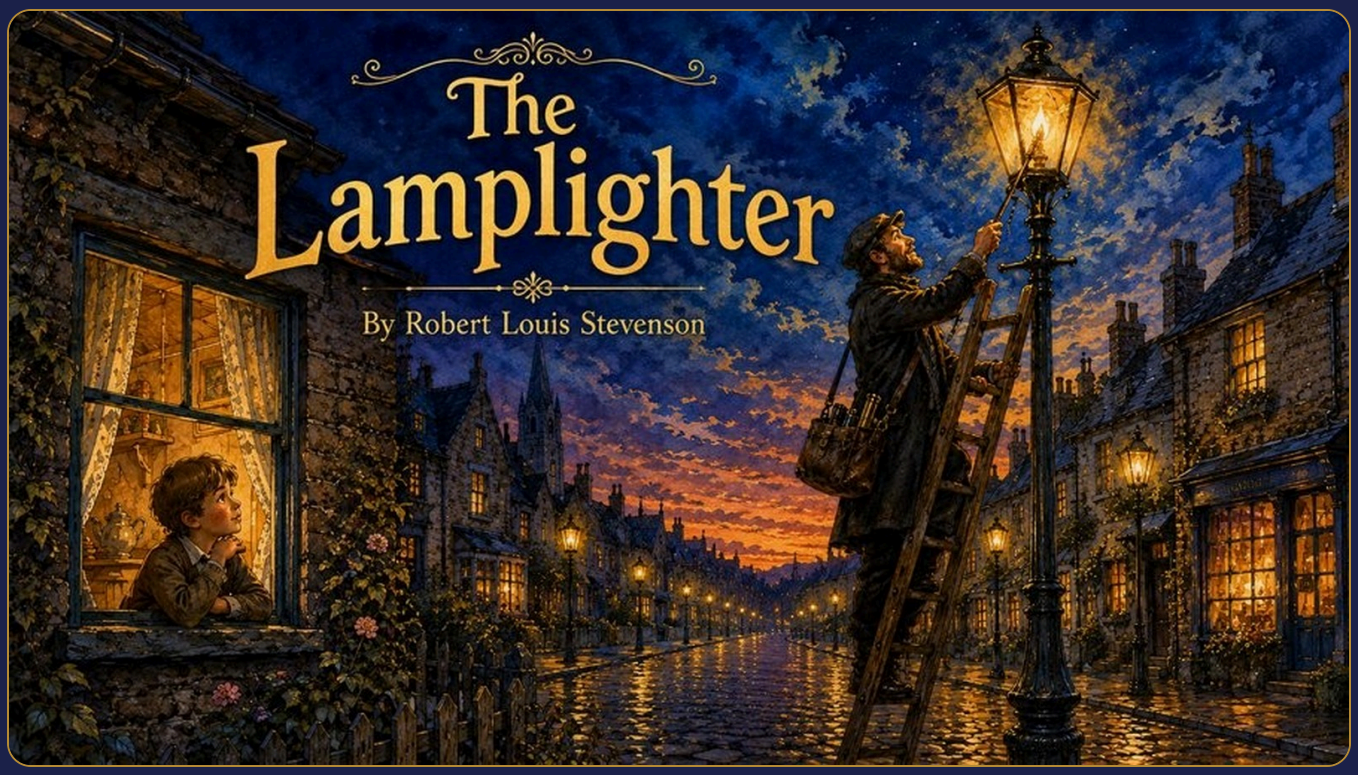
Storyland Classics

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 “The Lamplighter” 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

Long ago, street lamps were lit by hand. Every evening at teatime a child watches at the window for Leerie the lamplighter, who comes up the street with his lantern and ladder. Tom wants to be a driver and Maria wants to go to sea, but this child would rather light the lamps with Leerie, and hopes he will nod hello tonight.

SKILL FOCUS

Community helpers, then and now

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 Lamplighter



My tea is nearly ready and the sun has left the sky;
It's time to take the window to see Leerie going by;
For every night at teatime and before you take your seat,
With lantern and with ladder he comes posting up the street.

Now Tom would be a driver and Maria go to sea,
And my papa's a banker and as rich as he can be;
But I, when I am stronger and can choose what I'm to do,
O Leerie, I'll go round at night and light the lamps with you!

For we are very lucky, with a lamp before the door,
And Leerie stops to light it as he lights so many more;
And O! before you hurry by with ladder and with light,
O Leerie, see a little child and nod to him to-night!

▸ Watch the read-aloud

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

Robert Louis Stevenson, A Child's Garden of Verses (1885). Public domain.

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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? Who is the child talking to at the end?

2. What would Tom and Maria like to be?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Lamplighter

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

REMEMBER

1. What does Leerie carry?

2. What would the child like to do when older?

3. What does the child ask Leerie to do?

THINK

4. Why does the child think the family is "very lucky"?

5. Why don't we need lamplighters today?

CONNECT

6. What job would you like to do when you grow up? Why?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Who is Leerie, and what does the child wish for?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Lamplighter

SKILL FOCUS

Community helpers, then and now

Street lights turn on by themselves today. Draw Leerie's job "then" and a street light "now."

Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

lamplighter	a person who lit the street lamps each evening
lantern	a lamp you carry
ladder	steps for climbing up high
teatime	the time of the evening meal
posting	hurrying along
banker	a person who works with money
choose	pick
nod	move your head down and up to say hello

Word Sort: Jobs or Things?

Write each word in the right box.

lamplighter · lantern · driver · ladder · banker · lamp · sailor · window

Jobs	Things

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Lamplighter

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ LEERIE
- ☐ LAMP
- ☐ LADDER
- ☐ LANTERN
- ☐ STREET
- ☐ TEA
- ☐ DOOR
- ☐ LIGHT

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Lamplighter

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.

more | street | to-night | you

1. With lantern and with ladder he comes posting up the _____ .
2. O Leerie, I'll go round at night and light the lamps with _____ !
3. And Leerie stops to light it as he lights so many _____ ;
4. O Leerie, see a little child and nod to him _____ !

Make New Rhymes

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

street _____ _____ you _____ _____

more _____ _____ to-night _____ _____

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. Leerie lights the street lamps. Yes No
2. Leerie comes in the morning. Yes No
3. Leerie carries a lantern and a ladder. Yes No
4. Tom wants to be a driver. Yes No
5. The child wants to be a banker. Yes No
6. There is a lamp right by the child's door. Yes No

ABC Order

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

leerie · street · tea · door · posting

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.

be · by · more · street · to-night · you

sky _____ seat _____

sea _____ do _____

door _____ light _____

LISTEN

These lines are long, so the rhymes come far apart. Listen for them at the end of each pair of lines: sky and by, seat and street.

Clap the Syllables

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

lamplighter claps: ___	ladder claps: ___	lantern claps: ___
Leerie claps: ___	lamp claps: ___	banker 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.

- ◯ Tom would be a driver and Maria would go to sea.
- ◯ The sun has left the sky at teatime.
- ◯ The child asks Leerie to nod tonight.
- ◯ Leerie comes up the street with lantern and ladder.
- ◯ The child wants to light the lamps with Leerie.
- ◯ Leerie stops to light the lamp by the door.

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) Leerie (acts it out)

One **reader** is the child at the window. Another child is **Leerie**, who walks across the room with a pretend ladder and lantern, stopping to "light" each lamp. On the last line, Leerie turns and nods!

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read the first verse with excitement, the second like a big secret wish, and the last line softly and hopefully.

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.

My tea is nearly ready and the sun has left the sky;
It's time to take the window to see Leerie going by;
For every night at teatime and before you take your seat,
With lantern and with ladder he comes posting up the street.

- [ ] 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 Lamplighter" 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 Lamplighter

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.

With lantern and with ladder he comes

With lantern and

with ladder he comes

O Leerie, see a little child

O Leerie, see

a little child

☐ 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, and at the end talks right to Leerie the lamplighter. Tom would be a driver and Maria would go to sea.

Let's Talk

1. A lantern and a ladder. 2. Go round at night and light the lamps with Leerie. 3. See a little child and nod to him. 4–6. Answers will vary (they have a lamp right by their door; streetlights turn on by electricity now).

Word Sort

Jobs: lamplighter, driver, banker, sailor. Things: lantern, ladder, lamp, window.

Word Search

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

Word Match

lamplighter: a person who lit the street lamps each evening · lantern: a lamp you carry · ladder: steps for climbing up high · teatime: the time of the evening meal · posting: hurrying along · banker: a person who works with money · choose: pick · nod: move your head down and up to say hello

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: door, leerie, posting, street, tea.

Missing Words

street, you, more, to-night

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

sky: by · seat: street · sea: be · do: you · door: more · light: to-night. Claps: lamplighter 3, ladder 2, lantern 2, Leerie 2, lamp 1, banker 2.

Put It in Order

the sun has left the sky → Leerie comes up the street → Tom and Maria's wishes → the child wants to light lamps with Leerie → Leerie lights the lamp by the door → "nod to him to-night!"

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Take an evening walk and count the streetlights. Who or what turns them on today?
- Draw Leerie climbing his ladder, with lit lamps glowing behind him.
- Read it with "Escape at Bedtime," another poem about lights in the evening.

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 Lamplighter ✦ 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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