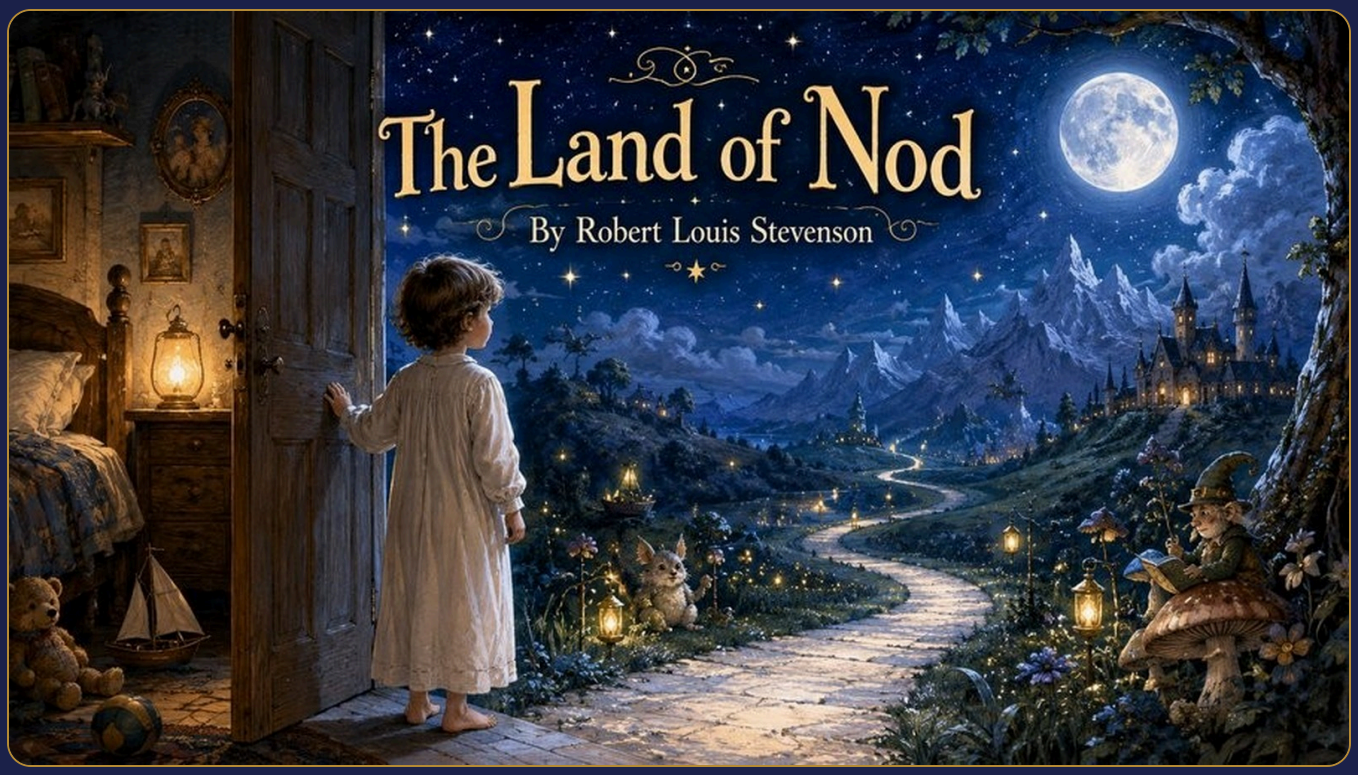
Storyland Classics

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 Land of Nod” 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

All day the child stays at home among friends, but every night the child travels alone to the Land of Nod, the land of dreams. There the child walks beside streams, climbs dream mountains, sees strange things and hears curious music. But in the morning the way back is lost, and the child can never quite remember the dream.

SKILL FOCUS

Imagery, and telling real life from make-believe

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

The Land of Nod



From breakfast on through all the day
At home among my friends I stay,
But every night I go abroad
Afar into the land of Nod.

All by myself I have to go,
With none to tell me what to do—
All alone beside the streams
And up the mountain-sides of dreams.

The strangest things are there for me,
Both things to eat and things to see,
And many frightening sights abroad
Till morning in the land of Nod.

Try as I like to find the way,
I never can get back by day,
Nor can remember plain and clear
The curious music that I hear.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "The Land of Nod" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/land-of-nod.

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 go every night?

2. Who goes with the child to the Land of Nod?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Land of Nod

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

REMEMBER

1. When does the child go to the Land of Nod?

2. What does the child find there?

3. What can't the child remember in the morning?

THINK

4. What is the Land of Nod really?

5. Why can't the child find the way back by day?

CONNECT

6. Do you remember any of your dreams? Tell about one.

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Where does the child go each night, and what happens there?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Land of Nod

SKILL FOCUS

Imagery, and telling real life from make-believe

Draw a map of your own Land of Nod. Label three things you might see there.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

abroad	small rivers
afar	strange, unusual
Nod	far from home
streams	scary
strangest	a pretend land of sleep
frightening	clearly
curious	far away
plain	most unusual

Word Sort: Home or the Land of Nod?

Write each word in the right box.

breakfast · streams · friends · mountains of dreams · daytime · strange things · home · curious music

At home	In the Land of Nod

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Land of Nod

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ DREAMS
- ☐ NIGHT
- ☐ STREAMS
- ☐ MUSIC
- ☐ MORNING
- ☐ FRIENDS
- ☐ MOUNTAIN
- ☐ NOD

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Land of Nod

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.

dreams · hear · Nod · see · stay

1. At home among my friends I _____ ,
2. Afar into the land of _____ .
3. And up the mountain-sides of _____ .
4. Both things to eat and things to _____ ,
5. The curious music that I _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

stay _____ _____ nod _____ _____

dreams _____ _____ see _____ _____

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 goes to the Land of Nod every night. Yes No
2. The child takes friends to the Land of Nod. Yes No
3. The Land of Nod is the land of dreams. Yes No
4. The child sees strange things there. Yes No
5. In the morning the child can find the way back. Yes No
6. The child hears curious music. Yes No

ABC Order

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

dreams night streams music friends

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.

Nod · do · dreams · hear · see · stay

day _____ abroad _____

go _____ streams _____

me _____ clear _____

LISTEN

"Abroad" and "Nod" make a rhyme when you say them the old English way. Every two lines rhyme. Read softly and listen for each pair.

Clap the Syllables

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

breakfast claps: ___	mountain claps: ___	morning claps: ___
dreams claps: ___	remember claps: ___	music 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 strangest things.
- ◯ The child stays at home all day.
- ◯ The child cannot remember the music.
- ◯ Every night the child goes to the Land of Nod.
- ◯ The child goes alone beside streams and up mountains.
- ◯ In the morning the child cannot find the way back.

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 hush)

Dim the lights. One **reader** reads softly. After each verse, **everyone** whispers “the land of Nod” and closes their eyes for three seconds.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read slowly and quietly, as if you are falling asleep. Let your voice fill with wonder on “the curious music that I hear.”

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.

From breakfast on through all the day
At home among my friends I stay,
But every night I go abroad
Afar into the land of Nod.

- [ ] 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 Land of Nod” 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 Land of Nod

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.

Afar into the land of Nod.

Afar into the

land of Nod.

All by myself I have to go,

All by myself

I have to go,

☐ 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. Every night the child goes to the Land of Nod (dreamland), all alone.

Let's Talk

1. Every night. 2. Streams, mountains of dreams, strange things to eat and see, and curious music. 3. The way back, and the curious music. 4–6. Answers will vary (it is dreamland, the land of sleep).

Word Sort

At home: breakfast, friends, daytime, home. In the Land of Nod: streams, mountains of dreams, strange things, curious music.

Word Search

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

Word Match

abroad: far from home · afar: far away · Nod: a pretend land of sleep · streams: small rivers · strangest: most unusual · frightening: scary · curious: strange, unusual · plain: clearly

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: dreams, friends, music, night, streams.

Missing Words

stay, Nod, dreams, see, hear

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

day: stay · abroad: Nod · go: do · streams: dreams · me: see · clear: hear. Claps: breakfast 2, mountain 2, morning 2, dreams 1, remember 3, music 2.

Put It in Order

at home all day → to the Land of Nod every night → alone beside streams and up mountains → the strangest things → can't find the way back by day → can't remember the music.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Keep a dream journal by your bed for a week. Draw what you remember each morning.
- Make a map of your own Land of Nod with its streams, mountains and strange things.
- Read it with "The Moon" and "Escape at Bedtime," more poems about night.

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 Land of Nod ✦ 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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