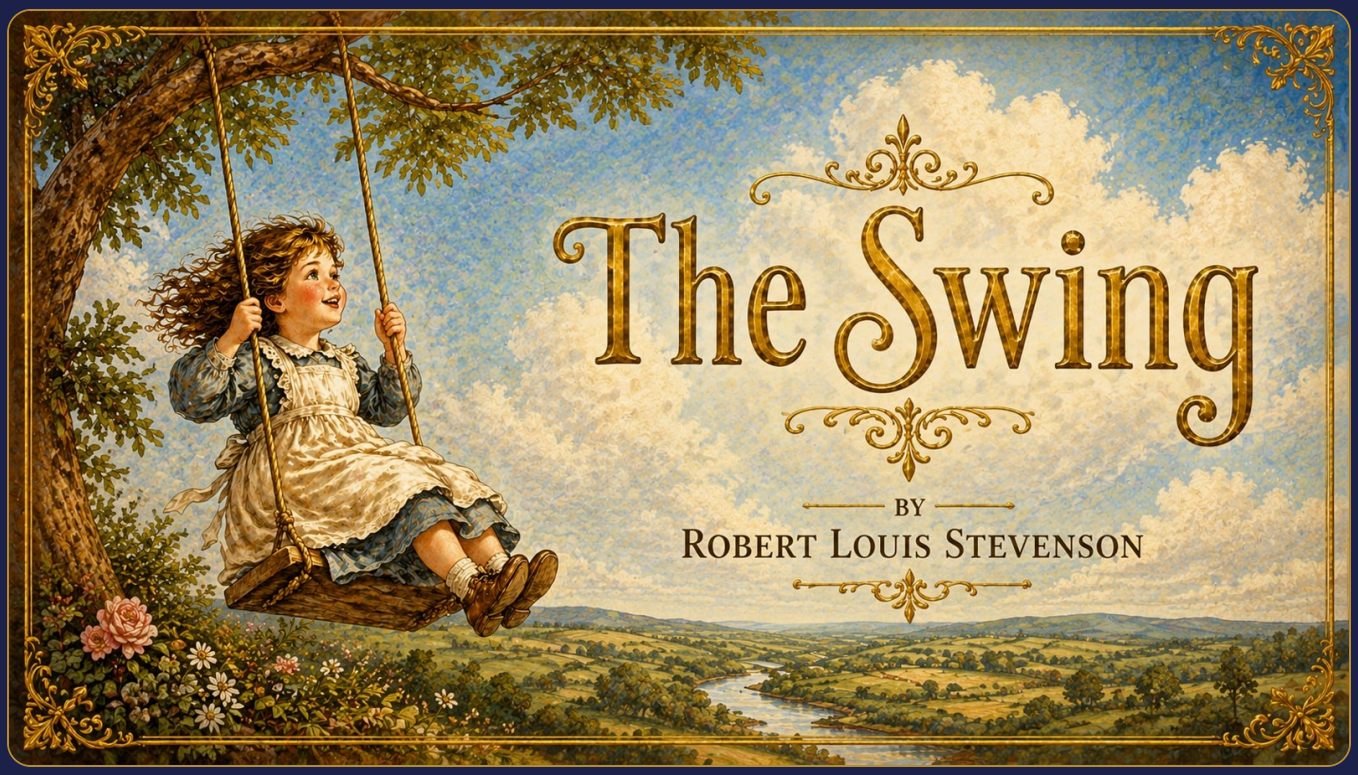
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From A Child's Garden of Verses (1885)



- ✦ The Poem
- ✦ Try It
- ✦ Missing Words
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Meet the Poet
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
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- ✦ Answer Key
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- ✦ Word Search
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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 Swing” 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

A child asks us how we like to go up in a swing, and answers right away: it is the pleasantest thing a child can do! Swinging high, the child can see over the wall to rivers, trees and cattle across the countryside, then down to the green garden and the brown roof, and up into the air again.

SKILL FOCUS

Rhythm and action words

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 Swing



How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown—
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

▸ Watch the read-aloud

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

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 telling this poem? What is the child doing?

2. Who is the child asking in the first line?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Swing

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

REMEMBER

1. What does the child think is the pleasantest thing to do?

2. What can the child see over the wall?

3. What does the child see when looking down?

THINK

4. Why can the child see farther when the swing goes up?

5. How does the poem feel like swinging? Listen to the rhythm.

CONNECT

6. What is your favorite thing to do at the playground?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What does the child see from the swing?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Swing

SKILL FOCUS

Rhythm and action words

Read the poem aloud while swinging your arms forward and back to the beat.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

swing	cows
pleasantest	moving through the air
wide	a seat hung from ropes that moves back and forth
cattle	the top of a house
countryside	far in every direction
roof	a place where plants grow
flying	the most fun and enjoyable
garden	land with fields and farms

Word Sort: Up or Down?

Write each word in the right box.

air · garden · sky · roof · high · ground · clouds · grass

Up	Down

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Swing

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

WORD BANK

- [ ] SWING
- [ ] AIR
- [ ] BLUE
- [ ] WALL
- [ ] RIVERS
- [ ] TREES
- [ ] CATTLE
- [ ] ROOF

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Swing

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 | blue | down | swing | thing | wall

1. How do you like to go up in a _____ ,
2. Up in the air so _____ ?
3. Oh, I do think it the pleasantest _____
4. Up in the air and over the _____ ,
5. Rivers and trees and cattle and _____
6. Up in the air and _____ !

Make New Rhymes

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

swing _____ _____ blue _____ _____

thing _____ _____ wall _____ _____

DID YOU NOTICE?

Read each line with the word you chose. Does it sound right? Check the poem to see if you were right!

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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 child loves to go up in a swing. Yes No
2. The child can see over the wall. Yes No
3. The child sees rivers, trees and cattle. Yes No
4. The child thinks swinging is boring. Yes No
5. The child looks down on the garden. Yes No
6. The swing stays still. Yes No

ABC Order

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

swing air blue wall rivers

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 · countryside · do · down · there · thing

swing _____ blue _____

wall _____ wide _____

brown _____ air _____

LISTEN

Read it while swaying back and forth. The rhythm goes up and down, just like a swing!

Clap the Syllables

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

swing claps: ___	pleasantest claps: ___	countryside claps: ___
garden claps: ___	cattle claps: ___	rivers 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 sees rivers, trees and cattle.
- ◯ The child asks, “How do you like to go up in a swing?”
- ◯ The child goes up in the air and down.
- ◯ The child goes up over the wall.
- ◯ The child looks down on the garden green.
- ◯ The child says it is the pleasantest thing.

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 | Everyone (the swing)

Everyone sways forward and back like a swing while one **reader** reads. Lean back on “up” and forward on “down.” Say the last line all together: “Up in the air and down!”

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Feel the rhythm: it goes back and forth like a swing. Let your voice rise on “up” and fall on “down.”

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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CCSS RF.1.4b · SL.K.6 · W.K.1 · W.1.1

LEARN IT BY HEART

Say It From Memory

Learn this verse by heart. Check off each step as you go.

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

- [ ] 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 Swing” 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 Swing

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.

Up in the air so blue?

Up in the air

so blue?

Up in the air and down!

Up in the air

and down!

☐ 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 on a swing is telling it. In the first line the child asks us, the readers.

Let's Talk

1. Going up in a swing. 2. Rivers, trees, cattle and all the countryside. 3. The garden green and the brown roof. 4–6. Answers will vary (higher up you can see over the wall).

Word Sort

Up: air, sky, high, clouds. Down: garden, roof (the child looks down on it), ground, grass.

Word Search

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

Word Match

swing: a seat hung from ropes that moves back and forth · pleasantest: the most fun and enjoyable · wide: far in every direction · cattle: cows · countryside: land with fields and farms · roof: the top of a house · flying: moving through the air · garden: a place where plants grow

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: air, blue, rivers, swing, wall.

Missing Words

swing, blue, thing, wall, all, down

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

swing: thing · blue: do · wall: all · wide: countryside · brown: down · air: there. Claps: swing 1, pleasantest 3, countryside 3, garden 2, cattle 2, rivers 2.

Put It in Order

asks how you like to go up in a swing → the pleasantest thing → up over the wall → rivers, trees and cattle → down on the garden green → up in the air and down!

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Go to a swing and say the poem in time with your swinging.
- Draw what you would see from the very top of a swing.
- Read it with "Foreign Lands," where a child climbs a tree to see far away.

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 Swing ✦ 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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