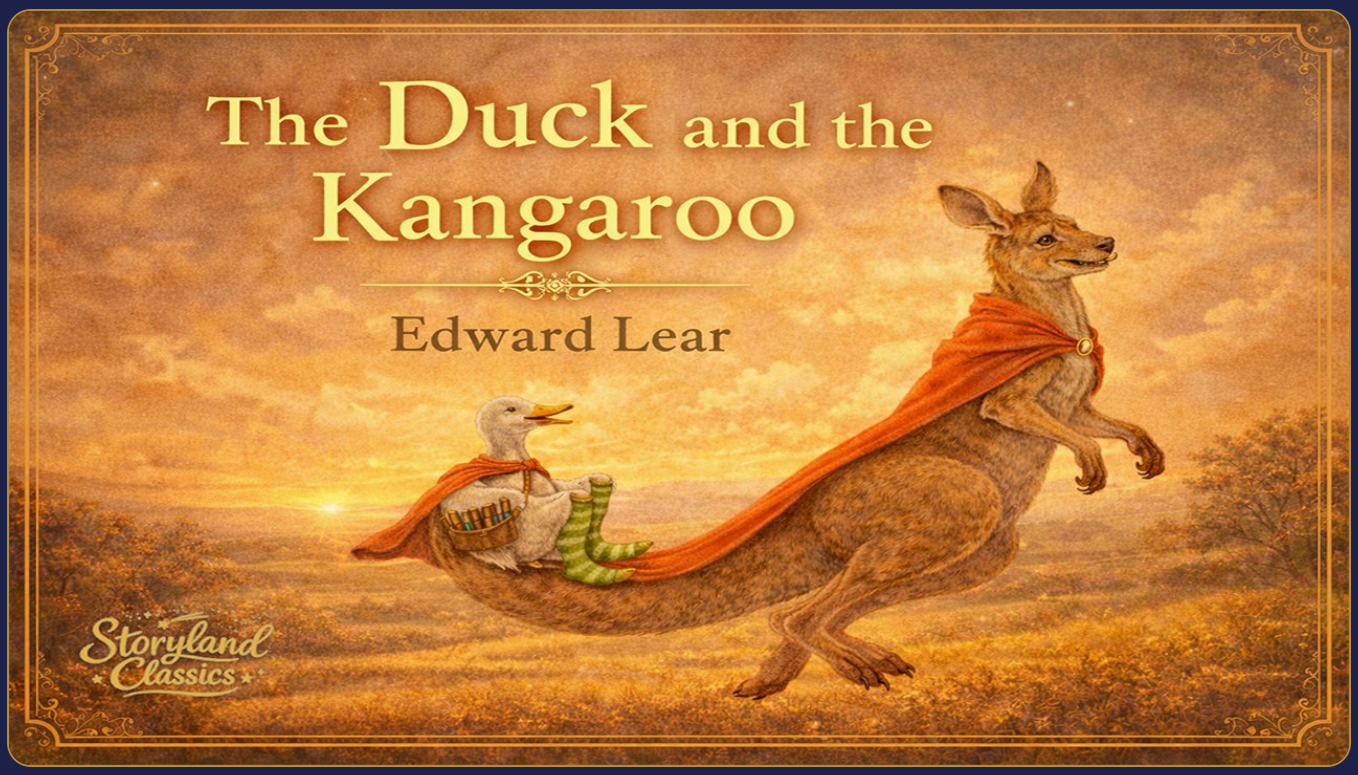
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Nonsense Songs (1871)



- ✦ 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 "The Duck and the Kangaroo" 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

A Duck is bored with her pond and wishes she could hop like the Kangaroo. She begs for a ride on his back and promises to sit still and say nothing but "Quack." The Kangaroo worries that her wet, cold feet will give him "roo-matiz" (rheumatism, achy joints), so the Duck solves the problem with four pairs of warm socks and a cloak. Off they go, and they hop the whole world three times round!

SKILL FOCUS

Dialogue: how characters ask and answer

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.

What's inside

The Poem	3
Meet the Poet	4
Let's Talk	5
Try It	6
Word Match & Sort	7
Word Search	8
Missing Words	9
Yes or No & ABC Order	10
Rhyme Hunt & Syllables	11
Put It in Order	12
Read It With Voices	13
Learn It by Heart	14
Handwriting	15
Answer Key	16
Standards	17

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 Duck and the Kangaroo



Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,
"Good gracious! how you hop!
Over the fields and the water too,
As if you never would stop!
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,
And I long to go out in the world beyond!
I wish I could hop like you!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

"Please give me a ride on your back!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.
"I would sit quite still, and say nothing but 'Quack,'
The whole of the long day through!
And we'd go to the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee,
Over the land, and over the sea;—
Please take me a ride! O do!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,
"This requires some little reflection;
Perhaps on the whole it might bring me luck,
And there seems but one objection,
Which is, if you'll let me speak so bold,
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,
And would probably give me the roo-
Matiz!" said the Kangaroo.

Said the Duck, "As I sate on the rocks,
I have thought over that completely,
And I bought four pairs of worsted socks
Which fit my web-feet neatly.
And to keep out the cold I've bought a cloak,
And every day a cigar I'll smoke,
All to follow my own dear true
Love of a Kangaroo!"

Said the Kangaroo, "I'm ready!
All in the moonlight pale;
But to balance me well, dear Duck, sit steady!
And quite at the end of my tail!"
So away they went with a hop and a bound,
And they hopped the whole world three times round;
And who so happy,—O who,
As the Duck and the Kangaroo?

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "The Duck and the Kangaroo" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/duck-kangaroo.

Edward Lear, Nonsense Songs (1871). 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?

The Duck and the Kangaroo talk to each other the whole way through. Write **D** for the Duck or **K** for the Kangaroo next to each line.

"Good gracious! how you hop!" ☐

"Please give me a ride on your back!" ☐

"This requires some little reflection." ☐

"Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold." ☐

"I bought four pairs of worsted socks." ☐

"I'm ready! All in the moonlight pale." ☐

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Duck and the Kangaroo

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

REMEMBER

1. Why is the Duck unhappy at the start of the poem?

2. What is the Kangaroo's one objection?

3. What does the Duck buy to solve the problem?

THINK

4. How did the Duck solve the Kangaroo's problem? Was it a good idea?

5. Why do you think the Kangaroo says yes in the end?

CONNECT

6. If you could ride on any animal around the world, which would you choose? Where would you go?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What did the Duck want, what was the problem, and how did they solve it?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Duck and the Kangaroo

SKILL FOCUS

Dialogue: how characters ask and answer

The Duck wants to see the world. Where would you go if you could ride on a Kangaroo's tail? Write about your trip.

Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

Good gracious!	a reason to say no
bore	a coat like a cape
reflection	a way to say “Wow!”
objection	feet with skin between the toes
worsted	careful thinking
web-feet	stay steady without falling
cloak	something dull and not fun
balance	made of soft, warm wool

Word Sort: Duck or Kangaroo?

Write each word in the right box.

quack · hop · web-feet · long tail · pond · bound · socks · roo-matiz

The Duck

The Kangaroo

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Duck and the Kangaroo

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ DUCK
- ☐ POND
- ☐ WORLD
- ☐ SEA
- ☐ TAIL
- ☐ SOCKS
- ☐ CLOAK
- ☐ HOP

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Duck and the Kangaroo

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.

beyond · luck · Quack · round · socks · stop

1. As if you never would _____ !
2. And I long to go out in the world _____ !
3. "I would sit quite still, and say nothing but ' _____ ,'
4. Perhaps on the whole it might bring me _____ ,
5. And I bought four pairs of worsted _____
6. And they hopped the whole world three times _____ ;

Make New Rhymes

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

stop _____ _____ beyond _____ _____

quack _____ _____ luck _____ _____

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 Duck lives in a pond. Yes No
2. The Duck wants to see the world. Yes No
3. The Kangaroo says yes right away. Yes No
4. The Duck promises to wear worsted socks. Yes No
5. The Duck buys a cloak to keep warm. Yes No
6. They stay home by the pond. Yes No

ABC Order

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

duck pond world sea tail

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.

Quack · beyond · luck · round · socks · stop

hop _____ pond _____

back _____ Duck _____

rocks _____ bound _____

LISTEN

Lear makes a joke with a rhyme: he splits "rheumatism" into "roo-" and "Matiz" so it rhymes with "Kangaroo"! Can you find it in the poem?

Clap the Syllables

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

Duck claps: ___	Kangaroo claps: ___	gracious claps: ___
balance claps: ___	socks claps: ___	objection 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 Kangaroo says the Duck's feet are too wet and cold.
- ◯ The Duck wishes she could hop like the Kangaroo.
- ◯ They hop the whole world three times round.
- ◯ The Duck begs, "Please give me a ride on your back!"
- ◯ The Duck buys four pairs of socks and a cloak.
- ◯ The Kangaroo says, "I'm ready!"

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 | Duck | Kangaroo

The **Narrator** reads "Said the Duck to the Kangaroo." The **Duck** reads her lines in a quacky, pleading voice, and the **Kangaroo** reads his lines in a slow, thoughtful voice. Everyone asks the last question together: "And who so happy,—O who, as the Duck and the Kangaroo?"

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Have the Kangaroo hop on the spot during the last verse, with the Duck holding on behind! Say "Quack" in the middle of the Duck's lines for fun.

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 _____

LEARN IT BY HEART

Say It From Memory

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

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,
"Good gracious! how you hop!
Over the fields and the water too,
As if you never would stop!
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,
And I long to go out in the world beyond!
I wish I could hop like you!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

- [ ] 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 Duck and the Kangaroo" by heart!

by Edward Lear

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Duck and the Kangaroo

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.

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,

Said the Duck

to the Kangaroo,

They hopped the whole world three times round;

They hopped the whole

world three times round;

☐ 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?

Duck: “Good gracious! how you hop!”, “Please give me a ride…” and “I bought four pairs of worsted socks.” · Kangaroo: “This requires some little reflection”, “Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold” and “I’m ready!”

Let’s Talk

1. Her life is a bore in the nasty pond, and she wants to see the world. 2. Her feet are wet and cold and would give him the roo-matiz. 3. Four pairs of worsted socks and a cloak. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Sort

The Duck: quack, web-feet, pond, socks. The Kangaroo: hop, long tail, bound, roo-matiz.

Word Search

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

Word Match

Good gracious!: a way to say “Wow!” · bore: something dull and not fun · reflection: careful thinking · objection: a reason to say no · worsted: made of soft, warm wool · web-feet: feet with skin between the toes · cloak: a coat like a cape · balance: stay steady without falling

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: duck, pond, sea, tail, world.

Missing Words

stop, beyond, Quack, luck, socks, round

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

hop: stop · pond: beyond · back: Quack · Duck: luck · rocks: socks · bound: round. Claps: Duck 1, Kangaroo 3, gracious 2, balance 2, socks 1, objection 3.

Put It in Order

the Duck wishes she could hop → begs for a ride → the Kangaroo’s objection about wet, cold feet → the Duck buys socks and a cloak → “I’m ready!” → they hop the whole world three times round.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Find Australia (where kangaroos live) on a map or globe, then trace a path three times around the world.
- Solve a problem like the Duck: what would YOU bring to ride on a kangaroo’s tail?
- Read “The Owl and the Pussy-cat,” another Lear poem about two unlikely friends on a trip.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Edward Lear poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Duck and the Kangaroo ✦ 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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