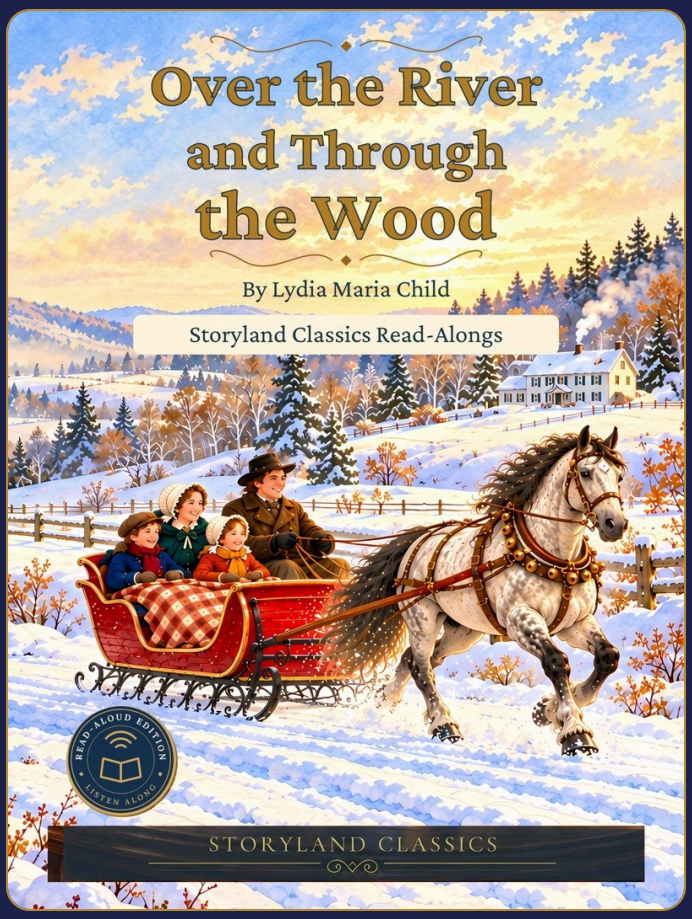
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Flowers for Children (1844)



- ✦ 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 "Over the River and Through the Wood" by Lydia Maria Child. 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 family rides in a sleigh to grandfather's house for Thanksgiving. The horse knows the way through the snow, the wind stings their toes and bites their noses, and the sleigh bells ring. The trip feels so slow when you can't wait to get there! At last Grandmother spots them coming and calls for pie for everyone. Every verse begins with the same happy line, so children can join in right away.

SKILL FOCUS

Repetition: how the repeated first line gives the poem its beat

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

Over the River and Through the Wood



Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house away!
We would not stop
For doll or top,
For 'tis Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river, and through the wood,
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes
And bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.

Over the river, and through the wood,
With a clear blue winter sky,
The dogs do bark,
And children hark,
As we go jingling by.

Over the river, and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring,
"Ting-a-ling-ding!"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river, and through the wood,
No matter for winds that blow;
Or if we get
The sleigh upset
Into a bank of snow.

Over the river, and through the wood,
To see little John and Ann;
We will kiss them all,
And play snow-ball
And stay as long as we can.

Over the river, and through the wood,
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!
Spring over the ground,
Like a hunting-hound!
For 'tis Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river, and through the wood,
And straight through the barn-yard gate.
We seem to go
Extremely slow,—
It is so hard to wait!

Over the river, and through the wood,
Old Jowler hears our bells;
He shakes his pow,
With a loud bow-wow,
And thus the news he tells.

Over the river, and through the wood,
When grandmother sees us come,
She will say, "O, dear,
The children are here,
Bring a pie for every one."

Over the river, and through the wood,
Now grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin-pie!

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Over the River and Through the Wood" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/over-the-river-guide.

Lydia Maria Child, Flowers for Children (1844). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

Lydia Maria Child

1802–1880 ✦ American writer and teacher

Lydia Maria Child was born in Medford, Massachusetts, in 1802. She was a teacher and a writer, and she started one of the first magazines in America just for children. She wrote stories, poems and books of helpful advice for families. In 1844 she wrote a poem called “The New-England Boy’s Song about Thanksgiving Day.” It remembers riding in a sleigh to her grandfather’s house as a child. Today almost everyone knows it by its first line: “Over the river, and through the wood.”

Questions About the Poet

1. In what state did Lydia Maria Child grow up?

2. What was the poem’s first title?

3. Lydia Maria Child wrote about a happy trip she remembered. What trip do you remember?

Who Is Talking?

Someone tells this poem, and another voice speaks inside it. Read it again, then answer.

1. Who is telling the poem? (Hint: “we.”)

2. Who says, “O, dear, the children are here”?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Over the River and Through the Wood

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

REMEMBER

1. Where is the family going?

2. What pulls the sleigh?

3. What does Grandmother call for at the end?

THINK

4. Why does the trip seem so slow?

5. How do you think the family feels? What words tell you?

CONNECT

6. Tell about a trip you took to see someone you love.

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What happened on the way to grandfather's house?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Over the River and Through the Wood

SKILL FOCUS

Repetition: how the repeated first line gives the poem its beat

Write your own verse that starts “Over the river, and through the wood,” and tells something you would see on the way to someone you love.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

sleigh	listen
drifted	a soft, sweet dessert
stings	a sled pulled by a horse
hark	tipped over
dapple-gray	makes a sharp, hurting feeling
upset	to see something far away
pudding	piled up by the wind
spy	gray with darker spots

Word Sort: On the Trip or At Grandma's?

Write each word in the right box.

sleigh · pumpkin pie · snowy road · pudding · sleigh bells · Grandmother's cap · cold wind · barn-yard gate

On the trip	At Grandma's

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Over the River and Through the Wood

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ RIVER
- ☐ WOOD
- ☐ SLEIGH
- ☐ SNOW
- ☐ HORSE
- ☐ BELLS
- ☐ PIE
- ☐ DOGS

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Over the River and Through the Wood

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.

hark | nose | sleigh | snow

1. To carry the _____
2. Through the white and drifted _____ .
3. And bites the _____ ,
4. And children _____ ,

Make New Rhymes

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

sleigh _____ _____ snow _____ _____

nose _____ _____ hark _____ _____

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 family rides in a sleigh. Yes No
2. They are going to the beach. Yes No
3. The horse knows the way. Yes No
4. The wind stings their toes. Yes No
5. The trip feels very fast. Yes No
6. Grandmother calls for pie. Yes No

ABC Order

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

river wood sleigh horse bells

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.

by · go · hark · nose · sleigh · snow

go _____ way _____

blow _____ toes _____

bark _____ sky _____

LISTEN

Lines 3 and 4 of each verse are short and rhyme: way and sleigh, toes and nose, bark and hark. Clap on the rhyming words!

Clap the Syllables

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

river claps: ___	sleigh claps: ___	Thanksgiving claps: ___
grandmother claps: ___	pumpkin claps: ___	pudding 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.

- ◯ Grandmother calls for pie for everyone.
- ◯ The horse carries the sleigh through the snow.
- ◯ The dogs bark as the sleigh jingles by.
- ◯ The wind stings their toes and bites their noses.
- ◯ They go through the barn-yard gate.
- ◯ “Hurrah for the pumpkin-pie!”

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 1 | Reader 2 | Grandmother | Everyone

Everyone says "Over the river, and through the wood" at the start of each verse. **Reader 1** and **Reader 2** take turns reading the rest of each verse. **Grandmother** says, "O, dear, the children are here, bring a pie for every one." Everyone jingles on "Ting-a-ling-ding!"

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read with a bouncy, trotting beat, like a horse pulling a sleigh. Get more and more excited as you get close to Grandmother's house!

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.

Over the river, and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.

- [ ] 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 "Over the River and Through the Wood" by heart!

by Lydia Maria Child

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Over the River and Through the Wood

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.

Over the river, and through the wood,

Over the river,

and through the wood,

Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Hurrah for

Thanksgiving Day!

☐ 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 riding in the sleigh tells the poem (“we go”). Grandmother says, “O, dear, the children are here.”

Let’s Talk

1. To grandfather’s house for Thanksgiving. 2. A horse (a dapple-gray horse). 3. A pie for every one. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Sort

On the trip: sleigh, snowy road, sleigh bells, cold wind. At Grandma’s: pumpkin pie, pudding, Grandmother’s cap, barn-yard gate.

Word Search

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

Word Match

sleigh: a sled pulled by a horse · drifted: piled up by the wind · stings: makes a sharp, hurting feeling · hark: listen · dapple-gray: gray with darker spots · upset: tipped over · pudding: a soft, sweet dessert · spy: to see something far away

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: bells, horse, river, sleigh, wood.

Missing Words

sleigh, snow, nose, hark

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

go: snow · way: sleigh · blow: go · toes: nose · bark: hark · sky: by. Claps: river 2, sleigh 1, Thanksgiving 3, grandmother 3, pumpkin 2, pudding 2.

Put It in Order

the horse carries the sleigh → the wind stings their toes → the dogs bark → through the barn-yard gate → Grandmother calls for pie → “Hurrah for the pumpkin-pie!”

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Ring a bell or shake jingle bells every time you hear “Over the river.”
- Draw a map of the sleigh ride from your house to Grandmother’s.
- Talk about your family’s Thanksgiving or holiday traditions.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Lydia Maria Child poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

Over the River and Through the Wood ✦ 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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