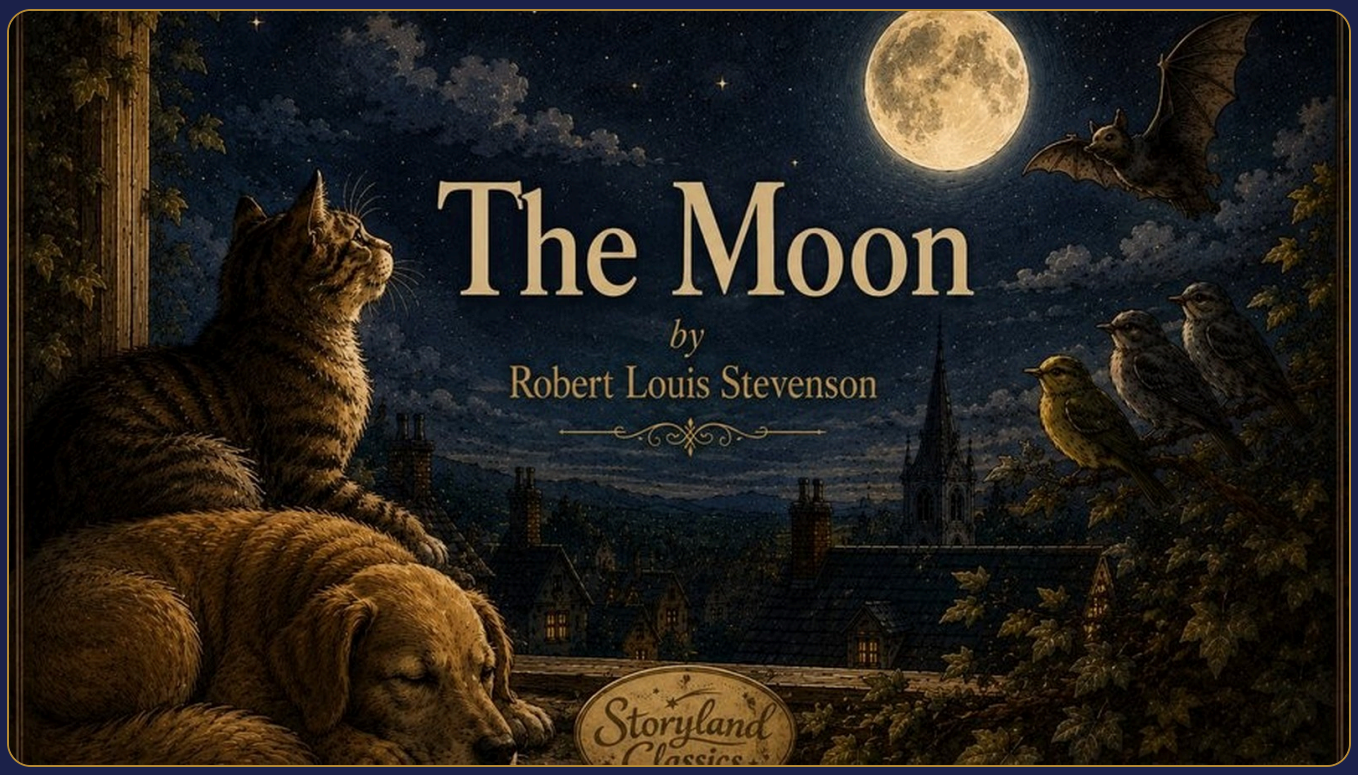
Storyland Classics

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 Moon” 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

The moon has a round face like the clock in the hall. She shines on everything at night: garden walls, streets, harbors and birds asleep in the trees. Cats, mice, dogs and bats love to be out by moonlight, but everything that belongs to the day, including flowers and children, cuddles up to sleep until the sun comes up.

SKILL FOCUS

Simile: comparing two things using “like” or “as”

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 Moon



The moon has a face like the clock in the hall;
She shines on thieves on the garden wall,
On streets and fields and harbour quays,
And birdies asleep in the forks of the trees.

The squalling cat and the squeaking mouse,
The howling dog by the door of the house,
The bat that lies in bed at noon,
All love to be out by the light of the moon.

But all of the things that belong to the day
Cuddle to sleep to be out of her way;
And flowers and children close their eyes
Till up in the morning the sun shall arise.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

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

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 "she" in this poem?

2. Which things love to be out at night, and which go to sleep?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Moon

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

REMEMBER

1. What does the moon's face look like?

2. Name three animals that love to be out at night.

3. What do flowers and children do at night?

THINK

4. Why does the bat "lie in bed at noon"?

5. Which things belong to the night and which belong to the day?

CONNECT

6. What can you see and hear outside at night?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What does the moon shine on, and who is awake or asleep?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Moon

SKILL FOCUS

Simile: comparing two things using “like” or “as”

Finish this simile, then draw it: “The moon is like _____.”

Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

harbour	making a small, high sound
quays	snuggle up close
squalling	a safe place where boats stay
squeaking	12 o'clock, the middle of the day
howling	crying out loudly
noon	get up
cuddle	places where boats are tied up
arise	making a long, loud cry

Word Sort: Night or Day?

Write each word in the right box.

bat · sun · cat · children · mouse · flowers · dog · birdies

Out at night	Belongs to the day

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Moon

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ MOON
- ☐ CLOCK
- ☐ CAT
- ☐ MOUSE
- ☐ DOG
- ☐ BAT
- ☐ FLOWERS
- ☐ SUN

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Moon

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.

arise | house | moon | trees | wall | way

1. She shines on thieves on the garden _____ ,
2. And birdies asleep in the forks of the _____ .
3. The howling dog by the door of the _____ ,
4. All love to be out by the light of the _____ .
5. Cuddle to sleep to be out of her _____ ;
6. Till up in the morning the sun shall _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

wall _____ _____ trees _____ _____

house _____ _____ moon _____ _____

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 moon has a face like a clock. Yes No
2. The bat sleeps at noon. Yes No
3. The cat and the mouse sleep all night. Yes No
4. Birdies sleep in the trees. Yes No
5. Flowers and children close their eyes at night. Yes No
6. The sun comes up at night. Yes No

ABC Order

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

moon clock dog bat flowers

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.

arise · house · moon · trees · wall · way

hall _____ quays _____

mouse _____ noon _____

day _____ eyes _____

LISTEN

This poem is full of sound words: squalling, squeaking, howling. Say each one and make the sound!

Clap the Syllables

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

moon claps: ___	birdies claps: ___	harbour claps: ___
squeaking claps: ___	morning claps: ___	children 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 cat, the dog and the bat are out by moonlight.
- ◯ The moon has a face like the clock in the hall.
- ◯ The sun shall arise in the morning.
- ◯ The moon shines on thieves on the garden wall.
- ◯ Flowers and children close their eyes.
- ◯ Birdies sleep in the forks of the trees.

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 | Night animals (sound effects)

One **reader** reads. Others are the **night animals**: a cat "meows," a mouse "squeaks," a dog howls and a bat flaps its wings when each is named. Everyone closes their eyes for the last verse.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read the first verse slowly and wonderingly, the second noisily with all the animals, and the third softly, like a lullaby.

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 moon has a face like the clock in the hall;
She shines on thieves on the garden wall,
On streets and fields and harbour quays,
And birdies asleep in the forks of the trees.

- [ ] 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 Moon” 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 Moon

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.

The moon has a face like the clock in the hall;

The moon has a face

like the clock in the hall;

All love to be out by the light of the moon.

All love to be out

by the light of the moon.

☐ 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?

"She" is the moon. The cat, mouse, dog and bat love the night; flowers, children and everything that belongs to the day go to sleep.

Let's Talk

1. Like the clock in the hall. 2. The cat, the mouse, the dog and the bat. 3. Close their eyes and sleep till morning. 4–6. Answers will vary (bats sleep in the day and fly at night).

Word Sort

Out at night: bat, cat, mouse, dog. Belongs to the day: sun, children, flowers, birdies (asleep in the trees).

Word Search

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

Word Match

harbour: a safe place where boats stay · quays: places where boats are tied up · squalling: crying out loudly · squeaking: making a small, high sound · howling: making a long, loud cry · noon: 12 o'clock, the middle of the day · cuddle: snuggle up close · arise: get up

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: bat, clock, dog, flowers, moon.

Missing Words

wall, trees, house, moon, way, arise

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

hall: wall · quays: trees · mouse: house · noon: moon · day: way · eyes: arise. Claps: moon 1, birdies 2, harbour 2, squeaking 2, morning 2, children 2.

Put It in Order

a face like the clock in the hall → shines on thieves on the garden wall → birdies asleep in the trees → the cat, dog and bat are out → flowers and children close their eyes → the sun shall arise.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Watch the moon for a week and draw its shape each night. Does it change?
- Make a chart of nighttime animals and daytime animals.
- Read it with "The Land of Nod" and Christina Rossetti's "Is the Moon Tired?"

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 Moon ✦ 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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