Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Poems of Childhood (1904)



- ✦ 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 “Little Boy Blue” by Eugene Field. 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 little toy dog and a little toy soldier stand in the same old place, covered with dust. Long ago, Little Boy Blue kissed them, put them there and told them to wait. They have waited faithfully ever since. This is a tender poem about missing someone; read it with care, and let children share their feelings.

SKILL FOCUS

Feelings in a poem: loyalty and missing someone

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

Little Boy Blue



The little toy dog is covered with dust,
But sturdy and staunch he stands;
And the little toy soldier is red with rust,
And his musket moulds in his hands.
Time was when the little toy dog was new,
And the soldier was passing fair;
And that was the time when our Little Boy Blue
Kissed them and put them there.

"Now, don't you go till I come," he said,
"And don't you make any noise!"
So, toddling off to his trundle-bed,
He dreamt of the pretty toys;
And, as he was dreaming, an angel song
Awakened our Little Boy Blue—
Oh! the years are many, the years are long,
But the little toy friends are true!

Aye, faithful to Little Boy Blue they stand,
Each in the same old place—
Awaiting the touch of a little hand,
The smile of a little face;
And they wonder, as waiting the long years through
In the dust of that little chair,
What has become of our Little Boy Blue,
Since he kissed them and put them there.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Little Boy Blue" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/boyblue-field.

Eugene Field, Poems of Childhood (1904). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

Eugene Field

1850–1895 ✦ The Poet of Childhood

Eugene Field was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1850. He became a newspaper writer in Chicago, where he wrote a famous column called “Sharps and Flats.” He loved children, toys and bedtime stories, and he wrote so many poems for children that people called him “the Poet of Childhood.” His lullabies, like “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod” and “The Sugar-Plum Tree,” are still read at bedtime today.

Questions About the Poet

1. In what city was Eugene Field born?

2. What job did he have in Chicago?

3. What did people call him? Why do you think so?

Who Is Talking?

Someone is telling this poem about the toys. Read it again, then answer.

1. Who is the poem mostly about?

2. What did Little Boy Blue say to the toys?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Little Boy Blue

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

REMEMBER

1. Which two toys are in the poem?

2. What did Little Boy Blue tell the toys?

3. Where do the toys stand?

THINK

4. How do you know a long time has passed?

5. What does it mean that the toys are "true" and "faithful"?

CONNECT

6. Which toy of yours is a faithful friend? Why?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What are the toys doing, and why?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Little Boy Blue

SKILL FOCUS

Feelings in a poem: loyalty and missing someone

Write about a toy that has been your faithful friend. What would it say if it could talk?

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

sturdy	an old kind of gun used by soldiers
staunch	waiting for
rust	strong and steady
musket	loyal; always there for someone
trundle-bed	red-brown coating on old metal
faithful	walking with small, wobbly steps
awaiting	loyal and true
toddling	a low bed that slides under a bigger bed

Word Sort: The Dog or the Soldier?

Write each word in the right box.

covered with dust · red with rust · musket · sturdy · soldier was passing fair · toy dog was new · stands · true

About the dog

About the soldier

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Little Boy Blue

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ DOG
- ☐ SOLDIER
- ☐ DUST
- ☐ RUST
- ☐ CHAIR
- ☐ TOYS
- ☐ HAND
- ☐ FACE

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Little Boy Blue

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.

Blue | face | hands | rust | toys | trundle-bed

1. And the little toy soldier is red with _____ ,
2. And his musket moulds in his _____ .
3. And that was the time when our Little Boy _____
4. So, toddling off to his _____ ,
5. He dreamt of the pretty _____ ;
6. The smile of a little _____ ;

Make New Rhymes

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

rust _____ _____ hands _____ _____

blue _____ _____ trundle-bed _____ _____

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 little toy dog is covered with dust. Yes No
2. The toy soldier is shiny and new. Yes No
3. Little Boy Blue kissed the toys. Yes No
4. He told the toys to go away. Yes No
5. The toys still wait in the same old place. Yes No
6. The toys are faithful to Little Boy Blue. Yes No

ABC Order

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

dog soldier rust chair toys

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.

Blue | face | hands | rust | toys | trundle-bed

dust _____ stands _____

new _____ said _____

noise _____ place _____

LISTEN

Every two lines rhyme in this gentle poem. Read it slowly and listen to the soft sounds.

Clap the Syllables

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

little claps: ___	soldier claps: ___	musket claps: ___
dog claps: ___	faithful claps: ___	trundle-bed 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 toys wonder what has become of Little Boy Blue.
- ◯ Little Boy Blue kisses the toys and puts them on the chair.
- ◯ He goes off to his trundle-bed.
- ◯ He tells them, “Don’t you go till I come.”
- ◯ The toys wait for years in the same old place.
- ◯ He dreams of the pretty toys.

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 | Little Boy Blue (one line)

This poem is best read by one gentle **reader**. Another child can say Little Boy Blue's words: "Now, don't you go till I come, and don't you make any noise!"

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read slowly and quietly. Pause at the end of each verse. It's fine to talk about feeling sad or missing someone afterward.

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.

The little toy dog is covered with dust,
But sturdy and staunch he stands;
And the little toy soldier is red with rust,
And his musket moulds in his hands.
Time was when the little toy dog was new,
And the soldier was passing fair;
And that was the time when our Little Boy Blue
Kissed them and put them there.

- [ ] 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 “Little Boy Blue” by heart!

by Eugene Field

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Little Boy Blue

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.

But the little toy friends are true!

But the little

toy friends are true!

The little toy dog is covered with dust,

The little toy dog

is covered with dust,

☐ 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?

The poem is about a little toy dog and a little toy soldier, and the boy who loved them. He said, “Now, don’t you go till I come, and don’t you make any noise!”

Let’s Talk

1. A little toy dog and a little toy soldier. 2. “Now, don’t you go till I come, and don’t you make any noise!” 3. On a little chair, in the same old place. 4–6. Answers will vary (the dust and rust show years have passed; they keep waiting for him).

Word Sort

About the dog: covered with dust, sturdy, toy dog was new, stands. About the soldier: red with rust, musket, soldier was passing fair. (“True” describes both toys.)

Word Search

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

Word Match

sturdy: strong and steady · staunch: loyal and true · rust: red-brown coating on old metal · musket: an old kind of gun used by soldiers · trundle-bed: a low bed that slides under a bigger bed · faithful: loyal; always there for someone · awaiting: waiting for · toddling: walking with small, wobbly steps

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. Yes. ABC order: chair, dog, rust, soldier, toys.

Missing Words

rust, hands, Blue, trundle-bed, toys, face

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

dust: rust · stands: hands · new: Blue · said: trundle-bed · noise: toys · place: face. Claps: little 2, soldier 2, musket 2, dog 1, faithful 2, trundle-bed 3.

Put It in Order

kisses the toys and puts them there → “Don’t you go till I come” → goes to his trundle-bed → dreams of the pretty toys → the toys wait for years → they wonder what has become of him.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Draw your most faithful toy and write why it is special.
- Talk about someone you miss and a way to remember them.
- Read it with “The Duel,” a funny Eugene Field poem about toys.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Eugene Field poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

Little Boy Blue ✦ 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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