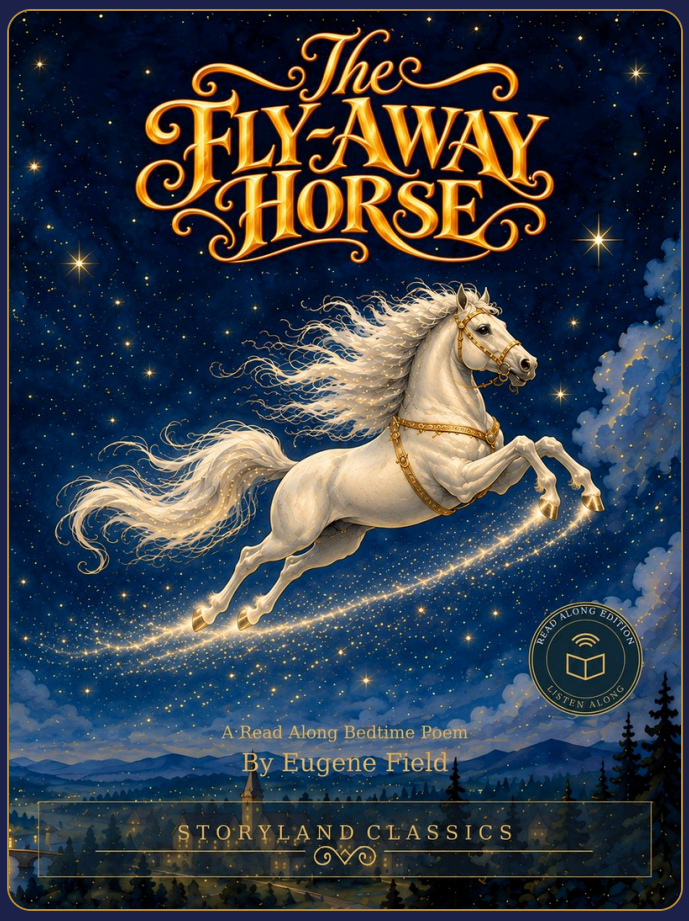
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Poems of Childhood (1904)



- ✦ The Poem
- ✦ Try It
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- ✦ 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 Fly-Away Horse” by Eugene Field. Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE POEM

Only at night, when the stars twinkle, the Fly-Away Horse tosses his mane and gallops into the sky. He races over meadows, mountains and the sea, past the moon and the ships, to the far-away lands children dream of, where candy-trees grow and monkeys say “Come on, let us play.” Tonight, when the child falls asleep, the horse will carry the child away too.

SKILL FOCUS

Imagery: a dream journey full of pictures

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 Fly-Away Horse



Oh, a wonderful horse is the Fly-Away Horse—
Perhaps you have seen him before;
Perhaps, while you slept, his shadow has swept
Through the moonlight that floats on the floor.
For it's only at night, when the stars twinkle bright,
That the Fly-Away Horse, with a neigh
And a pull at his rein and a toss of his mane,
Is up on his heels and away!
The Moon in the sky,
As he gallopeth by,
Cries: "Oh! what a marvellous sight!"
And the Stars in dismay
Hide their faces away
In the lap of old Grandmother Night.

It is yonder, out yonder, the Fly-Away Horse
Speedeth ever and ever away—
Over meadows and lanes, over mountains and plains,
Over streamlets that sing at their play;
And over the sea like a ghost sweepeth he,
While the ships they go sailing below,
And he speedeth so fast that the men at the mast
Adjudge him some portent of woe.
"What ho there!" they cry,
As he flourishes by
With a whisk of his beautiful tail;
And the fish in the sea
Are as scared as can be,
From the nautilus up to the whale!

And the Fly-Away Horse seeks those far-away lands
You little folk dream of at night—
Where candy-trees grow, and honey-brooks flow,
And corn-fields with popcorn are white;
And the beasts in the wood are ever so good
To children who visit them there—
What glory astride of a lion to ride,
Or to wrestle around with a bear!
The monkeys, they say:
"Come on, let us play,"
And they frisk in the cocoanut-trees:
While the parrots, that cling
To the peanut-vines, sing
Or converse with comparative ease!

Off! scamper to bed—you shall ride him to-night!
For, as soon as you've fallen asleep,
With a jubilant neigh he shall bear you away
Over forest and hillside and deep!
But tell us, my dear, all you see and you hear
In those beautiful lands over there,
Where the Fly-Away Horse wings his far-away course
With the wee one consigned to his care.
Then grandma will cry
In amazement: "Oh, my!"
And she'll think it could never be so;
And only we two
Shall know it is true—
You and I, little precious! shall know!

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "The Fly-Away Horse" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/flyaway-guide.

Eugene Field, Poems of Childhood (1904). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

Eugene Field

1850–1895 ✦ The Poet of Childhood

Eugene Field was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1850. He became a newspaper writer in Chicago, where he wrote a famous column called “Sharps and Flats.” He loved children, toys and bedtime stories, and he wrote so many poems for children that people called him “the Poet of Childhood.” His lullabies, like “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod” and “The Sugar-Plum Tree,” are still read at bedtime today.

Questions About the Poet

1. In what city was Eugene Field born?

2. What job did he have in Chicago?

3. What did people call him? Why do you think so?

Who Is Talking?

Someone is telling this poem to a child. Read it again, then answer.

1. Who is the poem talking to? How do you know?

2. At the end, who will be surprised, and who will know the secret?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Fly-Away Horse

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

REMEMBER

1. When does the Fly-Away Horse fly?

2. What do the men on the ships cry out?

3. Name two things in the far-away lands.

THINK

4. Why do the stars hide their faces?

5. How does the child get to ride the Fly-Away Horse?

CONNECT

6. If the Fly-Away Horse came for you tonight, where would you ask him to go?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Where does the Fly-Away Horse go, and how can a child ride him?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Fly-Away Horse

SKILL FOCUS

Imagery: a dream journey full of pictures

Write about where the Fly-Away Horse would take you. Name two things you would see there.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

mane	worry and surprise
rein	sitting with one leg on each side
gallop	the long hair on a horse's neck
dismay	a sea animal with a curly shell
yonder	to run very fast, like a horse
nautilus	very happy
astride	a strap used to steer a horse
jubilant	over there, far away

Word Sort: Land or Sea?

Write each word in the right box.

meadows · whale · mountains · ships · lanes · fish · forest · nautilus

On land	In the sea

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Fly-Away Horse

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ HORSE
- ☐ MOON
- ☐ STARS
- ☐ SEA
- ☐ SHIPS
- ☐ WHALE
- ☐ BEAR
- ☐ NIGHT

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Fly-Away Horse

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.

away | floor | sky | whale | woe

1. Through the moonlight that floats on the _____ .
2. Is up on his heels and _____ !
3. The Moon in the _____ ,
4. Adjudge him some portent of _____ .
5. From the nautilus up to the _____ !

Make New Rhymes

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

floor _____ _____ away _____ _____

sky _____ _____ woe _____ _____

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 Fly-Away Horse flies only at night. Yes No
2. The Moon thinks he is a marvellous sight. Yes No
3. The horse is afraid of the sea. Yes No
4. The fish in the sea are scared of him. Yes No
5. Candy-trees grow in the far-away lands. Yes No
6. Grandma rides the horse too. Yes No

ABC Order

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

horse · moon · stars · whale · bear

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.

away · away · floor · sky · whale · woe

before _____ neigh _____

by _____ play _____

below _____ tail _____

LISTEN

Some lines rhyme in the middle too: "while you slept, his shadow has swept." Find another rhyme hiding inside a line.

Clap the Syllables

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

horse claps: ___	wonderful claps: ___	moonlight claps: ___
monkeys claps: ___	parrots claps: ___	mountains 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 Moon cries, “What a marvellous sight!”
- ◯ The stars twinkle and the horse is up and away.
- ◯ Grandma cries, “Oh, my!”
- ◯ The horse races over the sea past the ships.
- ◯ The child scampers to bed to ride him.
- ◯ The horse reaches the lands where candy-trees grow.

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 | The Moon and the sailors | Grandma

One **reader** reads the poem. A **Moon** says “Oh! what a marvellous sight!” and the **sailors** shout “What ho there!” **Grandma** says “Oh, my!” at the end. Everyone gallops in place when the horse flies.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read the flying verses quickly, like galloping hooves. Slow down and whisper the last two lines like a secret.

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.

Oh, a wonderful horse is the Fly-Away Horse—
Perhaps you have seen him before;
Perhaps, while you slept, his shadow has swept
Through the moonlight that floats on the floor.
For it's only at night, when the stars twinkle bright,
That the Fly-Away Horse, with a neigh
And a pull at his rein and a toss of his mane,
Is up on his heels and away!

- [ ] 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 Fly-Away Horse" by heart!

by Eugene Field

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Fly-Away Horse

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.

Oh, a wonderful horse is the Fly-Away Horse

Oh, a wonderful horse

is the Fly-Away Horse

You and I, little precious! shall know!

You and I,

little precious! shall know!

☐ 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 poem talks to a little child at bedtime ("Off! scamper to bed—you shall ride him to-night!"). Grandma will be amazed, but only the child and the teller will know it is true.

Let's Talk

1. Only at night, when the stars twinkle bright. 2. "What ho there!" 3. Candy-trees, honey-brooks, popcorn corn-fields, monkeys, parrots, a lion and a bear. 4–6. Answers will vary (the stars are amazed; the child rides him in a dream).

Word Sort

On land: meadows, mountains, lanes, forest. In the sea: whale, ships, fish, nautilus.

Word Search

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

Word Match

mane: the long hair on a horse's neck · rein: a strap used to steer a horse · gallop: to run very fast, like a horse · dismay: worry and surprise · yonder: over there, far away · nautilus: a sea animal with a curly shell · astride: sitting with one leg on each side · jubilant: very happy

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: bear, horse, moon, stars, whale.

Missing Words

floor, away, sky, woe, whale

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

before: floor · neigh: away · by: sky · play: away · below: woe · tail: whale. Claps: horse 1, wonderful 3, moonlight 2, monkeys 2, parrots 2, mountains 2.

Put It in Order

the stars twinkle and the horse is away → the Moon cries out → the horse races over the sea → he reaches the lands where candy-trees grow → the child scampers to bed to ride him → Grandma cries "Oh, my!"

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Gallop around the room to the rhythm of the poem.
- Draw the far-away land where candy-trees grow.
- Read it with "The Shut-Eye Train," another poem about traveling in your sleep.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Eugene Field poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Fly-Away Horse ✦ 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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