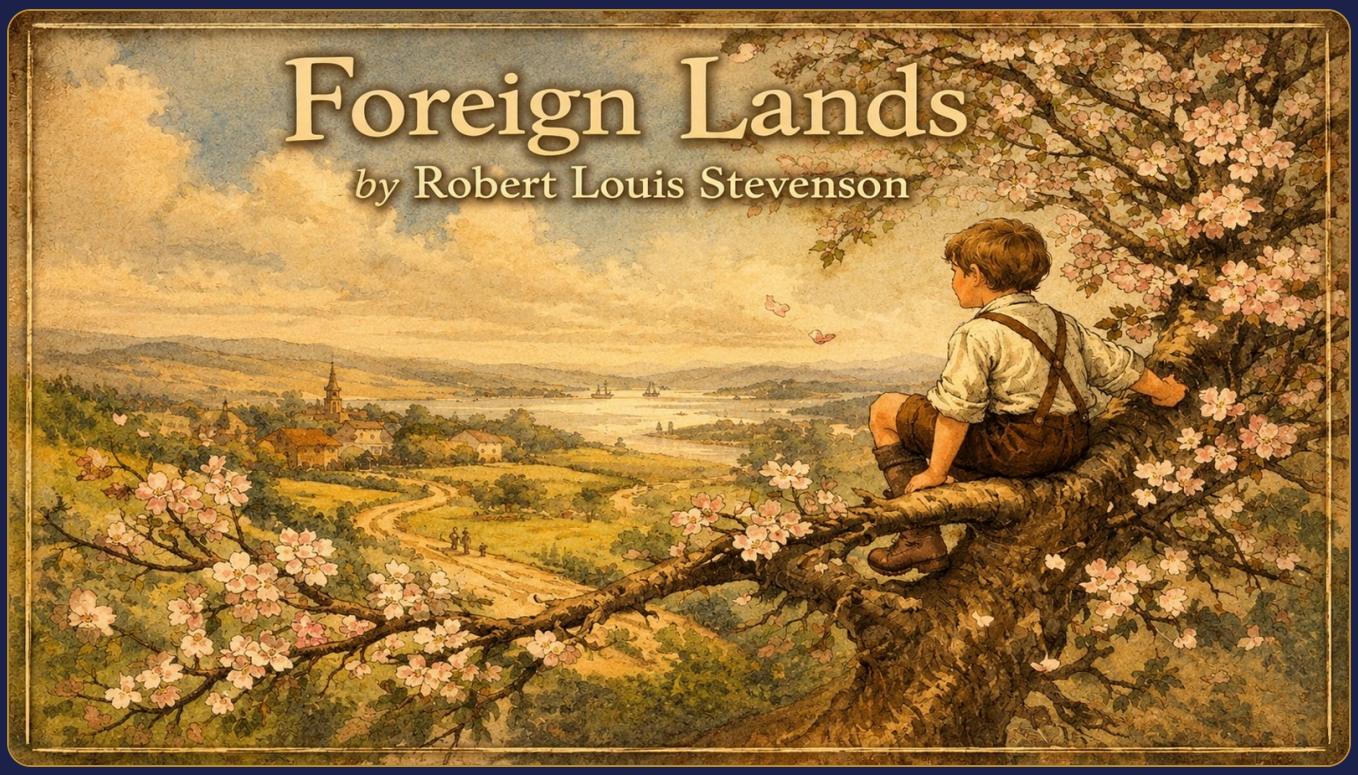
Storyland Classics

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 “Foreign Lands” 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 climbs a cherry tree and looks out at the world. From up high the child can see the next-door garden, a river shining like a mirror and roads full of people walking to town. The child imagines that a higher tree would show even more: the river reaching the sea, and roads leading all the way to fairy land, where the toys come alive.

SKILL FOCUS

Point of view: how things look from a new place

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

Foreign Lands



Up into the cherry tree
Who should climb but little me?
I held the trunk with both my hands
And looked abroad on foreign lands.

I saw the next door garden lie,
Adorned with flowers, before my eye,
And many pleasant places more
That I had never seen before.

I saw the dimpling river pass
And be the sky's blue looking-glass;
The dusty roads go up and down
With people tramping in to town.

If I could find a higher tree
Farther and farther I should see,
To where the grown-up river slips
Into the sea among the ships,

To where the roads on either hand
Lead onward into fairy land,
Where all the children dine at five,
And all the playthings come alive.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Foreign Lands" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/foreign.

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. What does the child wish for in the fourth verse?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Foreign Lands

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

REMEMBER

1. What tree does the child climb?

2. Name two things the child sees from the tree.

3. Where would the roads lead if the tree were higher?

THINK

4. Why does the child call these places "foreign lands"?

5. Why is the river called "the sky's blue looking-glass"?

CONNECT

6. If you climbed up very high, what would you like to see?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What did the child see, and what did the child imagine?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Foreign Lands

SKILL FOCUS

Point of view: how things look from a new place

Draw what you would see from the top of the tallest tree near your home.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

foreign	decorated
abroad	walking with heavy steps
trunk	from another country or place
adorned	a mirror
dimpling	the main stem of a tree
looking-glass	toys
tramping	far away
playthings	making little ripples

Word Sort: Near or Far?

Write each word in the right box.

cherry tree · the sea · next door garden · fairy land · trunk · ships · my hands · foreign lands

Near	Far

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Foreign Lands

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ CHERRY
- ☐ TREE
- ☐ GARDEN
- ☐ FLOWERS
- ☐ RIVER
- ☐ ROADS
- ☐ TOWN
- ☐ SHIPS

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Foreign Lands

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.

before | eye | lands | town

1. And looked abroad on foreign _____ .
2. Adorned with flowers, before my _____ ,
3. That I had never seen _____ .
4. With people tramping in to _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

lands _____ _____ eye _____ _____

before _____ _____ town _____ _____

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 climbs a cherry tree. Yes No
2. The child sees the next-door garden. Yes No
3. The child is standing on the ground. Yes No
4. The river looks like a mirror. Yes No
5. The child wants a smaller tree. Yes No
6. The child imagines toys coming alive in fairy land. Yes No

ABC Order

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

cherry · tree · garden · flowers · river

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.

before · eye · glass · lands · me · town

tree _____ hands _____

lie _____ more _____

pass _____ down _____

LISTEN

Every two lines rhyme. Find the pairs, then try making a new pair of your own about something you can see from a high place.

Clap the Syllables

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

cherry claps: ___	garden claps: ___	river claps: ___
foreign claps: ___	tree claps: ___	playthings 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 child sees the river like a looking-glass.
- ◯ The child climbs up the cherry tree.
- ◯ The child imagines fairy land, where toys come alive.
- ◯ The child sees the next door garden.
- ◯ The child wishes for a higher tree.
- ◯ The child sees dusty roads going to town.

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 climber (reader) | Everyone (looking far away)

One **reader** is the child in the tree. Each time the poem says "I saw," **everyone** shades their eyes and looks far away. Whisper the last verse as if it is a secret about fairy land.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read the first verse with a stretching, climbing voice. Get slower and more dreamy as the child imagines places farther and farther away.

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.

Up into the cherry tree
Who should climb but little me?
I held the trunk with both my hands
And looked abroad on foreign lands.

- [ ] 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 “Foreign Lands” 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

Foreign Lands

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.

Up into the cherry tree

Up into the

cherry tree

Who should climb but little me?

Who should climb

but little me?

☐ 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 up in a cherry tree is telling it. The child wishes for a higher tree, to see even farther.

Let's Talk

1. A cherry tree. 2. The next door garden, the river, and dusty roads with people going to town. 3. Into fairy land. 4–6. Answers will vary (they are places the child has never seen before; the river reflects the sky like a mirror).

Word Sort

Near: cherry tree, next door garden, trunk, my hands. Far: the sea, fairy land, ships, foreign lands.

Word Search

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

Word Match

foreign: from another country or place · abroad: far away · trunk: the main stem of a tree · adorned: decorated · dimpling: making little ripples · looking-glass: a mirror · tramping: walking with heavy steps · playthings: toys

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: cherry, flowers, garden, river, tree.

Missing Words

lands, eye, before, town

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

tree: me · hands: lands · lie: eye · more: before · pass: glass · down: town. Claps: cherry 2, garden 2, river 2, foreign 2, tree 1, playthings 2.

Put It in Order

climbs the cherry tree → sees the next door garden → the river like a looking-glass → dusty roads to town → wishes for a higher tree → imagines fairy land.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Go up somewhere high (a hill, a slide, an upstairs window) and draw everything you can see.
- Make a map from your home to somewhere far away.
- Read it with "The Swing," where a child also sees far over the countryside.

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

Foreign Lands ✦ 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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