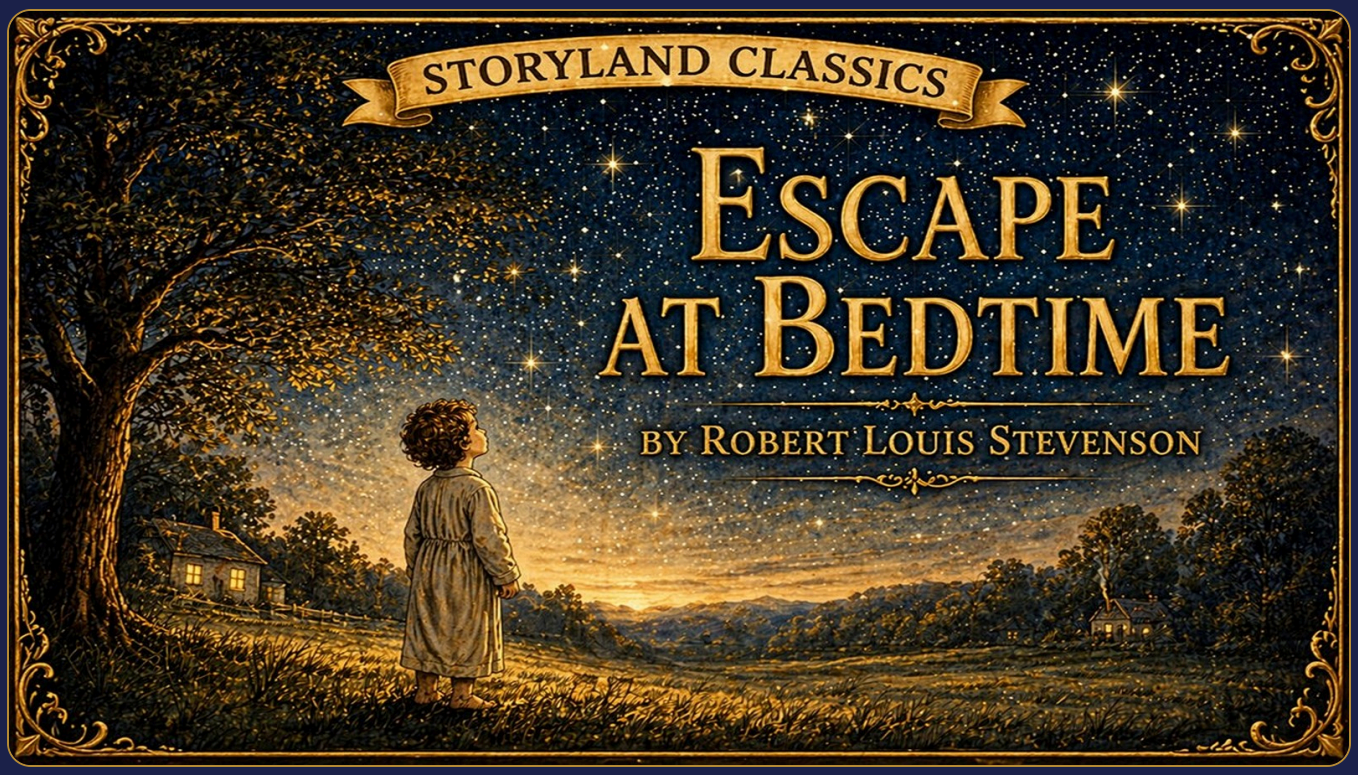
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From A Child's Garden of Verses (1885)



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- ✦ Meet the Poet
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- ✦ Learn It by Heart
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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 “Escape at Bedtime” 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

One evening a child slips outside after bedtime. The lights from the house shine out, but overhead there are more stars than leaves on a tree or people in the park. The child sees star pictures like the Dog, the Plough and the Hunter, until the grown-ups chase the child back to bed. But the stars keep shining in the child’s head.

SKILL FOCUS

Imagery, plus a science link to stars and constellations

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

Escape at Bedtime



The lights from the parlour and kitchen shone out
Through the blinds and the windows and bars;
And high overhead and all moving about,
There were thousands of millions of stars.
There ne'er were such thousands of leaves on a tree,
Nor of people in church or the Park,
As the crowds of the stars that looked down upon me,
And that glittered and winked in the dark.

The Dog, and the Plough, and the Hunter, and all,
And the star of the sailor, and Mars,
These shone in the sky, and the pail by the wall
Would be half full of water and stars.
They saw me at last, and they chased me with cries,
And they soon had me packed into bed;
But the glory kept shining and bright in my eyes,
And the stars going round in my head.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Escape at Bedtime" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/escape.

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? Where is the child?

2. Who chased the child back to bed?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Escape at Bedtime

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

REMEMBER

1. What did the child see high overhead?

2. Name two star pictures the child saw.

3. What happened when the grown-ups saw the child?

THINK

4. Why do you think the child wanted to be outside?

5. What does "the stars going round in my head" mean?

CONNECT

6. Have you ever looked up at the night sky? What did you see?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Where did the child go, what did the child see, and how did it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Escape at Bedtime

SKILL FOCUS

Imagery, plus a science link to stars and constellations

The Dog, the Plough and the Hunter are star pictures called constellations. Draw the seven stars of the Big Dipper (the Plough).

Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

parlour	sparkled
blinds	a bucket
overhead	a sitting room
glittered	a star picture, also called the Big Dipper
winked	up above
Plough	great beauty
pail	shades for a window
glory	twinkled on and off

Word Sort: In the Sky or On the Ground?

Write each word in the right box.

stars · pail · Mars · tree · Hunter · blinds · Plough · windows

In the sky	On the ground

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Escape at Bedtime

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ STARS
- ☐ KITCHEN
- ☐ PARLOUR
- ☐ HUNTER
- ☐ MARS
- ☐ PAIL
- ☐ WATER
- ☐ BED

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Escape at Bedtime

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.

about · dark · eyes · head · stars

1. And high overhead and all moving _____ ,
2. There were thousands of millions of _____ .
3. And that glittered and winked in the _____ .
4. But the glory kept shining and bright in my _____ ,
5. And the stars going round in my _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

about _____ _____ stars _____ _____

dark _____ _____ eyes _____ _____

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 child goes outside after bedtime. Yes No
2. The child sees only a few stars. Yes No
3. The child sees the Dog, the Plough and the Hunter. Yes No
4. The grown-ups are happy the child is outside. Yes No
5. The child is put back into bed. Yes No
6. The child keeps thinking about the stars. Yes No

ABC Order

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

stars · kitchen · parlour · hunter · mars

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.

about · dark · eyes · head · me · stars

out _____ bars _____

tree _____ Park _____

cries _____ bed _____

LISTEN

Listen for the long, galloping rhythm: "The lights from the parlour and kitchen shone out." Clap along and find the rhyme at the end of every other line.

Clap the Syllables

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

thousands claps: ___	millions claps: ___	glittered claps: ___
stars claps: ___	sailor claps: ___	kitchen 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 grown-ups chase the child with cries.
- ◯ The lights from the parlour and kitchen shine out.
- ◯ The stars keep going round in the child's head.
- ◯ The child sees thousands of millions of stars.
- ◯ They pack the child into bed.
- ◯ The child sees the Dog, the Plough and the Hunter.

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

The child (reader) Everyone (the stars)

One **reader** is the child. **Everyone** else is the stars: wiggle your fingers to twinkle every time the poem says "stars." On "they chased me with cries," everyone calls "Back to bed!"

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Start in a whispery, sneaking-out voice. Get excited about the stars, then rushed when the grown-ups come, and end slow and dreamy.

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 lights from the parlour and kitchen shone out
Through the blinds and the windows and bars;
And high overhead and all moving about,
There were thousands of millions of stars.
There ne'er were such thousands of leaves on a tree,
Nor of people in church or the Park,
As the crowds of the stars that looked down upon me,
And that glittered and winked in the dark.

- [ ] 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 "Escape at Bedtime" by heart!

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Escape at Bedtime

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.

There were thousands of millions of stars.

There were thousands
of millions of stars.

And the stars going round in my head.

And the stars going
round in my head.

☐ 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, standing outside the house after bedtime. The grown-ups (“they”) chased the child and packed the child into bed.

Let’s Talk

1. Thousands of millions of stars. 2. The Dog, the Plough, the Hunter, the star of the sailor and Mars. 3. They chased the child and packed the child into bed. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Sort

In the sky: stars, Mars, Hunter, Plough. On the ground: pail, tree, blinds, windows.

Word Search



Word Match

parlour: a sitting room · blinds: shades for a window · overhead: up above · glittered: sparkled · winked: twinkled on and off · Plough: a star picture, also called the Big Dipper · pail: a bucket · glory: great beauty

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. Yes. ABC order: hunter, kitchen, mars, parlour, stars.

Missing Words

about, stars, dark, eyes, head

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

out: about · bars: stars · tree: me · Park: dark · cries: eyes · bed: head. Claps: thousands 2, millions 2, glittered 2, stars 1, sailor 2, kitchen 2.

Put It in Order

the lights shine out → thousands of millions of stars → the Dog, the Plough and the Hunter → the grown-ups chase the child → packed into bed → the stars go round in the child’s head.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- With a grown-up, find the Plough (the Big Dipper) in the night sky.
- Make a star picture: poke holes in dark paper and hold it up to a light.
- Read it with “Bed in Summer” and talk about what each child would rather be doing at bedtime.

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

Escape at Bedtime ✦ 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.

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