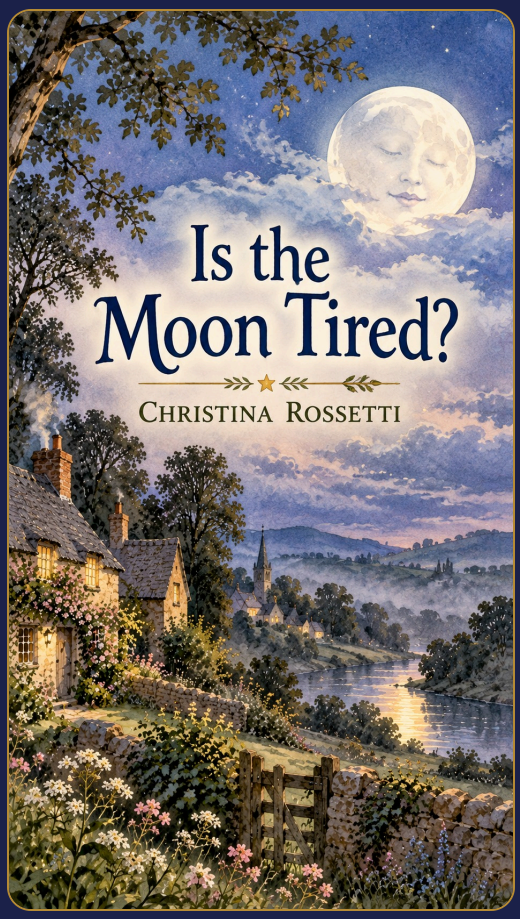
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

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



- ✦ 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 “Is the Moon Tired?” 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 wonders if the moon is tired. She looks so pale behind her misty veil, and she climbs the sky from east to west without ever resting. Before night comes, the moon can look papery white in the daytime sky, and before the day dawns she fades away. It is a gentle question poem, and a perfect way to notice the moon in the daytime sky.

SKILL FOCUS

Personification: how the poet writes about the moon as if she were a person

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

Is the Moon Tired?



Is the moon tired? she looks so pale
Within her misty veil:
She scales the sky from east to west,
    And takes no rest.

Before the coming of the night
The moon shows papery white;
Before the dawning of the day
    She fades away.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Is the Moon Tired?" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/moon-tired-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 asks a question in this poem. Read it again, then answer.

1. What question does the speaker ask?

2. Why does the speaker think the moon might be tired?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Is the Moon Tired?

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

REMEMBER

1. What does the moon look like?

2. Which way does the moon travel across the sky?

3. What does the moon do before the day dawns?

THINK

4. Is the moon really tired? Why does the poet pretend she is?

5. Why can we sometimes see the moon in the daytime?

CONNECT

6. Have you ever seen the moon during the day? What did it look like?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Why does the poet wonder if the moon is tired?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Is the Moon Tired?

SKILL FOCUS

Personification: how the poet writes about the moon as if she were a person

The poet writes about the moon as if she were a person who gets tired. Write two things the moon might say if she could talk.

Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

pale	climbs up
misty	thin and pale like paper
veil	light in color, not bright
scales	the direction where the sun goes down
east	a thin cloth over the face
west	the start of the day
papery	foggy and soft
dawning	the direction where the sun comes up

Word Sort: Day or Night?

Write each word in the right box.

sunrise · moonlight · stars · dawn · bedtime · noon · dark sky · breakfast

Day	Night

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Is the Moon Tired?

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ MOON
- ☐ PALE
- ☐ VEIL
- ☐ SKY
- ☐ EAST
- ☐ WEST
- ☐ REST
- ☐ NIGHT

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CCSS RF.K.1b · RF.K.3c · RF.1.3

Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Is the Moon Tired?

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.

east | moon | night | rest | veil | white

1. Is the _____ tired? she looks so pale
2. Within her misty _____ :
3. She scales the sky from _____ to west,
4. And takes no _____ .
5. Before the coming of the _____
6. The moon shows papery _____ ;

Make New Rhymes

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

moon _____ _____ veil _____ _____

east _____ _____ rest _____ _____

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 poet asks if the moon is tired. Yes No
2. The moon looks bright and golden. Yes No
3. The moon climbs the sky from east to west. Yes No
4. The moon stops to rest every night. Yes No
5. Sometimes the moon looks papery white. Yes No
6. Before the day dawns, the moon fades away. Yes No

ABC Order

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

moon pale veil sky east

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.

away · high · rest · soon · veil · white

pale _____ west _____

night _____ day _____

moon _____ sky _____

LISTEN

The lines rhyme in pairs: pale and veil, west and rest, night and white, day and away.

Clap the Syllables

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

moon claps: ___	tired claps: ___	misty claps: ___
papery claps: ___	dawning claps: ___	coming 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 moon scales the sky from east to west.
- ◯ The speaker asks, “Is the moon tired?”
- ◯ Before the dawning of the day, she fades away.
- ◯ The moon takes no rest.
- ◯ Before night, the moon shows papery white.
- ◯ The moon looks pale in her misty veil.

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

Asker | Answerer | Everyone

The **asker** reads the question, “Is the moon tired?” The **answerer** reads the rest of each verse. **Everyone** says the short last lines together, very softly: “And takes no rest.” “She fades away.”

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read slowly and gently, like a lullaby. Let your voice fade away on the very last line.

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.

Is the moon tired? she looks so pale
Within her misty veil:
She scales the sky from east to west,
And takes no rest.

- [ ] 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 “Is the Moon Tired?” by heart!

by Christina Rossetti

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Is the Moon Tired?

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.

Is the moon tired?

Is the moon tired?

She fades away.

She fades away.

☐ 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?

"Is the moon tired?" The moon looks pale, and she climbs the sky from east to west and "takes no rest."

Let's Talk

1. Pale, in a misty veil. 2. From east to west. 3. She fades away. 4–6. Answers will vary (the moon can be seen in the daytime sky).

Word Sort

Day: sunrise, dawn, noon, breakfast. Night: moonlight, stars, bedtime, dark sky.

Word Search

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

Word Match

pale: light in color, not bright · misty: foggy and soft · veil: a thin cloth over the face · scales: climbs up · east: the direction where the sun comes up · west: the direction where the sun goes down · papery: thin and pale like paper · dawning: the start of the day

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. Yes. ABC order: east, moon, pale, sky, veil.

Missing Words

moon, veil, east, rest, night, white

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

pale: veil · west: rest · night: white · day: away · moon: soon · sky: high. Claps: moon 1, tired 2, misty 2, papery 3, dawning 2, coming 2.

Put It in Order

"Is the moon tired?" → she looks pale in her misty veil → she scales the sky from east to west → she takes no rest → before night she shows papery white → before day she fades away.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Keep a moon diary for a week: draw the moon each night (or morning).
- Look for the moon in the daytime sky with a grown-up.
- Read it with "The Moon" by Robert Louis Stevenson.

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

Is the Moon Tired? ✦ 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.

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