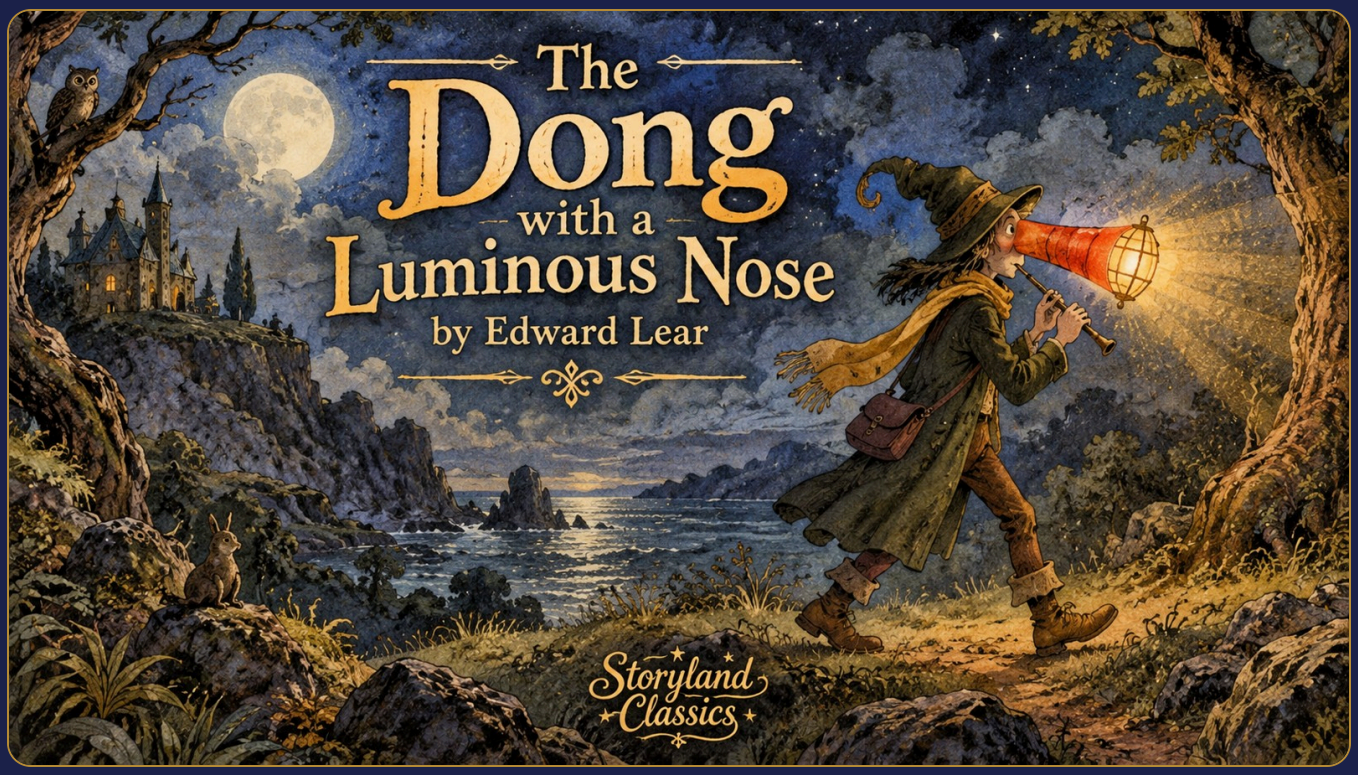
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Laughable Lyrics (1877)



- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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 “The Dong with a Luminous Nose” by Edward Lear. Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE POEM

On dark nights, people in their towers see a strange glowing light moving across the Gromboolian plain. It is the Dong! Long ago the Dong was happy, playing his pipe while the Jumblies danced, and he loved a Jumbly Girl with sky-blue hands and sea-green hair. When the Jumblies sailed away in their sieve, the Dong made himself a glowing nose with a lamp inside so he could search for her all night long. It is a funny, magical and a little bit sad poem.

SKILL FOCUS

Made-up words and imagery: how light glows in the dark

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 Dong with a Luminous Nose



When awful darkness and silence reign
Over the great Gromboolian plain,
Through the long, long wintry nights;—
When the angry breakers roar
As they beat on the rocky shore;—
When Storm-clouds brood on the towering heights
Of the Hills of the Chankly Bore:—

Then, through the vast and gloomy dark,
There moves what seems a fiery spark,
A lonely spark with silvery rays
Piercing the coal-black night,—
A Meteor strange and bright:—
Hither and thither the vision strays,
A single lurid light.

Slowly it wanders,—pauses,—creeps,—
Anon it sparkles,—flashes and leaps;
And ever as onward it gleaming goes
A light on the Bong-tree stems it throws.
And those who watch at that midnight hour
From Hall or Terrace, or lofty Tower,
Cry, as the wild light passes along,—
"The Dong!—the Dong!
The wandering Dong through the forest goes!
The Dong! the Dong!
The Dong with a luminous Nose!"

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THE POEM, CONTINUED

Long years ago
The Dong was happy and gay,
Till he fell in love with a Jumbly Girl
Who came to those shores one day.
For the Jumblies came in a sieve, they did,—
Landing at eve near the Zemmery Fidd
    Where the Oblong Oysters grow,
    And the rocks are smooth and gray.
And all the woods and the valleys rang
With the Chorus they daily and nightly sang,—
    Far and few, far and few,
    Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
    Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
    And they went to sea in a Sieve.

Happily, happily passed those days!
    While the cheerful Jumblies staid;
    They danced in circlets all night long,
    To the plaintive pipe of the lively Dong,
    In moonlight, shine, or shade.
For day and night he was always there
By the side of the Jumbly Girl so fair,
With her sky-blue hands, and her sea-green hair.
Till the morning came of that hateful day
When the Jumblies sailed in their sieve away,
And the Dong was left on the cruel shore
Gazing—gazing for evermore,—
Ever keeping his weary eyes on
That pea-green sail on the far horizon,—
Singing the Jumbly Chorus still
As he sate all day on the grassy hill,—
    Far and few, far and few,
    Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
    Their heads are green, and their hands are blue,
    And they went to sea in a Sieve.

But when the sun was low in the West,
    The Dong arose and said;—
"What little sense I once possessed
    Has quite gone out of my head!"—
And since that day he wanders still
By lake and forest, marsh and hill,
Singing—"O somewhere, in valley or plain
Might I find my Jumbly Girl again!
For ever I'll seek by lake and shore
Till I find my Jumbly Girl once more!"

Playing a pipe with silvery squeaks,
    Since then his Jumbly Girl he seeks,
And because by night he could not see,
He gathered the bark of the Twangum Tree
    On the flowery plain that grows.
And he wove him a wondrous Nose,—
A Nose as strange as a Nose could be!
Of vast proportions and painted red,
And tied with cords to the back of his head.
—In a hollow rounded space it ended
With a luminous lamp within suspended
    All fenced about
    With a bandage stout
    To prevent the wind from blowing it out;—
And with holes all round to send the light,
In gleaming rays on the dismal night.

THE POEM, CONTINUED

And now each night, and all night long,
Over those plains still roams the Dong;
And above the wail of the Chimp and Snipe
You may hear the squeak of his plaintive pipe
While ever he seeks, but seeks in vain
To meet with his Jumbly Girl again;
Lonely and wild—all night he goes,—
The Dong with a luminous Nose!
And all who watch at the midnight hour,
From Hall or Terrace, or lofty Tower,
Cry, as they trace the Meteor bright,
Moving along through the dreary night,—
"This is the hour when forth he goes,
The Dong with a luminous Nose!
Yonder—over the plain he goes;
He goes!
He goes;
The Dong with a luminous Nose!"

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "The Dong with a Luminous Nose" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/dong.

Edward Lear, Laughable Lyrics (1877). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

Edward Lear

1812–1888 ✦ The King of Nonsense

Edward Lear was born in London, England, in 1812, the twentieth of twenty-one children! He grew up to be a painter of birds and faraway places, and he traveled all over the world with his sketchbook. He loved to make children laugh, so he wrote funny limericks and nonsense songs full of made-up words like "runcible" and made-up places like the Hills of the Chankly Bore. His first *Book of Nonsense* came out in 1846, and his songs about the Owl and the Pussy-cat, the Jumblies and the Dong are still loved today.

Questions About the Poet

1. Edward Lear had a very big family. How many children were in it?

2. What did Lear like to paint?

3. What kind of poems did Lear write to make children laugh?

Who Is Talking?

Three groups of voices are in this poem. Write **D** for the Dong, **W** for the watchers in their towers or **J** for the Jumblies' song next to each line.

"The Dong!—the Dong! The wandering Dong through the forest goes!" ☐

"Far and few, far and few, are the lands where the Jumblies live." ☐

"What little sense I once possessed has quite gone out of my head!" ☐

"Might I find my Jumbly Girl again!" ☐

"This is the hour when forth he goes." ☐

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Dong with a Luminous Nose

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

REMEMBER

1. What do the watchers see moving across the plain at night?

2. Who did the Dong love, and how did she leave?

3. What did the Dong make his nose from, and what is inside it?

THINK

4. Why does the Dong need a glowing nose?

5. How does the Dong feel after the Jumblies sail away? Which words tell you?

CONNECT

6. Have you ever missed a friend who went away? What helped you feel better?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Why was the Dong happy, what made him sad, and what did he do about it?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Dong with a Luminous Nose

SKILL FOCUS

Made-up words and imagery: how light glows in the dark

The Dong made a glowing nose to search at night. Invent your own glowing gadget. Write what it is and what it helps you find.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

luminous	sounding sad
gloomy	made by twisting strips together
meteor	glowing with light
plaintive	a bowl full of tiny holes
horizon	a bright streak of light in the night sky
sieve	sad because you are alone
wove	dark and sad-looking
lonely	the line far away where the sky meets the sea or land

Word Sort: Real Words or Nonsense Words?

Write each word in the right box.

Gromboolian · forest · Chankly Bore · marsh · Zemmery Fidd · valley · Twangum Tree · lamp

Lear's nonsense words	Real words

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Dong with a Luminous Nose

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ DONG
- ☐ NOSE
- ☐ LIGHT
- ☐ NIGHT
- ☐ SEA
- ☐ SIEVE
- ☐ ROCKS
- ☐ LAMP

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Dong with a Luminous Nose

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.

did · goes · head · live · reign · shore

1. When awful darkness and silence _____
2. As they beat on the rocky _____ ;—
3. And ever as onward it gleaming _____
4. For the Jumblies came in a sieve, they _____ ,—
5. Are the lands where the Jumblies _____ ;
6. Has quite gone out of my _____ !”—

Make New Rhymes

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

reign _____ _____ shore _____ _____

goes _____ _____ did _____ _____

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 Dong has a luminous nose. Yes No
2. The Dong once loved a Jumbly Girl. Yes No
3. The Jumblies sailed away in a sieve. Yes No
4. The Dong is happy and never looks for her. Yes No
5. The Dong's nose glows in the dark. Yes No
6. The Dong walks only in the daytime. Yes No

ABC Order

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

dong · nose · light · sea · rocks

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.

did · goes · head · live · reign · shore

plain _____ roar _____

nose _____ sieve _____

Fidd _____ red _____

LISTEN

Listen for the Jumbly Chorus: "Far and few, far and few." Lear repeats it like a song. Can you clap the rhythm as you say it?

Clap the Syllables

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

Dong claps: ___	luminous claps: ___	Jumbly claps: ___
meteor claps: ___	Gromboolian claps: ___	sparkle 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 Jumblies sail away in their sieve.
- ◯ The Dong is happy, playing his pipe while the Jumblies dance.
- ◯ The Dong wanders every night with his glowing nose.
- ◯ The Dong sits on the hill singing the Jumbly Chorus.
- ◯ The Dong makes a nose from the bark of the Twangum Tree.
- ◯ The Jumblies land near the Zemmery Fidd.

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

Narrator | The Dong | The Watchers | Everyone (Jumbly Chorus)

The **Narrator** reads the story lines. **The Watchers** call out "The Dong!—the Dong!" as if they are pointing from a tower. **The Dong** reads his own sad words. **Everyone** sings the Jumbly Chorus together.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Turn the lights down low and use a flashlight as the Dong's nose! Read the first verses slowly and spookily, the Jumbly verses happily, and the Dong's words softly. End with "He goes! He goes!" getting quieter and quieter.

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.

When awful darkness and silence reign
Over the great Gromboolian plain,
Through the long, long wintry nights;—
When the angry breakers roar
As they beat on the rocky shore;—
When Storm-clouds brood on the towering heights
Of the Hills of the Chankly Bore:—

- [ ] 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 Dong with a Luminous Nose” by heart!

by Edward Lear

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Dong with a Luminous Nose

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.

The Dong with a luminous Nose!

The Dong with

a luminous Nose!

Far and few, far and few,

Far and few,

far and few,

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

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CCSS L.K.1a · L.1.1a · L.K.2a

FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Who Is Talking?

Watchers: “The Dong!—the Dong!…” and “This is the hour when forth he goes.” · Jumblies: “Far and few, far and few…” · The Dong: “What little sense I once possessed…” and “Might I find my Jumbly Girl again!”

Let’s Talk

1. A strange glowing light, like a meteor: the Dong’s nose. 2. A Jumbly Girl; she sailed away with the Jumblies in their sieve. 3. Bark from the Twangum Tree, with a lamp inside. 4–6. Answers will vary (he cannot see at night; he is lonely and sad).

Word Sort

Lear’s nonsense words: Gromboolian, Chankly Bore, Zemmery Fidd, Twangum Tree. Real words: forest, marsh, valley, lamp.

Word Search

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

Word Match

luminous: glowing with light · gloomy: dark and sad-looking · meteor: a bright streak of light in the night sky · plaintive: sounding sad · horizon: the line far away where the sky meets the sea or land · sieve: a bowl full of tiny holes · wove: made by twisting strips together · lonely: sad because you are alone

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: dong, light, nose, rocks, sea.

Missing Words

reign, shore, goes, did, live, head

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

plain: reign · roar: shore · nose: goes · sieve: live · Fidd: did · red: head. Claps: Dong 1, luminous 3, Jumbly 2, meteor 3, Gromboolian 4, sparkle 2.

Put It in Order

the Jumblies land near the Zemmery Fidd → the Dong plays his pipe while they dance → the Jumblies sail away → the Dong sits singing the Jumbly Chorus → he makes a nose of Twangum bark → he wanders every night with his glowing nose.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Read “The Jumblies” to meet the Jumbly Girl’s people and their sieve.
- Make a map of Lear’s nonsense land: the Gromboolian Plain, the Hills of the Chankly Bore and the Zemmery Fidd.
- Make a paper-bag lantern and take a “Dong walk” at dusk, looking for things that glow.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Dong with a Luminous Nose ✦ 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.