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 “Someone” 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

Late one still, dark night, a child hears someone knocking at a wee, small door. The child listens, opens the door and looks left and right, but no one is there. All the child can hear are the night sounds: a beetle tapping in the wall, a screech-owl calling from the forest and a cricket whistling as the dew falls. Who came knocking? The poem never tells, so children can wonder and imagine.

SKILL FOCUS

Sound words: how knocking, tapping and whistling help us hear the night

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

Someone



Someone came knocking
At my wee, small door;
Someone came knocking;
I'm sure—sure—sure;
I listened, I opened,
I looked to left and right,
But naught there was a-stirring
In the still dark night;
Only the busy beetle
Tap-tapping in the wall,
Only from the forest
The screech-owl's call,
Only the cricket whistling
While the dewdrops fall,
So I know not who came knocking,
At all, at all, at all.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Someone" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/someone-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 child tells this poem. Read it again, then answer.

1. Who is telling the poem? How do you know?

2. What three night sounds does the child hear?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Someone

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

REMEMBER

1. What did the child hear at the door?

2. Who was there when the child opened the door?

3. What was the beetle doing?

THINK

4. Who do you think came knocking? Why?

5. Is this a scary poem, a cozy poem or a wondering poem? Why?

CONNECT

6. What sounds do you hear at night when the house is quiet?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What happened when someone came knocking?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Someone

SKILL FOCUS

Sound words: how knocking, tapping and whistling help us hear the night

Write three night sounds you might hear in your house or outside. Then write a sound word for each one, like tap-tap or hoo-hoo.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

knocking	moving about
wee	a small jumping bug that chirps
naught	tapping on a door
a-stirring	a small owl with a shrill call
beetle	nothing
screech-owl	tiny drops of water on the grass at night
cricket	very small
dewdrops	a small bug with a hard shell

Word Sort: Inside or Outside?

Write each word in the right box.

wee, small door · beetle in the wall · screech-owl · cricket in the grass · the child · the forest · dewdrops · the dark night

Inside the house	Outside

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Someone

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ KNOCK
- ☐ DOOR
- ☐ NIGHT
- ☐ OWL
- ☐ CRICKET
- ☐ BEETLE
- ☐ WALL
- ☐ DEW

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Someone

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.

all · call · night · sure

1. I'm sure—sure— _____ ;
2. In the still dark _____ ;
3. The screech-owl's _____ ,
4. At all, at all, at _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

sure _____ _____ night _____ _____

call _____ _____ all _____ _____

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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CCSS RF.K.3c · RF.1.4a · RF.K.2a

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. Someone came knocking at a big, wide door. Yes No
2. The child listened and opened the door. Yes No
3. The child saw a friend outside. Yes No
4. A beetle was tap-tapping in the wall. Yes No
5. A screech-owl called from the forest. Yes No
6. The child knew who came knocking. Yes No

ABC Order

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

knock · door · night · owl · cricket

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.

all · call · clock · howl · night · sure

door _____ right _____

wall _____ fall _____

knock _____ owl _____

LISTEN

Listen for the rhymes: right and night, wall, call, fall and all. The last word, "all," is said three times, like knocking!

Clap the Syllables

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

someone claps: ___	knocking claps: ___	beetle claps: ___
cricket claps: ___	forest claps: ___	dewdrops 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 child looks to left and right.
- ◯ Someone comes knocking at the door.
- ◯ The child hears the screech-owl's call.
- ◯ The child listens and opens the door.
- ◯ The child still does not know who came knocking.
- ◯ The child hears a beetle tapping in the wall.

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

Child | Night sounds (a group)

One reader is the **child** who tells the poem. A group makes the **night sounds**: knock on the table for "knocking," tap for the beetle, "hoo-hoo" for the owl and a soft chirp for the cricket.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read slowly and quietly, as if you are listening hard in the dark. Make the three "at all"s at the end softer and softer.

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.

Someone came knocking
At my wee, small door;
Someone came knocking;
I'm sure—sure—sure;
I listened, I opened,
I looked to left and right,
But naught there was a-stirring
In the still dark 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 "Someone" by heart!

by Walter de la Mare

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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CCSS RF.1.4b · SL.K.6 · SL.1.6

Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Someone

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.

Someone came knocking

Someone came

knocking

At my wee, small door;

At my wee,

small door;

☐ 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 tells the poem (“my wee, small door,” “I listened, I opened”). The child hears a beetle tap-tapping, a screech-owl calling and a cricket whistling.

Let’s Talk

1. Someone knocking at the door. 2. No one: “naught there was a-stirring.” 3. Tap-tapping in the wall. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Sort

Inside the house: wee, small door, beetle in the wall, the child. Outside: screech-owl, cricket in the grass, the forest, dewdrops, the dark night. (The door is between inside and outside, so accept either.)

Word Search

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

Word Match

knocking: tapping on a door · wee: very small · naught: nothing · a-stirring: moving about · beetle: a small bug with a hard shell · screech-owl: a small owl with a shrill call · cricket: a small jumping bug that chirps · dewdrops: tiny drops of water on the grass at night

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. No · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: cricket, door, knock, night, owl.

Missing Words

sure, night, call, all

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

door: sure · right: night · wall: call · fall: all · knock: clock · owl: howl. Claps: someone 2, knocking 2, beetle 2, cricket 2, forest 2, dewdrops 2.

Put It in Order

someone comes knocking → the child listens and opens the door → looks to left and right → hears a beetle tapping → hears the screech-owl’s call → still does not know who came knocking.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Go on a night-sounds listening walk (or open a window) and list what you hear.
- Write or tell a story about who came knocking.
- Read it with “Silver,” another quiet night poem by Walter de la Mare.

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

Someone ✦ 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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