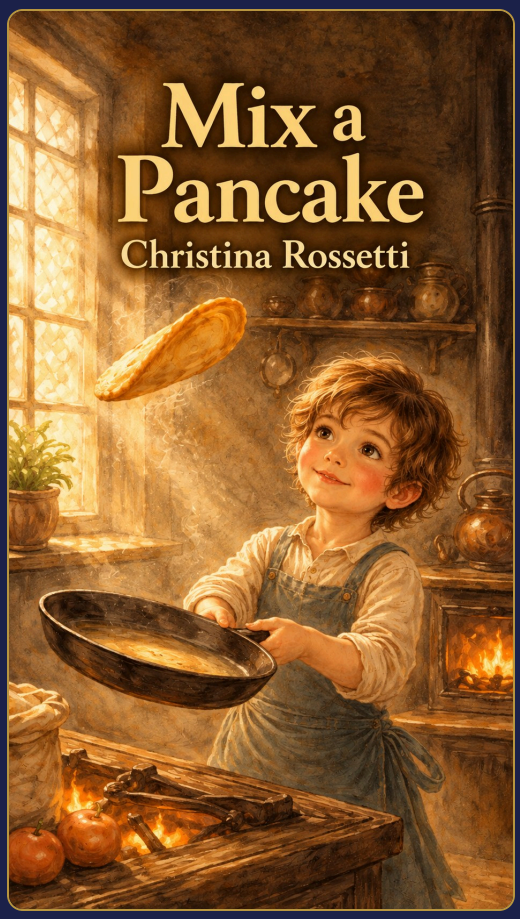
Storyland Classics

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 “Mix a Pancake” 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’s little poem is a recipe in rhyme. Each line tells us one thing to do to make a pancake: mix it, stir it, pop it in the pan, fry it and toss it. Then the very last line turns cooking into a game: catch it if you can! It is a perfect poem for acting out with a pretend pan.

SKILL FOCUS

Action words: the verbs that tell us what to do, in the order we do them

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 and act out each step. 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 steps 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.

Cooking together

If you make real pancakes, let the grown-up do the frying and tossing. A paper plate and a paper pancake make a safe pan for acting it out.

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THE POEM

Mix a Pancake



Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
    Pop it in the pan;
Fry the pancake,
Toss the pancake,—
    Catch it if you can.

▸ Watch the read-aloud
Scan the code to watch "Mix a Pancake" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/mix-pancake-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 and do 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 wrote about things children see and do every day. What would you write a poem about?

Who Is Talking?

The speaker in this poem gives us instructions, like a cook reading a recipe. Read it again, then answer.

1. What does the speaker tell us to make?

2. What is the speaker's challenge in the very last line?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Mix a Pancake

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

REMEMBER

1. What is the very first thing we do to the pancake?

2. Where do we pop the pancake?

3. What do we do after we fry the pancake?

THINK

4. Why do you think the poet says, "Catch it if you can"?

5. What might happen if you don't catch the pancake?

CONNECT

6. Have you ever helped to cook something? What did you do?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What happens to the pancake, from the bowl to the catch?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Mix a Pancake

SKILL FOCUS

Action words: the verbs that tell us what to do, in the order we do them

Find the Action Words

The poem tells us six things to do. Write each action word in a box, in the order it comes in the poem.

1	2	3
4	5	6

My Recipe Poem

Choose another food, like a sandwich, a cake or a salad. Write your own recipe poem with action words such as *wash, cut, spread, pour, bake* or *eat*.

_____ a _____ ,

_____ a _____ ,

_____ it _____ ;

_____ the _____ ,

_____ the _____ ,

_____

Draw your food here.

Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

pancake	•	• a flat metal dish for cooking
mix	•	• move a spoon round and round
stir	•	• cook in hot butter or oil
pop	•	• take hold of something as it falls
pan	•	• put things together
fry	•	• throw something up into the air
toss	•	• a flat, round cake cooked in a pan
catch	•	• put something in quickly

Word Sort: Thing or Action?

Is it a thing you can hold, or an action you can do? Write each word in the right box.

bowl · mix · spoon · stir · egg · fry · flour · toss · pan · catch

Thing	Action

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Mix a Pancake

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ MIX
- ☐ STIR
- ☐ POP
- ☐ FRY
- ☐ TOSS
- ☐ CATCH
- ☐ PANCAKE
- ☐ CAN

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Mix a Pancake

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.

toss · pan · mix · can · fry · stir

1. _____ a pancake,
2. _____ a pancake,
3. Pop it in the _____ ;
4. _____ the pancake,
5. _____ the pancake,—
6. Catch it if you _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

pan _____ _____ cake _____ _____

fry _____ _____ mix _____ _____

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 poem is about making a pancake. Yes No
2. You fry the pancake in a bowl. Yes No
3. You stir the pancake. Yes No
4. The pancake is tossed up into the air. Yes No
5. The poem tells you to eat the pancake. Yes No
6. The last line says, “Catch it if you can.” Yes No

ABC Order

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

pan · mix · toss · fry · catch

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.

top · pie · can · moss · six · lake

pan _____ cake _____

fry _____ pop _____

mix _____ toss _____

LISTEN

Only two lines in this poem rhyme: **pan** and **can**. Listen for the rhyme right at the end! The word **pancake** comes four times. Can you count them?

Clap the Syllables

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

pancake claps: ___	mix claps: ___	kitchen claps: ___
butter claps: ___	catch claps: ___	breakfast claps: ___

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Name _____ Date _____

PUT IT IN ORDER

What Happens First?

Read each step. Write 1 in the circle next to what happens first, 2 next to what happens next, and so on up to 6.

- ◯ Fry the pancake.
- ◯ Mix the pancake.
- ◯ Catch it if you can!
- ◯ Pop it in the pan.
- ◯ Toss the pancake.
- ◯ Stir the pancake.

Retell the Poem

Use the order words to tell how to make the pancake 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

Cook | Helper | Everyone

COOK Mix a pancake,

HELPER Stir a pancake,

EVERYONE Pop it in the pan;

COOK Fry the pancake,

HELPER Toss the pancake,—

EVERYONE Catch it if you can!

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Do the actions as you say them: stir the bowl, flip the pan, and reach up high to catch the pancake 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 poem by heart. Check off each step as you go.

Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
Pop it in the pan;
Fry the pancake,
Toss the pancake,—
Catch it if you can.

- [ ] Listen to the poem 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, with all the actions.

✦ CERTIFICATE ✦

I can say “Mix a Pancake” by heart!

by Christina Rossetti

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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CCSS RF.1.4b · SL.K.6 · SL.1.6

Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Mix a Pancake

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.

Mix a pancake.

Mix a

pancake.

Catch it if you can.

Catch it if

you can.

☐ 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?

1. A pancake. 2. “Catch it if you can”: the speaker dares us to catch the pancake when it is tossed.

Let’s Talk

1. Mix it. 2. In the pan. 3. Toss it. 4–6. Answers will vary (for example, the pancake flies up and you have to be quick to catch it).

Try It

mix, stir, pop, fry, toss, catch

Word Search

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

Word Match

pancake: a flat, round cake cooked in a pan · mix: put things together · stir: move a spoon round and round · pop: put something in quickly · pan: a flat metal dish for cooking · fry: cook in hot butter or oil · toss: throw something up into the air · catch: take hold of something as it falls

Word Sort

Thing: bowl, spoon, egg, flour, pan. Action: mix, stir, fry, toss, catch.

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: catch, fry, mix, pan, toss.

Missing Words

Mix, Stir, pan, Fry, Toss, can

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

pan: can · cake: lake · fry: pie · pop: top · mix: six · toss: moss. Claps: pancake 2, mix 1, kitchen 2, butter 2, catch 1, breakfast 2.

Put It in Order

Mix → stir → pop it in the pan → fry → toss → catch it if you can

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Make real pancakes with a grown-up and say the poem one line at a time as you cook.
- Act it out with a paper plate for a pan and a paper or felt pancake to flip and catch.
- Read it with “The King’s Breakfast” by A. A. Milne, another poem about food.

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

Mix a Pancake ✦ 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?
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 words)
RL.2.5	Recognize types of texts and describe the overall structure (beginning, middle and end).	Put It in Order: the steps of a recipe
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
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
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)
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 (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: Thing or Action?
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: My Recipe Poem
W.1.8	With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.	Try It: Find the Action Words

Codes are Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. Find free read-alouds and guides at storylandclassics.com.

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