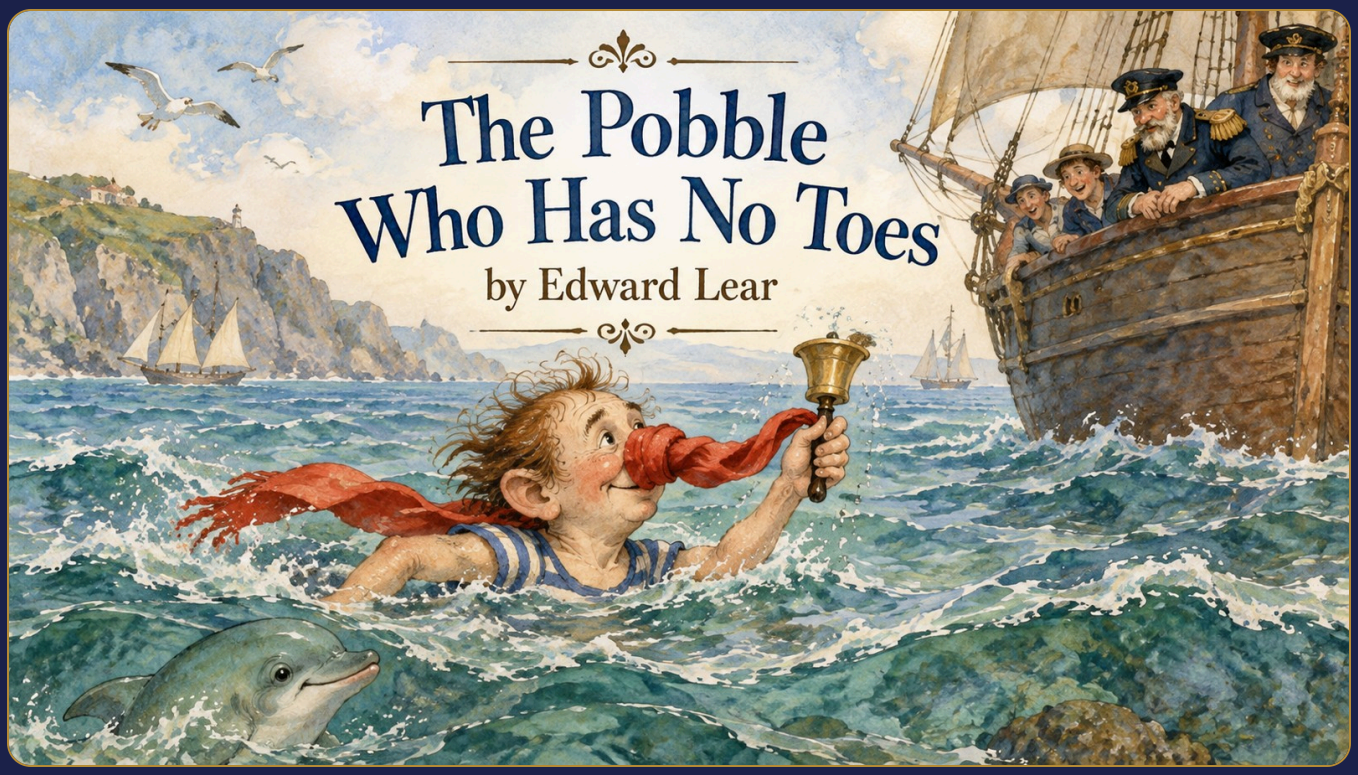
Storyland Classics

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
- ✦ 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 Pobble Who Has No Toes” 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 Pobble once had ten toes, just like us. His Aunt Jobiska says his toes will be safe as long as his nose is warm, so he wraps his nose in scarlet flannel and swims across the Bristol Channel, ringing a bell. But a Porpoise carries off the flannel, and when the Pobble reaches the shore, his toes are gone! Nobody knows who took them. Aunt Jobiska makes him a feast and says Pobbles are happier without toes anyway.

SKILL FOCUS

Cause and effect: what happens when you don’t listen

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 Pobble Who Has No Toes



The Pobble who has no toes
Had once as many as we;
When they said, “Some day you may lose them all;”—
He replied,—“Fish fiddle de-dee!”
And his Aunt Jobiska made him drink
Lavender water tinged with pink,
For she said, “The World in general knows
There’s nothing so good for a Pobble’s toes!”

The Pobble who has no toes,
Swam across the Bristol Channel;
But before he set out he wrapped his nose
In a piece of scarlet flannel.
For his Aunt Jobiska said, “No harm
Can come to his toes if his nose is warm;
And it’s perfectly known that a Pobble’s toes
Are safe,—provided he minds his nose.”

The Pobble swam fast and well,
And when boats or ships came near him
He tinkledy-binkledy-winkled a bell,
So that all the world could hear him.
And all the Sailors and Admirals cried,
When they saw him nearing the further side,—
“He has gone to fish, for his Aunt Jobiska’s
Runcible Cat with crimson whiskers!”

But before he touched the shore,
The shore of the Bristol Channel,
A sea-green Porpoise carried away
His wrapper of scarlet flannel.
And when he came to observe his feet,
Formerly garnished with toes so neat,
His face at once became forlorn
On perceiving that all his toes were gone!

And nobody ever knew
From that dark day to the present,
Whoso had taken the Pobble’s toes,
In a manner so far from pleasant.
Whether the shrimps or crawfish gray,
Or crafty Mermaids stole them away—
Nobody knew; and nobody knows
How the Pobble was robbed of his twice five toes!

The Pobble who has no toes
Was placed in a friendly Bark,
And they rowed him back, and carried him up,
To his Aunt Jobiska’s Park.
And she made him a feast at his earnest wish
Of eggs and buttercups fried with fish;—
And she said,—“It’s a fact the whole world knows,
That Pobbles are happier without their toes.”

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch “The Pobble Who Has No Toes” read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/pobble.

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 voices speak in this poem. Write **P** for the Pobble, **A** for Aunt Jobiska or **S** for the Sailors and Admirals next to each line.

"Fish fiddle de-dee!" ☐

"There's nothing so good for a Pobble's toes!" ☐

"No harm can come to his toes if his nose is warm." ☐

"He has gone to fish, for his Aunt Jobiska's Runcible Cat." ☐

"Pobbles are happier without their toes." ☐

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

The Pobble Who Has No Toes

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

REMEMBER

1. What did Aunt Jobiska make the Pobble drink?

2. What did the Pobble wrap his nose in, and why?

3. Who carried away the scarlet flannel?

THINK

4. Who do you think took the Pobble's toes? Use clues from the poem.

5. Aunt Jobiska says Pobbles are happier without toes. Do you agree? Why is that funny?

CONNECT

6. The Pobble had a big adventure. What is the bravest thing you have ever done?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. What did the Pobble do, what happened to his toes, and how did it end?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Pobble Who Has No Toes

SKILL FOCUS

Cause and effect: what happens when you don't listen

The Pobble's Aunt Jobiska gave him advice. Write one piece of good advice you would give a friend going on an adventure.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

Pobble	soft, warm cloth
lavender	very sad and lonely
scarlet	a nonsense creature Lear made up
flannel	a sea animal like a small dolphin
Channel	bright red
porpoise	clever and sneaky
forlorn	a sweet-smelling purple flower
crafty	a wide strip of sea between two lands

Word Sort: In the Sea or On Land?

Write each word in the right box.

shrimps · eggs · Porpoise · Aunt Jobiska's Park · Mermaids · buttercups · crawfish · lavender

In the sea	On land

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Pobble Who Has No Toes

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ POBBLE
- ☐ TOES
- ☐ NOSE
- ☐ SEA
- ☐ AUNT
- ☐ FLANNEL
- ☐ CHANNEL
- ☐ FISH

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Pobble Who Has No Toes

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 · bell · neat · pink · toes · warm

1. The Pobble who has no _____
2. Lavender water tinged with _____ ,
3. Can come to his toes if his nose is _____ ;
4. He tinkledy-binkledy-winkled a _____ ,
5. A sea-green Porpoise carried _____
6. Formerly garnished with toes so _____ ,

Make New Rhymes

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

toes _____ _____ pink _____ _____

warm _____ _____ bell _____ _____

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 Pobble once had toes. Yes No
2. His Aunt tells him to wrap his nose in flannel. Yes No
3. The Pobble swims across the Bristol Channel. Yes No
4. He keeps all his toes. Yes No
5. His Aunt is very angry with him. Yes No
6. They give him lavender water tinged with pink. Yes No

ABC Order

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

pobble toes nose sea aunt

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 · bell · neat · pink · toes · warm

drink _____ nose _____

harm _____ well _____

feet _____ gray _____

LISTEN

Lear invents a sound word: the Pobble "tinkledy-binkledy-winkled a bell." Say it fast! Can you make up a sound word for a whistle or a drum?

Clap the Syllables

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

Pobble claps: ___	Jobiska claps: ___	porpoise claps: ___
lavender claps: ___	toes claps: ___	Mermaids 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.

- ◯ A Porpoise carries away his scarlet flannel.
- ◯ Aunt Jobiska makes the Pobble drink lavender water.
- ◯ Aunt Jobiska makes him a feast of eggs and buttercups.
- ◯ The Pobble wraps his nose and swims the Bristol Channel.
- ◯ The Pobble finds that all his toes are gone!
- ◯ He rings a bell so the ships can hear him.

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 | Pobble | Aunt Jobiska | Sailors and Admirals

The **Narrator** reads the story lines. The **Pobble** says "Fish fiddle de-dee!" cheekily. **Aunt Jobiska** speaks in a fussy, know-it-all voice. The **Sailors and Admirals** shout their line from the ship. Everyone rings a pretend bell on "tinkledy-binkledy-winkled."

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read the fourth and fifth verses in a mysterious, whispery voice: who took the toes? Then make Aunt Jobiska's last line sound very sure of herself.

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 Pobble who has no toes
Had once as many as we;
When they said, “Some day you may lose them all;”—
He replied,—“Fish fiddle de-dee!”
And his Aunt Jobiska made him drink
Lavender water tinged with pink,
For she said, “The World in general knows
There’s nothing so good for a Pobble’s toes!”

- [ ] 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 Pobble Who Has No Toes” by heart!

by Edward Lear

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Pobble Who Has No Toes

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 Pobble who has no toes

The Pobble who

has no toes

Nobody knew; and nobody knows

Nobody knew;

and nobody knows

☐ 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?

Pobble: “Fish fiddle de-dee!” · Aunt Jobiska: “There’s nothing so good…”, “No harm can come…” and “Pobbles are happier without their toes.” · Sailors and Admirals: “He has gone to fish…”

Let’s Talk

1. Lavender water tinged with pink. 2. Scarlet flannel, because Aunt Jobiska said his toes were safe if his nose was warm. 3. A sea-green Porpoise. 4–6. Answers will vary (shrimps, crawfish or Mermaids are all suspects; nobody knows!).

Word Sort

In the sea: shrimps, Porpoise, Mermaids, crawfish. On land: eggs, Aunt Jobiska’s Park, buttercups, lavender.

Word Search

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

Word Match

Pobble: a nonsense creature Lear made up · lavender: a sweet-smelling purple flower · scarlet: bright red · flannel: soft, warm cloth · Channel: a wide strip of sea between two lands · porpoise: a sea animal like a small dolphin · forlorn: very sad and lonely · crafty: clever and sneaky

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: aunt, nose, pobble, sea, toes.

Missing Words

toes, pink, warm, bell, away, neat

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

drink: pink · nose: toes · harm: warm · well: bell · feet: neat · gray: away. Claps: Pobble 2, Jobiska 3, porpoise 2, lavender 3, toes 1, Mermaids 2.

Put It in Order

lavender water → wraps his nose and swims the Bristol Channel → rings a bell for the ships → a Porpoise takes the flannel → his toes are gone! → Aunt Jobiska’s feast.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Be a detective: make a “Who Took the Toes?” wanted poster for one suspect, with your evidence.
- Find the Bristol Channel on a map of Great Britain. How far would you have to swim?
- Look for the Pobble again in “The Quangle Wangle’s Hat.”

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

The Pobble Who Has No Toes ✦ 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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