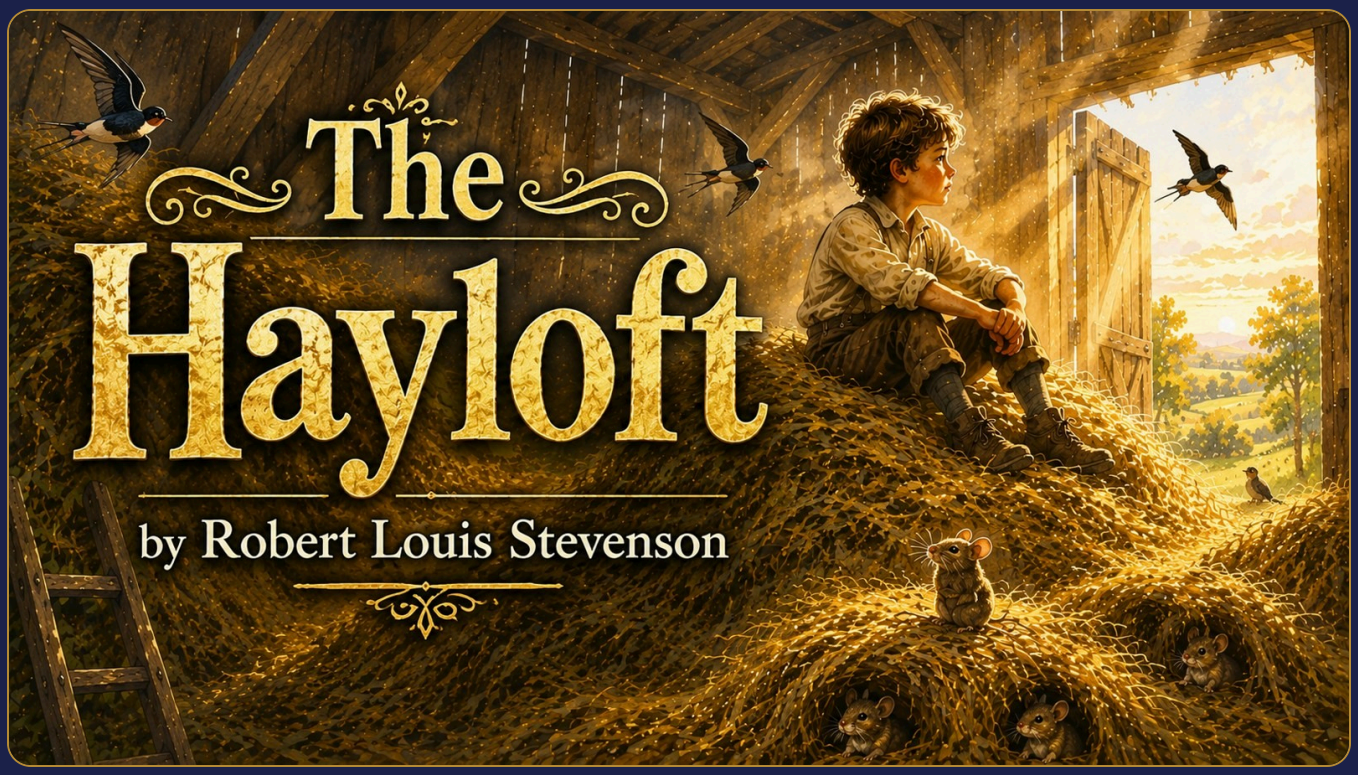
Storyland Classics

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 Hayloft” 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

In summer the meadow grass grows shoulder-high, until it is cut with scythes and left to dry. The sweet-smelling hay is carried home in wagons and piled into great heaps in the barn. To the child the heaps are mountains, with names like Mount Clear and Mount Rusty-Nail, and the hayloft is the happiest place to play.

SKILL FOCUS

Setting, and comparing: the hay piles become mountains

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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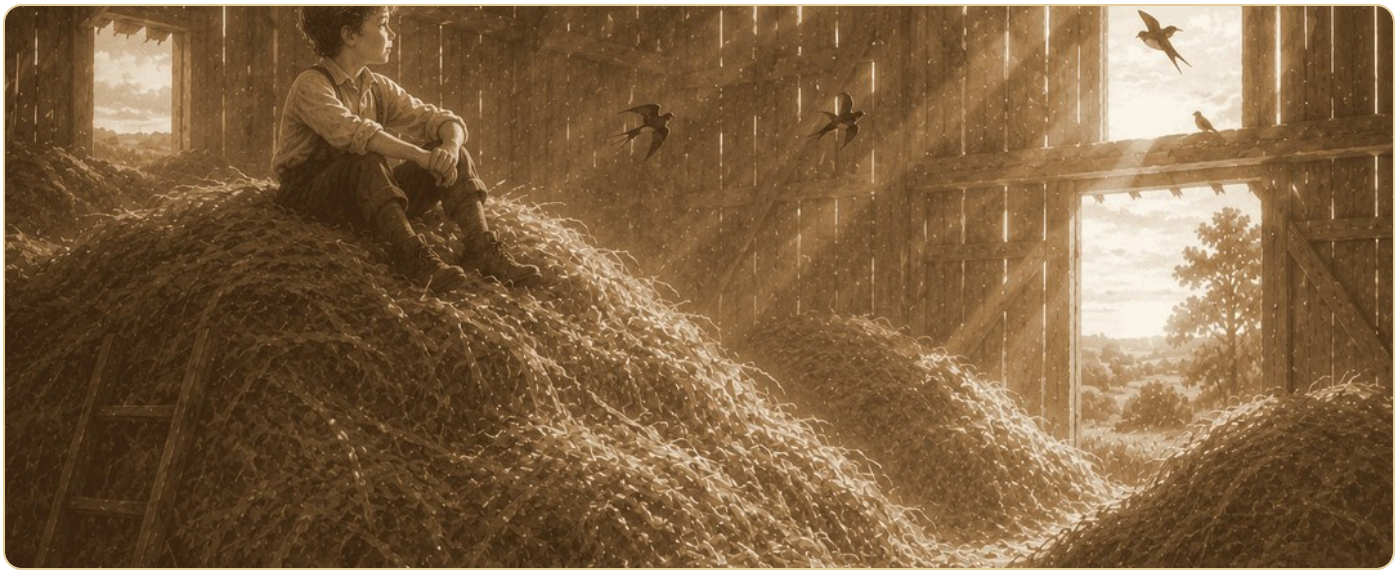
THE POEM

The Hayloft



Through all the pleasant meadow-side
The grass grew shoulder-high,
Till the shining scythes went far and wide
And cut it down to dry.

These green and sweetly smelling crops
They led in waggons home;
And they piled them here in mountain tops
For mountaineers to roam.

Here is Mount Clear, Mount Rusty-Nail,
Mount Eagle and Mount High;—
The mice that in these mountains dwell,
No happier are than I!

Oh, what a joy to clamber there,
Oh, what a place for play,
With the sweet, the dim, the dusty air,
The happy hills of hay!

▸ Watch the read-aloud

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

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 does the child like to play?

2. What does the child pretend the hay piles are?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Hayloft

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

REMEMBER

1. How tall did the grass grow?

2. How was the hay brought home?

3. Name two of the hay mountains.

THINK

4. Why does the child give the hay piles mountain names?

5. How do you know the child loves the hayloft? Find the words.

CONNECT

6. Where is your favorite place to play? What do you pretend there?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. How did the hay get to the barn, and what did the child do there?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Hayloft

SKILL FOCUS

Setting, and comparing: the hay piles become mountains

Draw your own hay mountain and give it a name.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

hayloft	plants grown by farmers
meadow	live
scythe	the top floor of a barn, where hay is kept
crops	mountain climbers
waggons	a tool with a long curved blade for cutting grass
mountaineers	climb using hands and feet
dwell	a grassy field
clamber	wagons; carts pulled by horses

Word Sort: Farm Words or Mountain Words?

Write each word in the right box.

hay · Mount High · scythes · climb · waggons · peak · barn · mountaineers

Farm words

Mountain words

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Hayloft

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ HAY
- ☐ MEADOW
- ☐ GRASS
- ☐ MOUNTAIN
- ☐ MICE
- ☐ EAGLE
- ☐ CROPS
- ☐ PLAY

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Hayloft

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 · dry · hay · roam · tops

1. And cut it down to _____ .
2. And they piled them here in mountain _____
3. For mountaineers to _____ .
4. With the sweet, the dim, the dusty _____ ,
5. The happy hills of _____ !

Make New Rhymes

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

dry _____ _____ tops _____ _____

roam _____ _____ air _____ _____

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 grass grew as high as the child's shoulders. Yes No
2. The grass was cut with scythes. Yes No
3. The hay was carried home in boats. Yes No
4. The child calls the hay piles mountains. Yes No
5. One mountain is called Mount Rusty-Nail. Yes No
6. The child is sad in the hayloft. Yes No

ABC Order

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

hay · meadow · grass · eagle · crops

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.

I | air | dry | hay | roam | tops

high _____ home _____

crops _____ High _____

there _____ play _____

LISTEN

Say the mountain names out loud: Mount Clear, Mount Rusty-Nail, Mount Eagle, Mount High. Can you invent a mountain name of your own?

Clap the Syllables

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

meadow claps: ___	waggons claps: ___	mountain claps: ___
hay claps: ___	eagle claps: ___	happy 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.

- ◯ The hay is led home in waggons.
- ◯ The grass grows shoulder-high.
- ◯ The child plays on the happy hills of hay.
- ◯ The shining scythes cut the grass down to dry.
- ◯ The hay is piled up like mountain tops.
- ◯ The child names Mount Clear and Mount Rusty-Nail.

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 (the mountain names)

One **reader** reads the poem. **Everyone** shouts the mountain names together: “Mount Clear! Mount Rusty-Nail! Mount Eagle! Mount High!” Pretend to climb with your arms on “clamber there.”

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read the first two verses like a story about farm work. Then get bouncy and excited for the mountains and the play.

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.

Through all the pleasant meadow-side
The grass grew shoulder-high,
Till the shining scythes went far and wide
And cut it down to dry.

- [ ] 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 Hayloft” 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 Hayloft

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 happy hills of hay!

The happy hills
of hay!

Oh, what a place for play,

Oh, what a place
for play,

☐ 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 who plays in the hayloft is telling it. The child pretends the piles of hay are mountains.

Let's Talk

1. Shoulder-high. 2. In waggons. 3. Mount Clear, Mount Rusty-Nail, Mount Eagle and Mount High. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Sort

Farm words: hay, scythes, waggons, barn. Mountain words: Mount High, climb, peak, mountaineers.

Word Search

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

Word Match

hayloft: the top floor of a barn, where hay is kept · meadow: a grassy field · scythe: a tool with a long curved blade for cutting grass · crops: plants grown by farmers · waggons: wagons; carts pulled by horses · mountaineers: mountain climbers · dwell: live · clamber: climb using hands and feet

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: crops, eagle, grass, hay, meadow.

Missing Words

dry, tops, roam, air, hay

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

high: dry · home: roam · crops: tops · High: I · there: air · play: hay. Claps: meadow 2, waggons 2, mountain 2, hay 1, eagle 2, happy 2.

Put It in Order

the grass grows shoulder-high → the scythes cut it to dry → it is led home in waggons → piled up like mountain tops → the child names the mountains → plays on the happy hills of hay.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Name the "mountains" where you play: the sofa, the bed, a pile of leaves. Draw a map with their names.
- Find out how hay is made today and compare it with the scythes in the poem.
- Read it with "The Cow," another poem about life on a farm.

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 Hayloft ✦ 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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