Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From When We Were Very Young (1924)



- ✦ 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 King's Breakfast" by A. A. Milne. Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE POEM

All the King wants for breakfast is a little butter for his bread. The message goes from the King to the Queen, to the Dairymaid, to the cow, and the cow suggests marmalade instead! The King is so upset he goes back to bed. When the butter finally arrives, he bounces out of bed and slides down the banisters for joy.

SKILL FOCUS

Sequence: a message passed from one character to the next

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 King's Breakfast



The King asked
The Queen, and
The Queen asked
The Dairymaid:
"Could we have some butter for
The Royal slice of bread?"
The Queen asked
The Dairymaid,
The Dairymaid
Said, "Certainly,
I'll go and tell
The cow
Now
Before she goes to bed."

The Dairymaid
She curtsied,
And went and told
The Alderney:
"Don't forget the butter for
The Royal slice of bread."
The Alderney
Said sleepily:
"You'd better tell
His Majesty
That many people nowadays
Like marmalade
Instead."

The Dairymaid
Said, "Fancy!"
And went to
Her Majesty
She curtsied to the Queen, and
She turned a little red:
"Excuse me,
Your Majesty,
For taking of
The liberty,
But marmalade is tasty, if
It's very
Thickly
Spread."

The Queen said
"Oh!"
And went to
His Majesty:
"Talking of the butter for
The Royal slice of bread,
Many people
Think that
Marmalade
Is nicer.
Would you like to try a little
Marmalade
Instead?"

The King said,
"Bother!"
And then he said,
"Oh, deary me!"
The King sobbed, "Oh, deary me!"
And went back to bed.
"Nobody,"
He whimpered,
"Could call me
A fussy man;
I only want
A little bit
Of butter for
My bread!"

The Queen said,
"There, there!"
And went to
The Dairymaid.
The Dairymaid
Said, "There, there!"
And went to the shed.
The cow said,
"There, there!
I didn't really
Mean it;
Here's milk for his porringer
And butter for his bread."

The Queen took
The butter
And brought it to
His Majesty;
The King said,
"Butter, eh?"
And bounced out of bed.
"Nobody," he said,
As he kissed her
Tenderly,
"Nobody," he said,
As he slid down
The banisters,
"Nobody,
My darling,
Could call me
A fussy man—
BUT
"I do like a little bit of butter to
my bread!"

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "The King's Breakfast" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/breakfast.

A. A. Milne, When We Were Very Young (1924). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

A. A. Milne

1882–1956 ✦ The poet who wrote Winnie-the-Pooh

A. A. Milne was born in London, England, in 1882. He wrote plays, stories and funny pieces for magazines. When his son, Christopher Robin, was little, Milne began writing poems about the things a small child sees, wonders about and plays. They were collected in *When We Were Very Young* in 1924, and children have loved them ever since. A few years later he wrote *Winnie-the-Pooh*, about Christopher Robin and his toy bear.

Questions About the Poet

1. In what city was A. A. Milne born?

2. Who was Christopher Robin?

3. What famous bear did Milne write about?

Who Is Talking?

Many voices speak in this poem. Write **K** for the King, **Q** for the Queen, **D** for the Dairymaid or **C** for the cow next to each line.

"Could we have some butter for the Royal slice of bread?" ☐

"Many people nowadays like marmalade instead." ☐

"Excuse me, Your Majesty, for taking of the liberty." ☐

"Bother! Oh, deary me!" ☐

"I didn't really mean it; here's milk for his porringer." ☐

"I do like a little bit of butter to my bread!" ☐

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The King's Breakfast

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

REMEMBER

1. What does the King want for his breakfast?

2. Who does the Dairymaid ask for the butter?

3. What does the cow say people like instead?

THINK

4. The King says he is not a fussy man. Do you agree? Why or why not?

5. How does the King feel when he hears about marmalade? How does he feel at the end?

CONNECT

6. What do you like on your bread or toast? Would you be happy with something else instead?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Who passed the message along, what went wrong, and how did it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The King's Breakfast

SKILL FOCUS

Sequence: a message passed from one character to the next

Draw a line from the King to the Queen to the Dairymaid to the cow. Write what each one says as the message goes along.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

dairymaid	a jam made from oranges
curtsied	a small bowl for porridge or milk
Alderney	a woman who milks cows and makes butter
marmalade	cried in a small, sad voice
His Majesty	a kind of cow
whimpered	the rail along a staircase
porringer	bent the knees to show respect
banisters	a polite name for a king

Word Sort: Food or Not Food?

Write each word in the right box.

butter · crown · bread · bed · marmalade · shed · milk · banisters

Food	Not food

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The King's Breakfast

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ KING
- ☐ QUEEN
- ☐ COW
- ☐ BUTTER
- ☐ BREAD
- ☐ BED
- ☐ SHED
- ☐ MILK

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The King's Breakfast

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.

bed | bread | butter | King | Queen | shed

1. The _____ asked
2. The _____ , and
3. "Could we have some _____ for
4. The Royal slice of _____ ?"
5. Before she goes to _____ ."
6. And went to the _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

king _____ _____ queen _____ _____

butter _____ _____ bread _____ _____

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 King wants butter for his bread. Yes No
2. The Dairymaid tells the cow. Yes No
3. The cow says to try marmalade instead. Yes No
4. The King is happy about the marmalade. Yes No
5. The cow sends milk and butter in the end. Yes No
6. The King stays in bed all day. Yes No

ABC Order

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

king queen cow butter shed

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.

bed · made · now · shed · spread · tea

bread _____ red _____

instead _____ Dairymaid _____

me _____ cow _____

LISTEN

Almost every verse ends with a word that rhymes with "bread": bed, instead, red, spread, shed. How many more "-ed" rhyming words can you think of?

Clap the Syllables

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

butter claps: ___	marmalade claps: ___	Dairymaid claps: ___
Majesty claps: ___	King claps: ___	breakfast 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 cow says many people like marmalade instead.
- ◯ The King asks the Queen for butter for his bread.
- ◯ The King gets his butter and slides down the banisters.
- ◯ The King sobs and goes back to bed.
- ◯ The Dairymaid goes to tell the cow.
- ◯ The cow says, "There, there! I didn't really mean it."

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 | King | Queen | Dairymaid | Cow

The **Narrator** reads the story lines. The **King**, **Queen**, **Dairymaid** and **Cow** each read their own words. Everyone can join in on "There, there!" and on the very last line: "I do like a little bit of butter to my bread!"

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Make the cow sound sleepy and the Dairymaid polite and a little nervous. Let the King sob and whimper, then shout happily at the end. Pass a pretend butter dish from reader to reader as the message travels.

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.

The King asked
The Queen, and
The Queen asked
The Dairymaid:
"Could we have some butter for
The Royal slice of bread?"

- [ ] 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 King's Breakfast" by heart!

by A. A. Milne

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The King's Breakfast

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.

A little bit of butter

A little bit

of butter

for the Royal slice of bread.

for the Royal

slice of bread.

☐ 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?

Queen: "Could we have some butter…?" · Cow (the Alderney): "…marmalade instead" and "I didn't really mean it…" · Dairymaid: "Excuse me, Your Majesty…" · King: "Bother! Oh, deary me!" and "I do like a little bit of butter…"

Let's Talk

1. A little bit of butter for his bread. 2. The cow (the Alderney). 3. Marmalade. 4–6. Answers will vary (the King is sad and grumpy when he hears about marmalade, and overjoyed at the end).

Word Sort

Food: butter, bread, marmalade, milk. Not food: crown, bed, shed, banisters.

Word Search

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

Word Match

dairymaid: a woman who milks cows and makes butter · curtsied: bent the knees to show respect · Alderney: a kind of cow · marmalade: a jam made from oranges · His Majesty: a polite name for a king · whimpered: cried in a small, sad voice · porringer: a small bowl for porridge or milk · banisters: the rail along a staircase

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. No. ABC order: butter, cow, king, queen, shed.

Missing Words

King, Queen, butter, bread, bed, shed

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

bread: bed · red: spread · instead: shed · Dairymaid: made · me: tea · cow: now. Claps: butter 2, marmalade 3, Dairymaid 3, Majesty 3, King 1, breakfast 2.

Put It in Order

the King asks the Queen → the Dairymaid tells the cow → the cow suggests marmalade → the King sobs and goes back to bed → the cow says "There, there!" and sends butter → the King slides down the banisters.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Play "Pass the Message": whisper a breakfast order around a circle and see if it changes on the way.
- Have a taste test: butter or marmalade? Make a class tally chart of who likes which.
- Read it with "Disobedience" and compare King John with this King.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The King's Breakfast ✦ 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.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Try It (drawing to add detail)
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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