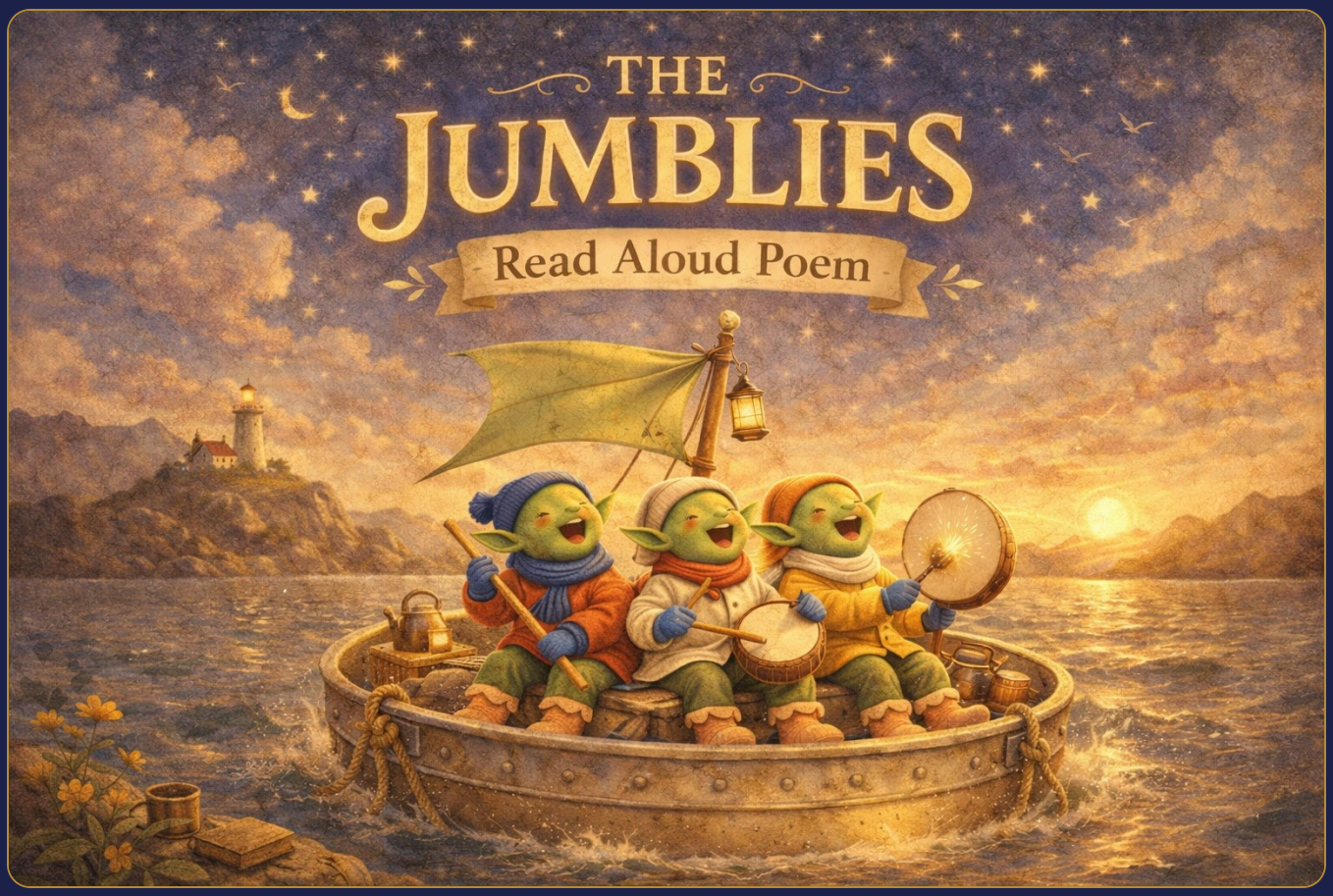
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Nonsense Songs (1871)



- ✦ The Poem
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- ✦ Meet the Poet
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- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ 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 Jumblies” 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

The Jumblies have green heads and blue hands, and they decide to go to sea in a sieve, a bowl full of holes! Everyone warns them they will sink, but the Jumblies don’t care a fig. They wrap their feet in pink paper, sleep in a crockery-jar, sing in the moonlight and sail to a faraway land to buy an owl, a pig, a monkey and lots of treats. Twenty years later they come home, and now everyone wants to go to sea in a sieve too!

SKILL FOCUS

Refrain: lines that repeat in every verse

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

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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 Jumblies



They went to sea in a Sieve, they did,
In a Sieve they went to sea:
In spite of all their friends could say,
On a winter's morn, on a stormy day,
In a Sieve they went to sea!
And when the Sieve turned round and round,
And every one cried, "You'll all be drowned!"
They called aloud, "Our Sieve ain't big,
But we don't care a button! we don't care a fig!
In a Sieve we'll go to sea!"
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.

They sailed away in a Sieve, they did,
In a Sieve they sailed so fast,
With only a beautiful pea-green veil
Tied with a riband by way of a sail,
To a small tobacco-pipe mast;
And every one said, who saw them go,
"O won't they be soon upset, you know!
For the sky is dark, and the voyage is long,
And happen what may, it's extremely wrong
In a Sieve to sail so fast!"
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.

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THE POEM, CONTINUED

The water it soon came in, it did,
The water it soon came in;
So to keep them dry, they wrapped their feet
In a pinky paper all folded neat,
And they fastened it down with a pin.
And they passed the night in a crockery-jar,
And each of them said, “How wise we are!
Though the sky be dark, and the voyage be long,
Yet we never can think we were rash or wrong,
While round in our Sieve we spin!”
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.

And all night long they sailed away;
And when the sun went down,
They whistled and warbled a moony song
To the echoing sound of a coppery gong,
In the shade of the mountains brown.
“O Timballo! How happy we are,
When we live in a Sieve and a crockery-jar,
And all night long in the moonlight pale,
We sail away with a pea-green sail,
In the shade of the mountains brown!”
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.

They sailed to the Western Sea, they did,
To a land all covered with trees,
And they bought an Owl, and a useful Cart,
And a pound of Rice, and a Cranberry Tart,
And a hive of silvery Bees.
And they bought a Pig, and some green Jackdaws,
And a lovely Monkey with lollipop paws,
And forty bottles of Ring-Bo-Ree,
And no end of Stilton Cheese.
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.

And in twenty years they all came back,
In twenty years or more,
And every one said, “How tall they’ve grown!
For they’ve been to the Lakes, and the Torrible Zone,
And the hills of the Chankly Bore!”
And they drank their health, and gave them a feast
Of dumplings made of beautiful yeast;
And every one said, “If we only live,
We too will go to sea in a Sieve,—
To the hills of the Chankly Bore!”
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.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch “The Jumblies” read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/jumblies.

Edward Lear, Nonsense Songs (1871). Public domain.

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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?

Two groups talk in this poem. Write **J** for the Jumblies or **F** for their friends at home next to each line.

"You'll all be drowned!" ☐

"We don't care a button! we don't care a fig!" ☐

"O won't they be soon upset, you know!" ☐

"How wise we are!" ☐

"O Timballo! How happy we are." ☐

"How tall they've grown!" ☐

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Jumblies

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

REMEMBER

1. What did the Jumblies go to sea in?

2. What did they wrap their feet in to keep them dry?

3. How long were the Jumblies away?

THINK

4. Why did the Jumblies' friends think going to sea in a sieve was a bad idea?

5. At the end, why does everyone want to go to sea in a sieve too?

CONNECT

6. The Jumblies were brave and tried something new. What is something new you would like to try?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. How did the Jumblies travel, what happened on the way, and how did it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Jumblies

SKILL FOCUS

Refrain: lines that repeat in every verse

The Jumblies bring home a lot of strange things. Make a list of four strange things you would bring home from a trip in a sieve.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

sieve	the tall pole that holds up a sail
voyage	too quick, without thinking
riband	a bowl full of tiny holes
mast	sang with a trilling sound
crockery-jar	an old word for ribbon
warbled	a big, special meal
rash	a long trip by sea
feast	a big clay pot

Word Sort: Animals or Food?

Write each word in the right box.

Owl · Rice · Pig · Cranberry Tart · Monkey · Stilton Cheese · Jack-daws · dumplings

Animals	Food

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Jumblies

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ SIEVE
- ☐ SEA
- ☐ SAIL
- ☐ JUMBLIES
- ☐ HANDS
- ☐ GREEN
- ☐ BLUE
- ☐ LANDS

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Jumblies

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.

are · drowned · fig · know · neat · Tart

1. And every one cried, “You’ll all be _____ !”
2. But we don’t care a button! we don’t care a _____ !
3. “O won’t they be soon upset, you _____ !
4. In a pinky paper all folded _____ ,
5. And each of them said, “How wise we _____ !
6. And a pound of Rice, and a Cranberry _____ ,

Make New Rhymes

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

drowned _____ _____ fig _____ _____

know _____ _____ neat _____ _____

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 Jumblies go to sea in a sieve. Yes No
2. Their heads are green and their hands are blue. Yes No
3. Their friends say they will be drowned. Yes No
4. The sieve sinks right away. Yes No
5. They come back in twenty years. Yes No
6. No one wants to go to sea in a sieve afterward. Yes No

ABC Order

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

sieve · jumblies · hands · green · blue

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.

Tart | are | drowned | fig | know | neat

round _____ big _____

go _____ feet _____

jar _____ Cart _____

LISTEN

Every verse ends with the same four lines: "Far and few, far and few…" That is called a chorus. Sing it together each time it comes!

Clap the Syllables

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

Jumblies claps: ___	sieve claps: ___	cranberry claps: ___
lollipop claps: ___	monkey claps: ___	Timballo 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 water comes in, and they wrap their feet in pinky paper.
- ◯ The Jumblies go to sea in a Sieve on a stormy day.
- ◯ Everyone wants to go to sea in a Sieve too.
- ◯ They buy an Owl, a Pig, a Monkey and lots of treats.
- ◯ They sing a moony song all night in the moonlight.
- ◯ After twenty years, the Jumblies come back home.

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 Jumblies | The Friends | Everyone (chorus)

The **Narrator** reads the story lines. **The Jumblies** say their lines in brave, happy voices. **The Friends** say their warnings in worried voices. **Everyone** sings the "Far and few" chorus at the end of each verse.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Sway side to side like a boat as you read. Make the friends sound worried and the Jumblies sound cheerful and carefree. Sing the chorus to any tune you like, and make it a little louder each time.

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.

They went to sea in a Sieve, they did,
In a Sieve they went to sea:
In spite of all their friends could say,
On a winter's morn, on a stormy day,
In a Sieve they went to sea!
And when the Sieve turned round and round,
And every one cried, "You'll all be drowned!"

- [ ] 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 Jumblies" by heart!

by Edward Lear

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Jumblies

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.

They went to sea in a Sieve, they did,

They went to sea

in a Sieve, they did,

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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FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Who Is Talking?

Friends: “You’ll all be drowned!”, “O won’t they be soon upset…” and “How tall they’ve grown!” · Jumblies: “We don’t care a button!…”, “How wise we are!” and “O Timballo! How happy we are.”

Let’s Talk

1. A Sieve. 2. Pinky paper, fastened with a pin. 3. Twenty years or more. 4–6. Answers will vary (a sieve is full of holes and should sink; the Jumblies came home safe, tall and full of adventures).

Word Sort

Animals: Owl, Pig, Monkey, Jack-daws. Food: Rice, Cranberry Tart, Stilton Cheese, dumplings.

Word Search

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

Word Match

sieve: a bowl full of tiny holes · voyage: a long trip by sea · riband: an old word for ribbon · mast: the tall pole that holds up a sail · crockery-jar: a big clay pot · warbled: sang with a trilling sound · rash: too quick, without thinking · feast: a big, special meal

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: blue, green, hands, jumblies, sieve.

Missing Words

drowned, fig, know, neat, are, Tart

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

round: drowned · big: fig · go: know · feet: neat · jar: are · Cart: Tart. Claps: Jumblies 2, sieve 1, cranberry 3, lollipop 3, monkey 2, Timballo 3.

Put It in Order

go to sea in a Sieve → the water comes in and they wrap their feet → sing a moony song all night → buy an Owl, a Pig, a Monkey and treats → come home after twenty years → everyone wants to go to sea in a Sieve.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Test it! Pour water into a real sieve and a bowl. Which one holds water? Talk about why the Jumblies’ trip is nonsense.
- Make a shopping list for your own Jumbly voyage: what would you buy in the land covered with trees?
- Read “The Dong with a Luminous Nose” to find out what happened to the Dong when the Jumblies sailed away.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Jumblies ✦ 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.