow: cream, milk, butter, cheese. Does not: apple, grass, flowers, rain.

Word Search

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

Word Match

friendly: kind and nice to be with · cream: the thick top part of milk · lowing: mooing · stray: wander off and get lost · pleasant: nice · showers: short falls of rain · meadow: a grassy field · apple-tart: an apple pie

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: apple, cow, grass, meadow, tart.

Missing Words

might, air, day, grass, flowers

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

white: might · heart: tart · there: air · stray: day · pass: grass · showers: flowers. Claps: friendly 2, apple 2, meadow 2, cow 1, pleasant 2, flowers 2.

Put It in Order

the child loves the cow → she gives cream → she wanders lowing → blown by winds and wet with showers → walks in the meadow grass → eats the meadow flowers.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Make butter: shake cream in a jar with a lid until it turns into butter, then taste it on bread.
- Draw the cow in the meadow on a sunny day and on a rainy day.
- Read it with “The Hayloft,” another farm poem.

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

The Cow ✦ 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.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Try It (drawing to add detail)
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.