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 "Seein' Things" 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 boy says he isn't afraid of snakes, toads, bugs or mice. But at bedtime, when the light goes out, he sees things: in the corner, by the door, walking round the floor. He notices he sees them most on nights when he has been naughty, so he says sorry, promises to be good, and even skips second helpings of pie. The poem is written the way a boy might talk long ago.

SKILL FOCUS

Dialect: words written the way people talk

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

Seein' Things



I ain't afeard uv snakes, or toads, or bugs, or worms, or mice,
An' things 'at girls are skeered uv I think are awful nice!
I'm pretty brave, I guess; an' yet I hate to go to bed,
For, when I'm tucked up warm an' snug an' when my prayers are said,
Mother tells me "Happy dreams!" and takes away the light,
An' leaves me lyin' all alone an' seein' things at night!

Sometimes they're in the corner, sometimes they're by the door,
Sometimes they're all a-standin' in the middle uv the floor;
Sometimes they are a-sittin' down, sometimes they're walkin' round
So softly an' so creepylike they never make a sound!
Sometimes they are as black as ink, an' other times they're white—
But the color ain't no difference when you see things at night!

Once, when I licked a feller 'at had just moved on our street,
An' father sent me up to bed without a bite to eat,
I woke up in the dark an' saw things standin' in a row,
A-lookin' at me cross-eyed an' p'intin' at me—so!
Oh, my! I wuz so skeered that time I never slep' a mite—
It's almost alluz when I'm bad I see things at night!

Lucky thing I ain't a girl, or I'd be skeered to death!
Bein' I'm a boy, I duck my head an' hold my breath;
An' I am, oh! so sorry I'm a naughty boy, an' then
I promise to be better an' I say my prayers again!
Gran'ma tells me that's the only way to make it right
When a feller has been wicked an' sees things at night!

An' so, when other naughty boys would coax me into sin,
I try to skwush the Tempter's voice 'at urges me within;
An' when they's pie for supper, or cakes 'at's big an' nice,
I want to—but I do not pass my plate f'r them things twice!
No, ruther let Starvation wipe me slowly out o' sight
Than I should keep a-livin' on an' seein' things at night!

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Seein' Things" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/seeinthings-guide.

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?

A boy tells this poem in his own way of talking. Read it again, then answer.

1. Who is telling this poem? What is he afraid of?

2. What does the boy do to stop seeing things at night?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Seein' Things

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

REMEMBER

1. Name two things the boy is NOT afraid of.

2. Where does he see the "things" at night?

3. When does he see them most?

THINK

4. Do you think the "things" are real? Why or why not?

5. Why does the boy say no to a second piece of pie?

CONNECT

6. What helps you feel safe and brave at bedtime?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What does the boy see at night, and what does he do about it?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Seein' Things

SKILL FOCUS

Dialect: words written the way people talk

Write one sentence the way the boy talks, then write it again the way we spell it today.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

afeard	in a creepy way
skeered	to try to get someone to do something
snug	afraid
creepylike	even a little bit
feller	warm and cozy
a mite	a voice that tries to get you to do wrong
coax	scared
Tempter	a boy or man

Word Sort: Not Scared Of or Scared Of?

Write each word in the right box.

snakes · toads · bugs · things at night · mice · the dark · worms · bad dreams

Not scared of	Scared of

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Seein' Things

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ SNAKES
- ☐ TOADS
- ☐ BUGS
- ☐ MICE
- ☐ BED
- ☐ LIGHT
- ☐ DOOR
- ☐ FLOOR

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Seein' Things

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.

eat | floor | nice | night | said | sound

1. An' things 'at girls are skeered uv I think are awful _____ !
2. For, when I'm tucked up warm an' snug an' when my prayers are _____ ,
3. An' leaves me lyin' all alone an' seein' things at _____ !
4. Sometimes they're all a-standin' in the middle uv the _____ ;
5. So softly an' so creepylike they never make a _____ !
6. An' father sent me up to bed without a bite to _____ ,

Make New Rhymes

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

nice _____ _____ said _____ _____

night _____ _____ floor _____ _____

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 boy is afraid of snakes and bugs. Yes No
2. He sees things at night. Yes No
3. Mother leaves the light on all night. Yes No
4. Sometimes the things are by the door. Yes No
5. He sees things most when he has been bad. Yes No
6. He promises to be better. Yes No

ABC Order

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

snakes toads bugs mice light

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.

eat · floor · nice · night · said · sound

mice _____ bed _____

light _____ door _____

round _____ street _____

LISTEN

This poem spells words the way the boy says them: "uv" for *of* and "skeered" for *scared*. Find three of these words and say how we spell them today.

Clap the Syllables

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

snakes claps: ___	nightmares claps: ___	corner claps: ___
supper claps: ___	prayers claps: ___	creepylike 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.

- ◯ Mother says “Happy dreams!” and takes the light.
- ◯ The boy says he isn’t afraid of snakes or bugs.
- ◯ The boy skips his second piece of pie.
- ◯ He sees things by the door and on the floor.
- ◯ He says sorry and promises to be better.
- ◯ He sees things most when he has been bad.

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

The boy (reader) Everyone (the last line)

One **reader** is the boy, talking in a brave voice. **Everyone** joins in with a spooky whisper at the end of each verse: "seein' things at night!"

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Start each verse bravely, then get shakier and quieter as the things appear. Have fun with the old-fashioned words!

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.

I ain't afeard uv snakes, or toads, or bugs, or worms, or mice,
An' things 'at girls are skeered uv I think are awful nice!
I'm pretty brave, I guess; an' yet I hate to go to bed,
For, when I'm tucked up warm an' snug an' when my prayers are said,
Mother tells me "Happy dreams!" and takes away the light,
An' leaves me lyin' all alone an' seein' things at night!

- [ ] 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 "Seein' Things" by heart!

by Eugene Field

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Seein' Things

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.

I'm pretty brave, I guess;

I'm pretty brave,

I guess;

seein' things at night!

seein' things

at night!

☐ 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 boy tells it. He is not afraid of snakes or bugs, but he is afraid of the "things" he sees at night. He says sorry, promises to be better and says his prayers again.

Let's Talk

1. Snakes, toads, bugs, worms or mice. 2. In the corner, by the door, in the middle of the floor, walking round. 3. When he has been bad. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Sort

Not scared of: snakes, toads, bugs, mice, worms (any four). Scared of: things at night, the dark, bad dreams.

Word Search

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

Word Match

afeard: afraid · skeered: scared · snug: warm and cozy · creepylike: in a creepy way · feller: a boy or man · a mite: even a little bit · coax: to try to get someone to do something · Tempter: a voice that tries to get you to do wrong

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. No · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. Yes · 6. Yes. ABC order: bugs, light, mice, snakes, toads.

Missing Words

nice, said, night, floor, sound, eat

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

mice: nice · bed: said · light: night · door: floor · round: sound · street: eat. Claps: snakes 1, nightmares 2, corner 2, supper 2, prayers 1, creepylike 3.

Put It in Order

not afraid of snakes or bugs → Mother takes the light → things by the door and on the floor → he sees them most when he has been bad → he says sorry and promises to be better → he skips his second piece of pie.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Make a list of things that help at bedtime: a night-light, a hug, a favorite toy.
- Rewrite one line in the way we talk today.
- Read it with "The Night Wind," another Eugene Field poem about sounds and fears at night.

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

Seein' Things ✦ 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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