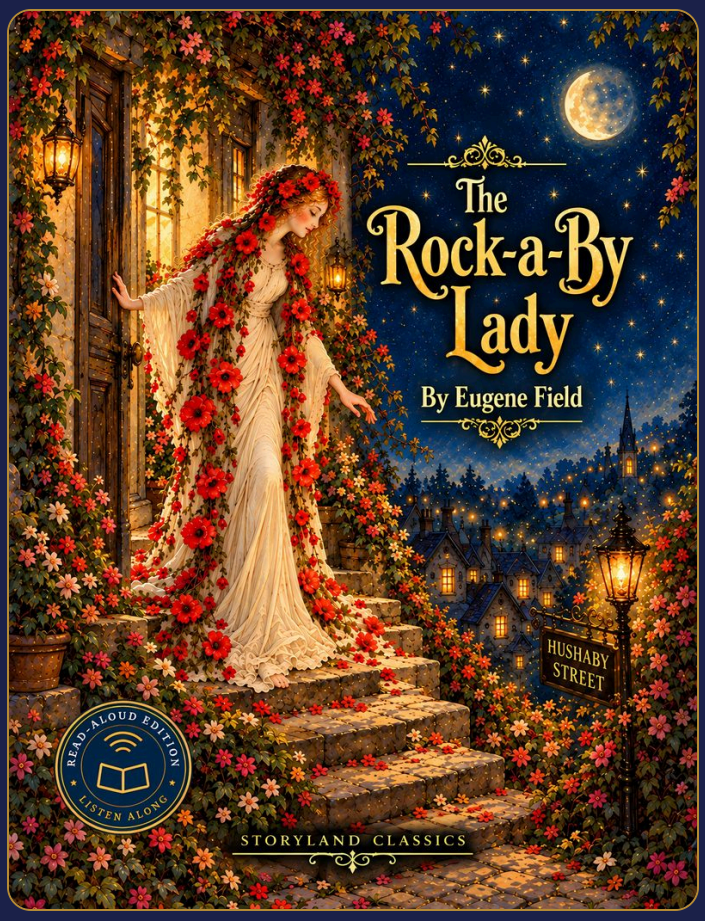
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Poems of Childhood (1904)



- ✦ The Poem
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- ✦ Missing Words
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Meet the Poet
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
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- ✦ Answer Key
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Word Search
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- ✦ 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 Rock-a-By Lady" 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

The Rock-a-By Lady comes creeping from Hushaby Street with poppies hanging from her head to her feet. Every poppy holds a tiny dream: a drum that goes "Rub-a-dub!", a big sugar-plum, popguns, tin tops, a trumpet, dollies, boats on silvery streams, and fairies flying up to the Mother Moon. She brings them only when you are asleep.

SKILL FOCUS

Sound words and lullaby rhythm

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 Rock-a-By Lady



The Rock-a-By Lady from Hushaby street
Comes stealing; comes creeping;
The poppies they hang from her head to her feet,
And each hath a dream that is tiny and fleet—
She bringeth her poppies to you, my sweet,
When she findeth you sleeping!

There is one little dream of a beautiful drum—
"Rub-a-dub!" it goeth;
There is one little dream of a big sugar-plum,
And lo! thick and fast the other dreams come
Of popguns that bang, and tin tops that hum,
And a trumpet that bloweth!

And dollies peep out of those wee little dreams
With laughter and singing;
And boats go a-floating on silvery streams,
And the stars peek-a-boo with their own misty gleams,
And up, up, and up, where the Mother Moon beams,
The fairies go winging!

Would you dream all these dreams that are tiny and fleet?
They'll come to you sleeping;
So shut the two eyes that are weary, my sweet,
For the Rock-a-By Lady from Hushaby street,
With poppies that hang from her head to her feet,
Comes stealing; comes creeping.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "The Rock-a-By Lady" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/rockabylady-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? Which words tell you?

2. What does the teller want the child to do at the end?

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LET'S TALK

The Rock-a-By Lady

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

REMEMBER

1. Where does the Rock-a-By Lady come from?

2. What hangs from her head to her feet?

3. Name three things in the little dreams.

THINK

4. Why does she only come when you are sleeping?

5. How does the poem sound like a lullaby?

CONNECT

6. What would you like to dream about tonight?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Who is the Rock-a-By Lady, and what does she bring?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

The Rock-a-By Lady

SKILL FOCUS

Sound words and lullaby rhythm

Make a list of three tiny dreams you would put in the Rock-a-By Lady's poppies.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

stealing	look!
poppies	soft shines of light
fleet	moving quietly so no one notices
lo	shining like silver
popguns	quick
silvery	very tired
gleams	bright flowers
weary	toy guns that make a pop

Word Sort: Sounds or Sights?

Write each word in the right box.

drum · dollies · trumpet · boats · popguns · stars · tin tops · fairies

Things you hear

Things you see

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Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

The Rock-a-By Lady

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

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

WORD BANK

- [ ] LADY
- [ ] POPPIES
- [ ] DREAM
- [ ] DRUM
- [ ] TOPS
- [ ] DOLLIES
- [ ] BOATS
- [ ] STARS

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

The Rock-a-By Lady

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.

bloweth | come | feet | sleeping | streams | winging

1. The poppies they hang from her head to her _____ ,
2. When she findeth you _____ !
3. And lo! thick and fast the other dreams _____
4. And a trumpet that _____ !
5. And boats go a-floating on silvery _____ ,
6. The fairies go _____ !

Make New Rhymes

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

feet _____ _____ sleeping _____ _____

come _____ _____ bloweth _____ _____

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 Rock-a-By Lady comes from Hushaby Street. Yes No
2. She comes stomping and shouting. Yes No
3. Poppies hang from her head to her feet. Yes No
4. One dream is of a beautiful drum. Yes No
5. She brings dreams when you are wide awake. Yes No
6. The fairies go winging up to the Moon. Yes No

ABC Order

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

lady · poppies · dream · tops · boats

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.

bloweth · come · feet · sleeping · streams · winging

street _____ creeping _____

drum _____ goeth _____

dreams _____ singing _____

LISTEN

The first and last verses almost match. Find the lines that come back at the end.

Clap the Syllables

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

poppies claps: ___	sugar-plum claps: ___	trumpet claps: ___
drum claps: ___	dollies claps: ___	fairies 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.

- ◯ Dollies peep out of the dreams.
- ◯ The Rock-a-By Lady comes creeping from Hushaby Street.
- ◯ The child shuts weary eyes.
- ◯ There is a little dream of a beautiful drum.
- ◯ The fairies go winging up to the Moon.
- ◯ Thick and fast the other dreams come.

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 | Sound makers

One **reader** reads softly. **Sound makers** add tiny sounds: “Rub-a-dub!” for the drum, a “bang” for the popguns, a hum for the tops and a “toot” for the trumpet. Keep every sound very quiet so no one wakes up!

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Whisper the first and last verses like a lullaby. Let the middle verses sparkle a little.

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 Rock-a-By Lady from Hushaby street
Comes stealing; comes creeping;
The poppies they hang from her head to her feet,
And each hath a dream that is tiny and fleet—
She bringeth her poppies to you, my sweet,
When she findeth you sleeping!

- [ ] 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 Rock-a-By Lady” by heart!

by Eugene Field

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

The Rock-a-By Lady

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 Rock-a-By Lady from Hushaby street

The Rock-a-By Lady

from Hushaby street

Comes stealing; comes creeping.

Comes stealing;

comes creeping.

☐ 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?

It talks to a sleepy child (“my sweet”). At the end the teller wants the child to shut their weary eyes so the dreams can come.

Let’s Talk

1. Hushaby Street. 2. Poppies. 3. A drum, a sugar-plum, popguns, tin tops, a trumpet, dollies, boats, stars and fairies. 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Sort

Things you hear: drum, trumpet, popguns, tin tops. Things you see: dollies, boats, stars, fairies.

Word Search

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

Word Match

stealing: moving quietly so no one notices · poppies: bright flowers · fleet: quick · lo: look! · popguns: toy guns that make a pop · silvery: shining like silver · gleams: soft shines of light · weary: very tired

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: boats, dream, lady, poppies, tops.

Missing Words

feet, sleeping, come, bloweth, streams, winging

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

street: feet · creeping: sleeping · drum: come · goeth: bloweth · dreams: streams · singing: winging. Claps: poppies 2, sugar-plum 3, trumpet 2, drum 1, dollies 2, fairies 2.

Put It in Order

she comes creeping → a dream of a beautiful drum → thick and fast the other dreams come → dollies peep out → fairies go winging → the child shuts weary eyes.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Make paper poppies and write a dream on each one.
- Play soft music and draw the dream you would like.
- Read it with “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod” and “The Sugar-Plum Tree,” more Eugene Field lullabies.

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 Rock-a-By Lady ✦ 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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