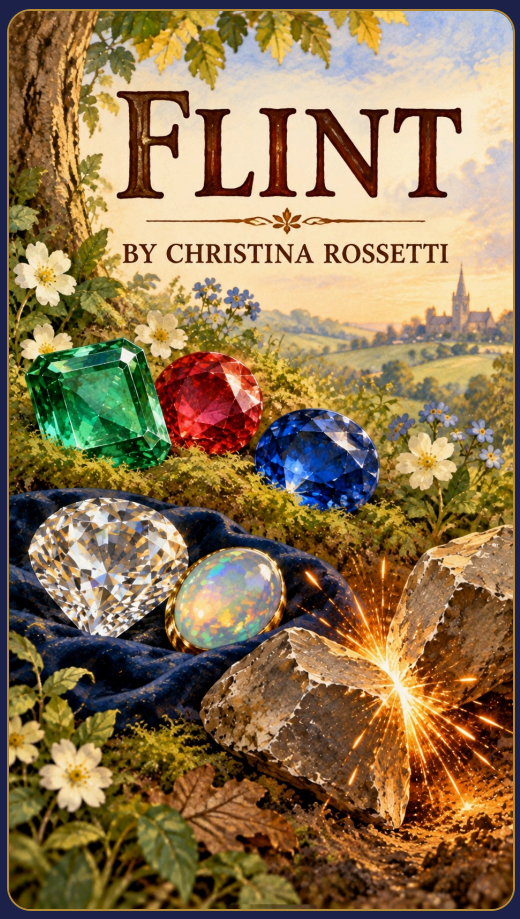
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

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




- ✦ 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 “Flint” 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

Christina Rossetti names five beautiful gems: a green emerald, a red ruby, a blue sapphire, a brilliant diamond and a sparkly opal. Then she names a plain gray flint lying in the mud. The surprise comes in the last line: the flint is the only one that “holds fire,” because striking it makes real sparks. It is a little poem about how something plain can hold something special inside.

SKILL FOCUS

Comparing: how the plain flint is different from the fancy gems

## 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


The Poem 3
Meet the Poet 4
Let’s Talk 5
Try It 6
Word Match & Sort 7
Word Search 8
Missing Words 9
Yes or No & ABC Order 10
Rhyme Hunt & Syllables 11
Put It in Order 12
Read It With Voices 13
Learn It by Heart 14
Handwriting 15
Answer Key 16
Standards 17


## 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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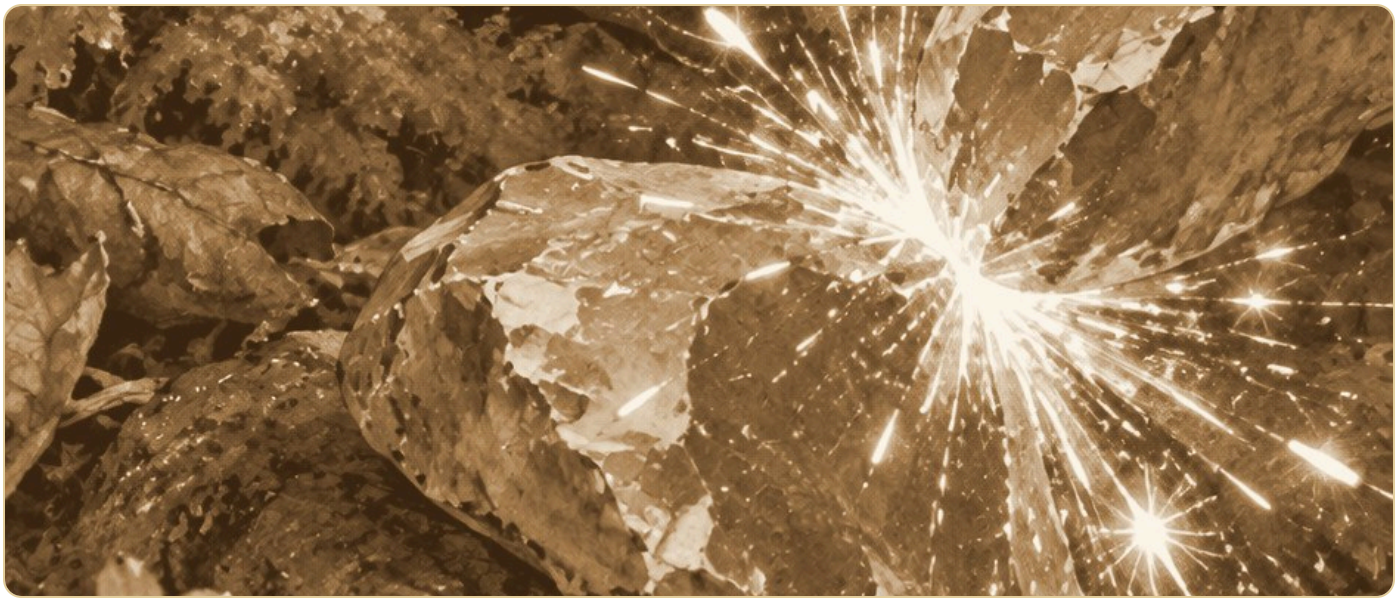
THE POEM

# Flint



An emerald is as green as grass;
A ruby red as blood;
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;
A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone,
To catch the world's desire;
An opal holds a fiery spark;
But a flint holds fire.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Flint" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/flint-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 tells this poem. Read it again, then answer.

1. Which stone lies in the mud?

2. Which stone does the speaker think is the most special at the end? How can you tell?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

# Flint

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

## REMEMBER

1. What color is the emerald?

2. Where does the flint lie?

3. What does the flint hold?

## THINK

4. Why do you think the poet put the flint last?

5. How is the flint different from the other stones?

## CONNECT

6. Can you think of something plain that is special inside?

**NARRATION**

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Which stones did the poet name, and what was special about the flint?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

# Flint

SKILL FOCUS

Comparing: how the plain flint is different from the fancy gems

Write the name of one fancy gem and the flint. Then write one way they are alike and 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| emerald | a hard gray stone that makes sparks |
| ruby | a milky gem with flashes of color |
| sapphire | a green gem |
| flint | very bright and shiny |
| diamond | a blue gem |
| brilliant | a strong wish for something |
| opal | a red gem |
| desire | a clear, sparkly gem |

## Word Sort: Fancy Gem or Plain Stone?

Write each word in the right box.

emerald · flint · ruby · pebble · sapphire · rock · diamond · gravel

| Fancy gem | Plain stone |
|---|---|
| | |

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

# Flint

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ FLINT
- ☐ RUBY
- ☐ OPAL
- ☐ GRASS
- ☐ MUD
- ☐ FIRE
- ☐ STONE
- ☐ SPARK

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

# Flint

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.

fire · grass · mud · ruby · spark · stone

1. An emerald is as green as _____ ;
2. A _____ red as blood;
3. A flint lies in the _____ .
4. A diamond is a brilliant _____ ,
5. An opal holds a fiery _____ ;
6. But a flint holds _____ .

## Make New Rhymes

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

grass _____ _____ ruby _____ _____

mud _____ _____ stone _____ _____

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 emerald is green as grass. Yes No
2. The ruby is blue. Yes No
3. The flint lies in the mud. Yes No
4. The diamond is a brilliant stone. Yes No
5. The opal is plain and gray. Yes No
6. The flint holds fire. Yes No

## ABC Order

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

flint ruby opal grass mud

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.

bed · bone · fire · glass · mud · seen

blood _____ desire _____

grass _____ stone _____

red _____ green _____

LISTEN

In each verse, the second and fourth lines rhyme: blood and mud, desire and fire. Clap on the rhyming words as you read.

## Clap the Syllables

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| emerald claps: ___ | ruby claps: ___ | sapphire claps: ___ |
| flint claps: ___ | diamond claps: ___ | opal 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.

- ◯ A ruby is red as blood.
- ◯ An emerald is green as grass.
- ◯ A flint holds fire.
- ◯ A sapphire shines blue as heaven.
- ◯ A diamond is a brilliant stone.
- ◯ An opal holds a fiery spark.

## 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 1 | Reader 2 | Everyone

**Reader 1** reads the first verse and **Reader 2** reads the second. **Everyone** says the last line together, nice and strong: "But a flint holds fire!"

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read each gem slowly, as if you are holding it up to the light. Make the last line a surprise!

## 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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CCSS RF.1.4b · SL.K.6 · W.K.1 · W.1.1

LEARN IT BY HEART

# Say It From Memory

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

An emerald is as green as grass;
A ruby red as blood;
A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;
A flint lies in the mud.

- [ ] 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 “Flint” 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

# Flint

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.

An emerald is as green as grass;

An emerald is

as green as grass;

But a flint holds fire.

But a flint

holds fire.

☐ 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 flint lies in the mud. The speaker saves the flint for last and says it “holds fire,” so the plain flint is the surprise and the most special.

## Let’s Talk

1. Green as grass. 2. In the mud. 3. Fire (it makes sparks). 4–6. Answers will vary.

## Word Sort

Fancy gem: emerald, ruby, sapphire, diamond. Plain stone: flint, pebble, rock, gravel.

## Word Search

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

## Word Match

emerald: a green gem · ruby: a red gem · sapphire: a blue gem · flint: a hard gray stone that makes sparks · diamond: a clear, sparkly gem · brilliant: very bright and shiny · opal: a milky gem with flashes of color · desire: a strong wish for something

## Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: flint, grass, mud, opal, ruby.

## Missing Words

grass, ruby, mud, stone, spark, fire

## Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

blood: mud · desire: fire · grass: glass · stone: bone · red: bed · green: seen. Claps: emerald 3, ruby 2, sapphire 2, flint 1, diamond 3, opal 2.

## Put It in Order

emerald green as grass → ruby red as blood → sapphire blue as heaven → diamond, a brilliant stone → opal with a fiery spark → but a flint holds fire.

## Ideas to extend the lesson

- Sort a bag of buttons or beads by color and name each one like a gem.
- With a grown-up, look up pictures of flint and steel making sparks.
- Read “Clouds,” 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

Flint ✦ Common Core State Standards, kindergarten to grade 2

| STANDARDS | WHAT CHILDREN PRACTICE | WHERE IN THIS GUIDE |
|---|---|---|
| RL.K.1<br>RL.1.1<br>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<br>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<br>RL.1.3 | Identify and describe characters, settings and major events. | Let's Talk and Put It in Order |
| RL.K.4<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>RF.K.2b | Hear and work with spoken words, rhymes and syllables. | Rhyme Hunt and Make New Rhymes; Clap the Syllables |
| RF.K.3c<br>RF.1.3 | Read common high-frequency words by sight. | Word Search and Missing Words; Word Search |
| RF.1.4a<br>RF.1.4b<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>L.1.1<br>L.1.1a | Print upper- and lowercase letters and use common position words. | Handwriting Practice; ABC Order (alphabetize words) |
| L.K.2a<br>L.1.2b | Use capital letters and end punctuation. | Handwriting checklist |
| L.K.4<br>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<br>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.