Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Sing-Song: A Nursery Rhyme Book (1872)



- ✦ 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 “What Is Pink?” by Christina Rossetti. Every page is ready to print, and no sign-up is needed. Pick the pages that suit your child or class.

ABOUT THE POEM

What is pink? A rose by the fountain. What is red? A poppy in the barley. Christina Rossetti asks about eight colors, and answers each one with something from nature: a blue sky, a white swan, yellow pears, green grass and violet clouds at twilight. Then comes the joke at the end: what is orange? Why, an orange, just an orange!

SKILL FOCUS

Patterns: how the question-and-answer pattern repeats for each color

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

What Is Pink?



What is pink? a rose is pink
By the fountain's brink.
What is red? a poppy's red
In its barley bed.
What is blue? the sky is blue
Where the clouds float thro'.
What is white? a swan is white
Sailing in the light.
What is yellow? pears are yellow,
Rich and ripe and mellow.
What is green? the grass is green,
With small flowers between.
What is violet? clouds are violet
In the summer twilight.
What is orange? Why, an orange,
Just an orange!

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "What Is Pink?" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/what-is-pink-guide.

Christina Rossetti, Sing-Song: A Nursery Rhyme Book (1872). Public domain.

Name _____ Date _____

MEET THE POET

Christina Rossetti

1830–1894 ✦ English poet

Christina Rossetti was born in London in 1830. She grew up in a busy, book-loving family: her brother Dante Gabriel Rossetti became a famous painter and poet. Christina began writing poems as a girl, and she became one of the best-loved poets of her time. In 1872 she wrote *Sing-Song*, a book of short, gentle rhymes for little children about animals, the weather, colors, babies and the seasons. Many of her poems ask questions or name the things children see every day.

Questions About the Poet

1. In what city was Christina Rossetti born?

2. What is the name of her book of poems for little children?

3. Christina Rossetti liked to write about things children see every day. What would you write a poem about?

Who Is Talking?

A speaker asks and answers questions in this poem. Read it again, then answer.

1. What kind of question does the speaker ask again and again?

2. What is the funny answer at the end?

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Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

What Is Pink?

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

REMEMBER

1. What is pink in the poem?

2. What is white, and where is it?

3. What is the answer for orange?

THINK

4. Why is the orange answer funny?

5. Why do you think the poet picked things from nature for each color?

CONNECT

6. What is your favorite color? What would you say it is in the poem?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Which colors does the poet ask about, and what are her answers?

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Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

What Is Pink?

SKILL FOCUS

Patterns: how the question-and-answer pattern repeats for each color

Write your own color verse with the same pattern: “What is (color)? A (thing) is (color).” Try two colors that are not in the poem, like brown or gold.

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Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

brink	a grain plant that grows in fields
fountain	a purple color
poppy	the edge
barley	soft and sweet
swan	a bright red flower
mellow	the time just after sunset
violet	water that sprays up into the air
twilight	a big white bird with a long neck

Word Sort: Plant or Animal?

Write each word in the right box.

rose · swan · poppy · pears · grass · bluebird · orange · goldfish

Plant	Animal

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

What Is Pink?

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ PINK
- ☐ RED
- ☐ BLUE
- ☐ WHITE
- ☐ GREEN
- ☐ ROSE
- ☐ SWAN
- ☐ SKY

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Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

What Is Pink?

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 · between · brink · light · mellow · thro’

1. By the fountain’s _____ .
2. In its barley _____ .
3. Where the clouds float _____ .
4. Sailing in the _____ .
5. Rich and ripe and _____ .
6. With small flowers _____ .

Make New Rhymes

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

brink _____ _____ bed _____ _____

thro’ _____ _____ light _____ _____

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. A rose is pink. Yes No
2. The sky is red. Yes No
3. A swan is white. Yes No
4. The grass is yellow. Yes No
5. Pears are yellow, rich and ripe. Yes No
6. Orange is just an orange. Yes No

ABC Order

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

pink red blue white green

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 · between · brink · light · mellow · thro'

pink _____ red _____

blue _____ white _____

yellow _____ green _____

LISTEN

Each color rhymes with the end of its answer: pink and brink, red and bed, white and light, yellow and mellow, green and between.

Clap the Syllables

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

pink claps: ___	yellow claps: ___	violet claps: ___
orange claps: ___	poppy claps: ___	twilight 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 swan is white.
- ◯ A rose is pink.
- ◯ The grass is green.
- ◯ A poppy is red.
- ◯ An orange is just an orange!
- ◯ The sky is blue.

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

Asker | Answerer | Everyone

The **asker** asks each color question: “What is pink?” The **answerer** reads the answer. **Everyone** shouts the last answer together: “Just an orange!”

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Ask each question with your voice going up. Give the last answer with a big smile, as if it is a joke!

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.

What is pink? a rose is pink
By the fountain's brink.
What is red? a poppy's red
In its barley bed.
What is blue? the sky is blue
Where the clouds float thro'.
What is white? a swan is white
Sailing in the light.

- [ ] 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 "What Is Pink?" by heart!

by Christina Rossetti

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

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CCSS RF.1.4b · SL.K.6 · SL.1.6

Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

What Is Pink?

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.

What is pink? a rose is pink

What is pink?

a rose is pink

What is blue? the sky is blue

What is blue?

the sky is blue

☐ 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?

"What is (a color)?" The funny answer: orange is "just an orange!"

Let's Talk

1. A rose by the fountain's brink. 2. A swan, sailing in the light. 3. Just an orange! 4–6. Answers will vary.

Word Sort

Plant: rose, poppy, pears, grass, orange. Animal: swan, bluebird, goldfish. (The poem names a rose, a poppy, pears, grass, an orange and a swan.)

Word Search

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

Word Match

brink: the edge · fountain: water that sprays up into the air · poppy: a bright red flower · barley: a grain plant that grows in fields · swan: a big white bird with a long neck · mellow: soft and sweet · violet: a purple color · twilight: the time just after sunset

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. No · 3. Yes · 4. No · 5. Yes · 6. Yes. ABC order: blue, green, pink, red, white.

Missing Words

brink, bed, thro', light, mellow, between

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

pink: brink · red: bed · blue: thro' · white: light · yellow: mellow · green: between. Claps: pink 1, yellow 2, violet 3, orange 2, poppy 2, twilight 2.

Put It in Order

a rose is pink → a poppy is red → the sky is blue → a swan is white → the grass is green → an orange is just an orange! (Pears are yellow and clouds are violet in between.)

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Go on a color walk and find something for each color in the poem.
- Make your own color page: "What is ___? A ___ is ___."
- Read it with "The Rainbow," another Rossetti poem about colors.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Christina Rossetti poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

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FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

What Is Pink? ✦ 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.