Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Peacock Pie (1913)



- ✦ 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 “Silver” by Walter de la Mare. 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 walks slowly and silently across the night sky, and everything her light touches turns to silver: the fruit on the trees, the windows, the sleeping dog, the doves in their dovecote, a little harvest mouse and the fish in the stream. The poem is full of soft s sounds that make it feel quiet and hushed, just right for bedtime.

SKILL FOCUS

Sound words: how repeating “silver” and soft s sounds make the poem quiet

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

Silver



Slowly, silently, now the moon
Walks the night in her silver shoon;
This way, and that, she peers, and sees
Silver fruit upon silver trees;
One by one the casements catch
Her beams beneath the silvery thatch;
Couched in his kennel, like a log,
With paws of silver sleeps the dog;
From their shadowy cote the white breasts peep
Of doves in a silver-feathered sleep;
A harvest mouse goes scampering by,
With silver claws, and silver eye;
And moveless fish in the water gleam,
By silver reeds in a silver stream.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch “Silver” read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/silver-guide.

Walter de la Mare, Peacock Pie (1913). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

Walter de la Mare

1873–1956 ✦ English poet and storyteller

Walter de la Mare was born in Kent, England, in 1873. When he finished school he worked in the office of an oil company for almost twenty years, writing poems and stories in his spare time. In 1913 he published *Peacock Pie*, a book of poems for children full of moonlight, dreams, animals and mysterious happenings. His poems are known for their music: say them aloud and listen to the sounds of the words.

Questions About the Poet

1. In what country was Walter de la Mare born?

2. What was the name of his book of poems for children?

3. Walter de la Mare liked mysterious, dreamy poems. What makes a poem feel mysterious?

Who Is Talking?

A speaker tells this poem. Read it again, then answer.

1. Who walks the night in silver shoes?

2. Name three animals the moon shines on.

Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Silver

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

REMEMBER

1. How does the moon move across the sky?

2. Where is the dog sleeping?

3. What does the harvest mouse do?

THINK

4. Why does everything look silver in the poem?

5. Why do you think the poet says "silver" so many times?

CONNECT

6. What does your room or your street look like on a moonlit night?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What did the moon see as she walked through the night?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Silver

SKILL FOCUS

Sound words: how repeating “silver” and soft s sounds make the poem quiet

Choose a color word, like gold or blue. Write three things the moon or sun could turn that color, like “silver fruit upon silver trees.”

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

silently	a little house for doves
shoon	without making any sound
peers	a little house for a dog
casements	looks closely
thatch	not moving at all
kennel	an old word for shoes
cote	a roof made of straw
moveless	windows that open like doors

Word Sort: Sky or Ground?

Write each word in the right box.

moon · stars · dog · mouse · moonbeams · fish · night sky · reeds

In the sky	On the ground or in the water

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Silver

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ MOON
- ☐ SILVER
- ☐ DOG
- ☐ MOUSE
- ☐ FISH
- ☐ TREES
- ☐ NIGHT
- ☐ DOVES

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Silver

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.

dog · eye · shoon · stream · thatch · trees

1. Walks the night in her silver _____ ;
2. Silver fruit upon silver _____ ;
3. Her beams beneath the silvery _____ ;
4. With paws of silver sleeps the _____ ;
5. With silver claws, and silver _____ ;
6. By silver reeds in a silver _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

shoon _____ _____ trees _____ _____

thatch _____ _____ dog _____ _____

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 walks slowly and silently. Yes No
2. The moon wears gold shoes. Yes No
3. The dog sleeps in his kennel. Yes No
4. The doves are wide awake and flying. Yes No
5. A harvest mouse goes scampering by. Yes No
6. The fish gleam by silver reeds. Yes No

ABC Order

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

moon silver dog fish trees

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.

dog · eye · shoon · stream · thatch · trees

moon _____ sees _____

catch _____ log _____

by _____ gleam _____

LISTEN

The lines rhyme in pairs: moon and shoon, sees and trees, log and dog. Whisper the poem and listen for each pair.

Clap the Syllables

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

silver claps: ___	moon claps: ___	silently claps: ___
kennel claps: ___	harvest claps: ___	feathered 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 dog sleeps with paws of silver.
- ◯ The moon walks the night in silver shoes.
- ◯ The fish gleam by silver reeds.
- ◯ The moon sees silver fruit on silver trees.
- ◯ A harvest mouse goes scampering by.
- ◯ The doves peep from their cote.

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 | Everyone

Reader 1 and **Reader 2** take turns reading two lines each. **Everyone** whispers the word “silver” every time it comes. Count how many times you say it!

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read slowly and quietly, like the moon walking softly across the sky. Let the s sounds hiss gently: slowly, silently, silver.

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.

Slowly, silently, now the moon
Walks the night in her silver shoon;
This way, and that, she peers, and sees
Silver fruit upon silver trees;
One by one the casements catch
Her beams beneath the silvery thatch;
Couched in his kennel, like a log,
With paws of silver sleeps the dog;

- [ ] 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 “Silver” by heart!

by Walter de la Mare

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Silver

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.

Slowly, silently, now the moon

Slowly, silently,

now the moon

Walks the night in her silver shoon;

Walks the night

in her silver shoon;

☐ 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 moon walks the night in her “silver shoon” (shoes). She shines on the dog, the doves, the harvest mouse and the fish.

Let’s Talk

1. Slowly and silently. 2. In his kennel. 3. It goes scampering by. 4–6. Answers will vary (the moonlight makes everything look silver).

Word Sort

In the sky: moon, stars, moonbeams, night sky. On the ground or in the water: dog, mouse, fish, reeds.

Word Search

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

Word Match

silently: without making any sound · shoon: an old word for shoes · peers: looks closely · casements: windows that open like doors · thatch: a roof made of straw · kennel: a little house for a dog · cote: a little house for doves · moveless: not moving at all

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. Yes. ABC order: dog, fish, moon, silver, trees.

Missing Words

shoon, trees, thatch, dog, eye, stream

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

moon: shoon · sees: trees · catch: thatch · log: dog · by: eye · gleam: stream. Claps: silver 2, moon 1, silently 3, kennel 2, harvest 2, feathered 2.

Put It in Order

the moon walks the night → she sees silver fruit on silver trees → the dog sleeps with paws of silver → the doves peep from their cote → a harvest mouse scampers by → the fish gleam by silver reeds.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Count the times the word “silver” appears in the poem (there are nine!).
- Draw a night picture with white or silver crayon on black paper.
- Read it with “The Moon” by Robert Louis Stevenson and compare the two moons.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Walter de la Mare poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

Silver ✦ 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.