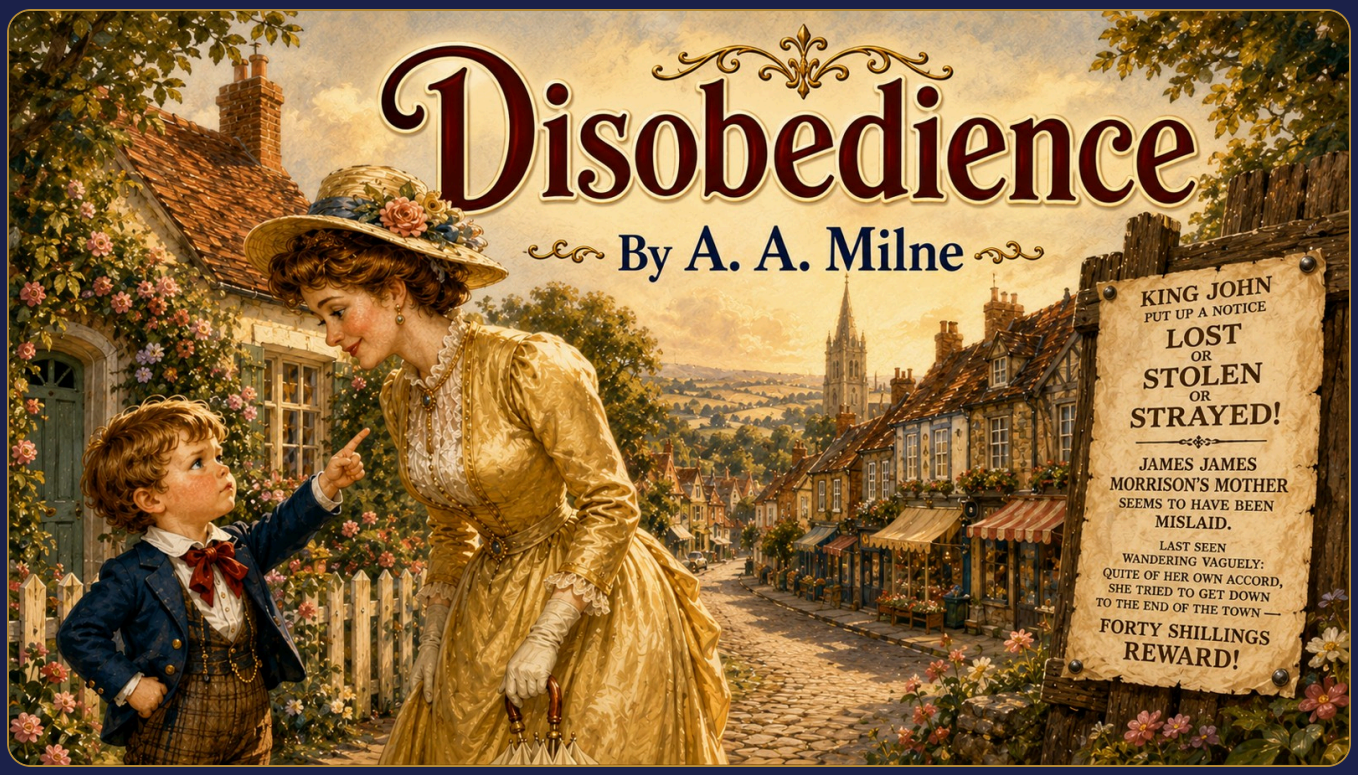
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From When We Were Very Young (1924)



- ✦ The Poem
- ✦ Meet the Poet
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Try It
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Missing Words
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Rhyme Hunt & Syllables
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Learn It by Heart
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Answer Key
- ✦ 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 “Disobedience” 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

This is a topsy-turvy poem: three-year-old James James is the one taking care of his mother, and she is the one who disobeys! She puts on her golden gown, drives off to the end of the town and is never seen again, so King John puts up a notice. The last verse whispers the whole beginning in a secret code.

SKILL FOCUS

Rhythm and the sound of names

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

Disobedience



James James
Morrison Morrison
Weatherby George Dupree
Took great
Care of his Mother,
Though he was only three.
James James
Said to his Mother,
"Mother," he said, said he;
"You must never go down to the end of the town, if you don't go down with me."

James James
Morrison's Mother
Put on a golden gown,
James James
Morrison's Mother
Drove to the end of the town.
James James
Morrison's Mother
Said to herself, said she:
"I can get right down to the end of the town and be back in time for tea."

King John
Put up a notice,
"LOST or STOLEN or STRAYED!
JAMES JAMES
MORRISON'S MOTHER
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MISLAID.
LAST SEEN
WANDERING VAGUELY:
QUITE OF HER OWN ACCORD,
SHE TRIED TO GET DOWN TO THE END OF THE TOWN—FORTY SHILLINGS REWARD!"

James James
Morrison Morrison
(Commonly known as Jim)
Told his
Other relations
Not to go blaming him.
James James
Said to his Mother,
"Mother," he said, said he;
"You must never go down to the end of the town without consulting me."

James James
Morrison's mother
Hasn't been heard of since.
King John
Said he was sorry,
So did the Queen and Prince.
King John
(Somebody told me)
Said to a man he knew:
"If people go down to the end of the town, well, what can anyone do?"

(Now then, very softly)
J.J.
M. M.
W. G. Du P.
Took great
C/o his M*****
Though he was only 3.
J.J.
Said to his M*****
"M*****," he said, said he:
"You-must-never-go-down-to-the-end-of-the-town-if-you-don't-go-down-with ME!"

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Disobedience" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/disobedience.

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?

Four voices speak in this poem. Write **J** for James James, **M** for his Mother or **K** for King John next to each line.

"You must never go down to the end of the town, if you don't go down with me." ☐

"I can get right down to the end of the town and be back in time for tea." ☐

"LOST or STOLEN or STRAYED!" ☐

"If people go down to the end of the town, well, what can anyone do?" ☐

"You must never go down to the end of the town without consulting me." ☐

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Disobedience

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

REMEMBER

1. How old is James James?

2. Where does his mother go, and what does she wear?

3. What does King John do when she goes missing?

THINK

4. Who is disobedient in this poem, James James or his mother? Why is that funny?

5. Why do you think James James tells his relations "not to go blaming him"?

CONNECT

6. James James wants his mother to stay safe. How do the grown-ups in your family keep you safe?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What did James James tell his mother? What did she do? What happened next?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Disobedience

SKILL FOCUS

Rhythm and the sound of names

James James Morrison Morrison has a long, bouncy name. Make up a long, bouncy name for yourself or a pet and write it three times.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

gown	wandered away and got lost
notice	because she wanted to, all by herself
strayed	a long, fancy dress
mislaid	old English coins, like dimes
vaguely	a sign that tells people news
of her own accord	put somewhere and lost
consulting	asking someone what they think first
shillings	without a clear plan of where to go

Word Sort: People or Things?

Write each word in the right box.

James James · golden gown · King John · notice · Mother · shillings · Queen · town

People	Things

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Disobedience

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ JAMES
- ☐ JOHN
- ☐ MOTHER
- ☐ GOWN
- ☐ TOWN
- ☐ TEA
- ☐ KING
- ☐ QUEEN

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Disobedience

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.

him | Prince | tea | town

1. Drove to the end of the _____ .
2. "I can get right down to the end of the town and be back in time for _____ ."
3. Not to go blaming _____ .
4. So did the Queen and _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

town _____ _____ tea _____ _____

him _____ _____ prince _____ _____

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. James James is only three. Yes No
2. James James tells his Mother not to go to the end of the town without him. Yes No
3. His Mother wears a golden gown. Yes No
4. His Mother comes home in time for tea. Yes No
5. King John puts up a notice. Yes No
6. James James is very sorry it happened. Yes No

ABC Order

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

james mother town king gown

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.

Prince · him · mislaid · reward · tea · town

gown _____ she _____

strayed _____ accord _____

Jim _____ since _____

LISTEN

Some rhymes hide inside one long line: "You must never go **down** to the end of the **town**." Read the line aloud and clap on the two rhyming words.

Clap the Syllables

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

Morrison claps: ___	Weatherby claps: ___	Mother claps: ___
notice claps: ___	James claps: ___	Dupree claps: ___

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.

- ◯ King John puts up a notice: “LOST or STOLEN or STRAYED!”
- ◯ James James tells his mother never to go to the end of the town without him.
- ◯ King John says he is sorry, and so do the Queen and Prince.
- ◯ His mother puts on a golden gown and drives to the end of the town.
- ◯ The poem says it all again, very softly, in a secret code.
- ◯ James James tells his relations not to go blaming him.

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

Narrator | James James | Mother | King John | Everyone (the notice)

The **Narrator** reads the story lines. **James James** says his warning in a very serious voice. **Mother** says her line cheerfully. **King John** reads the notice, and then **everyone** shouts the notice together in BIG voices. Read the last verse all together in a tiny whisper.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Clap or tap the bouncy rhythm of "James James, Morrison Morrison." Make James James sound like a little boy trying to sound like a grown-up. Get quieter and quieter 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.

James James
Morrison Morrison
Weatherby George Dupree
Took great
Care of his Mother,
Though he was only three.

- [ ] 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 “Disobedience” 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

Disobedience

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.

James James Morrison Morrison

James James

Morrison Morrison

Took great care of his Mother,

Took great care

of his Mother,

☐ 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?

James James: the first and last lines · Mother: “I can get right down…” · King John: “LOST or STOLEN or STRAYED!” and “If people go down…”.

Let’s Talk

1. Three. 2. To the end of the town, in a golden gown. 3. He puts up a notice: lost, stolen or strayed, forty shillings reward. 4–6. Answers will vary (the mother is the one who disobeys, which turns the usual rule upside down).

Word Sort

People: James James, King John, Mother, Queen. Things: golden gown, notice, shillings, town.

Word Search

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

Word Match

gown: a long, fancy dress · notice: a sign that tells people news · strayed: wandered away and got lost · mislaid: put somewhere and lost · vaguely: without a clear plan of where to go · of her own accord: because she wanted to, all by herself · consulting: asking someone what they think first · shillings: old English coins, like dimes

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: gown, james, king, mother, town.

Missing Words

town, tea, him, Prince

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

gown: town · she: tea · strayed: mislaid · accord: reward · Jim: him · since: Prince. Claps: Morrison 3, Weatherby 3, Mother 2, notice 2, James 1, Dupree 2.

Put It in Order

James James warns his mother → she puts on a golden gown and drives off → King John’s notice → James James tells his relations not to blame him → King John is sorry → the soft secret-code verse.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Make a “LOST or STOLEN or STRAYED!” notice for a toy: draw it, describe where it was last seen and offer a reward.
- Read it with “Buckingham Palace” and compare James James with Christopher Robin.
- Practice the bouncy rhythm by marching or skipping while you say the first verse.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

Disobedience ✦ 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.