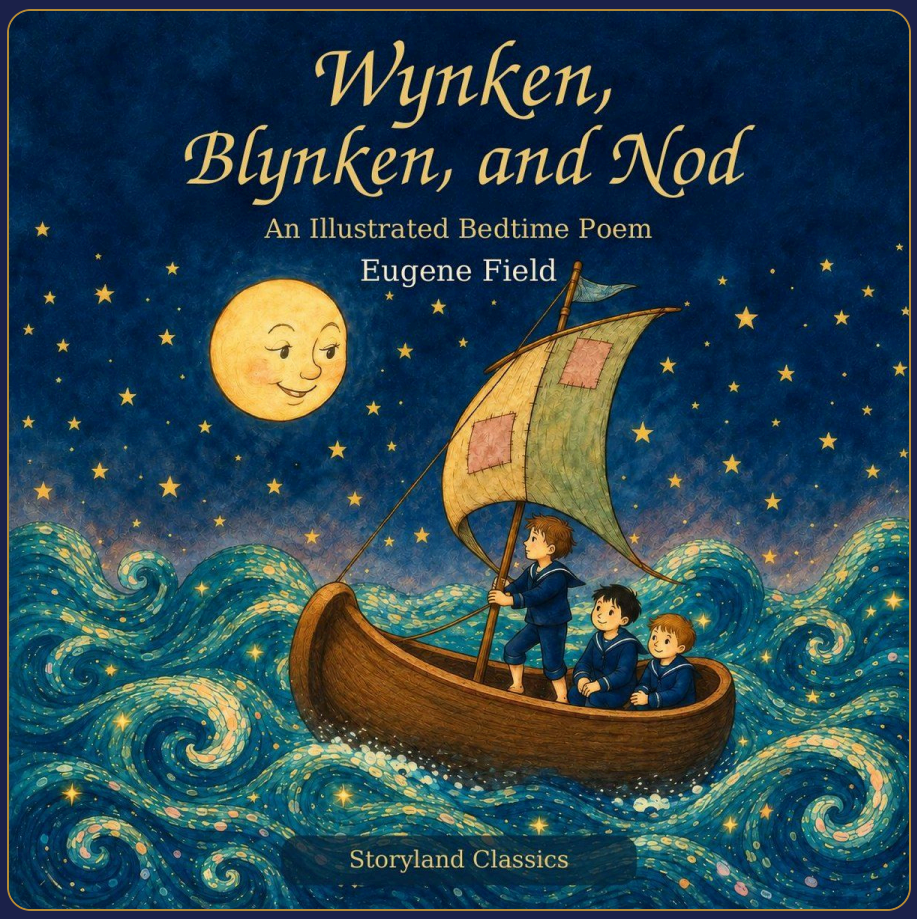
Storyland Classics

FREE POEM GUIDE

From Poems of Childhood (1904)



- ✦ The Poem
- ✦ Meet the Poet
- ✦ Let's Talk
- ✦ Try It
- ✦ Word Match & Sort
- ✦ Word Search
- ✦ Missing Words
- ✦ Yes or No & ABC Order
- ✦ Rhyme Hunt & Syllables
- ✦ Put It in Order
- ✦ Read It With Voices
- ✦ Learn It by Heart
- ✦ Handwriting
- ✦ Answer Key
- ✦ 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 “Wynken, Blynken, and Nod” 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

Three little fishermen sail off one night in a wooden shoe, on a river of light into a sea of dew, to fish for the stars. The old moon laughs and sings, and in the morning the shoe sails home. At the end the poet tells us the secret: Wynken and Blynken are a child’s two little eyes, Nod is a little head, and the wooden shoe is a trundle-bed.

SKILL FOCUS

Imagery and the hidden meaning at the end

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

The Poem	3
Meet the Poet	4
Let’s Talk	5
Try It	6
Word Match & Sort	7
Word Search	8
Missing Words	9
Yes or No & ABC Order	10
Rhyme Hunt & Syllables	11
Put It in Order	12
Read It With Voices	13
Learn It by Heart	14
Handwriting	15
Answer Key	16
Standards	17

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.

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

THE POEM

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod



Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night
Sailed off in a wooden shoe,—
Sailed on a river of crystal light,
Into a sea of dew.
"Where are you going, and what do you wish?"
The old moon asked the three.
"We have come to fish for the herring fish
That live in this beautiful sea;
Nets of silver and gold have we!"
Said Wynken,
Blynken,
And Nod.

The old moon laughed and sang a song,
As they rocked in the wooden shoe,
And the wind that sped them all night long
Ruffled the waves of dew.
The little stars were the herring fish
That lived in that beautiful sea—
"Now cast your nets wherever you wish—
Never afeard are we";
So cried the stars to the fishermen three:
Wynken,
Blynken,
And Nod.

All night long their nets they threw
To the stars in the twinkling foam—
Then down from the skies came the wooden shoe,
Bringing the fishermen home;
'Twas all so pretty a sail it seemed
As if it could not be,
And some folks thought 'twas a dream they'd dreamed
Of sailing that beautiful sea—
But I shall name you the fishermen three:
Wynken,
Blynken,
And Nod.

Wynken and Blynken are two little eyes,
And Nod is a little head,
And the wooden shoe that sailed the skies
Is a wee one's trundle-bed.
So shut your eyes while mother sings
Of wonderful sights that be,
And you shall see the beautiful things
As you rock in the misty sea,
Where the old shoe rocked the fishermen three:
Wynken,
Blynken,
And Nod.

▸ Watch the read-aloud

Scan the code to watch "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod" read aloud, or visit storylandclassics.com/wynken-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 tells this poem, and other voices speak inside it. Read it again, then answer.

1. Who asks, “Where are you going, and what do you wish?”

2. In the last verse, who is the poem talking to?

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

Name _____ Date _____

LET'S TALK

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod

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

REMEMBER

1. What do Wynken, Blynken, and Nod sail in?

2. What do they want to catch?

3. Who laughs and sings a song?

THINK

4. What are the "herring fish" really?

5. Who are Wynken, Blynken, and Nod really? How do you know?

CONNECT

6. If you sailed off in a dream, where would you go?

NARRATION

Close the book and tell the poem back in your own words. Where did the three fishermen go, and who were they really?

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

Name _____ Date _____

TRY IT

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod

SKILL FOCUS

Imagery and the hidden meaning at the end

Wynken and Blynken are really two little eyes. Draw the wooden shoe sailing in the sky, with Wynken, Blynken, and Nod inside.

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

Name _____ Date _____

WORDS TO KNOW

Word Match

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

herring	tiny drops of water on grass at night
nets	a low bed that slides under a bigger bed
crystal	a small silver fish
dew	an old word for afraid
ruffled	clear and sparkling
afeard	foggy and soft
trundle-bed	webs of string for catching fish
misty	made little ripples

Word Sort: In the Sky or On the Sea?

Write each word in the right box.

moon · stars · waves · nets · wind · foam · skies · shoe

In the sky	On the sea

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

Name _____ Date _____

WORD SEARCH

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod

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

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

WORD BANK

- ☐ SHOE
- ☐ MOON
- ☐ STARS
- ☐ FISH
- ☐ NETS
- ☐ SEA
- ☐ DEW
- ☐ NOD

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

Name _____ Date _____

MISSING WORDS

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod

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.

dew · fish · light · long · skies · things

1. Sailed on a river of crystal _____ ,
2. Into a sea of _____ .
3. "We have come to fish for the herring _____
4. And the wind that sped them all night _____
5. And the wooden shoe that sailed the _____
6. And you shall see the beautiful _____

Make New Rhymes

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

light _____ _____ dew _____ _____

fish _____ _____ long _____ _____

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!

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

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. They sail off in a wooden shoe. Yes No
2. They want to catch herring fish. Yes No
3. The old moon is angry with them. Yes No
4. The herring fish are really stars. Yes No
5. They stay in the sky forever. Yes No
6. Nod is a little head. Yes No

ABC Order

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

shoe moon fish nets dew

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

Name _____ Date _____

SOUNDS OF THE POEM

Rhyme Hunt

Find each word's rhyming partner in the word bank and write it on the line.

dew · fish · light · long · skies · things

night _____ shoe _____

wish _____ song _____

eyes _____ sings _____

LISTEN

Every verse ends with the same three names: Wynken, Blynken, and Nod. Say them together each time, softer and softer.

Clap the Syllables

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

Wynken claps: ___	Blynken claps: ___	Nod claps: ___
herring claps: ___	beautiful claps: ___	fishermen claps: ___

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

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 stars tell them to cast their nets.
- ◯ Wynken, Blynken, and Nod sail off in a wooden shoe.
- ◯ The wooden shoe comes down from the skies.
- ◯ The old moon asks where they are going.
- ◯ They throw their nets to the stars all night.
- ◯ We learn the shoe is a trundle-bed.

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, _____

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

Name _____ Date _____

PERFORM IT

Read It With Voices

Reader | The old moon | Everyone (the three names)

One **reader** reads the poem. Another child is the **old moon** and asks, "Where are you going, and what do you wish?" **Everyone** says "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod" at the end of each verse, rocking side to side like a boat.

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Read slowly and softly, like a lullaby. Let the last verse get quieter and quieter.

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 _____

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

LEARN IT BY HEART

Say It From Memory

Learn this verse by heart. Check off each step as you go.

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night
Sailed off in a wooden shoe,—
Sailed on a river of crystal light,
Into a sea of dew.
"Where are you going, and what do you wish?"
The old moon asked the three.
"We have come to fish for the herring fish
That live in this beautiful sea;

- [ ] 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 "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod" by heart!

by Eugene Field

Name _____ Date _____

Heard by _____

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

Name _____ Date _____

HANDWRITING PRACTICE

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod

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.

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night

Wynken, Blynken,

and Nod one night

Sailed off in a wooden shoe,

Sailed off in

a wooden shoe,

☐ I started with a capital letter. ☐ I left spaces between words. ☐ I copied the end mark.

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

CCSS L.K.1a · L.1.1a · L.K.2a

FOR GROWN-UPS

Answer Key & Ideas

Who Is Talking?

The old moon asks the question. In the last verse the poem talks to a sleepy child being sung to sleep ("So shut your eyes while mother sings").

Let's Talk

1. A wooden shoe. 2. Herring fish (the stars). 3. The old moon. 4–6. Answers will vary (the fish are stars; Wynken and Blynken are a child's two eyes and Nod is a little head).

Word Sort

In the sky: moon, stars, wind, skies. On the sea: waves, nets, foam, shoe (the wooden boat).

Word Search

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

Word Match

herring: a small silver fish · nets: webs of string for catching fish · crystal: clear and sparkling · dew: tiny drops of water on grass at night · ruffled: made little ripples · afeard: an old word for afraid · trundle-bed: a low bed that slides under a bigger bed · misty: foggy and soft

Yes or No? & ABC Order

1. Yes · 2. Yes · 3. No · 4. Yes · 5. No · 6. Yes. ABC order: dew, fish, moon, nets, shoe.

Missing Words

light, dew, fish, long, skies, things

Rhyme Hunt & Syllables

night: light · shoe: dew · wish: fish · song: long · eyes: skies · sings: things. Claps: Wynken 2, Blynken 2, Nod 1, herring 2, beautiful 3, fishermen 3.

Put It in Order

sail off in a wooden shoe → the old moon asks where they are going → the stars tell them to cast their nets → they throw their nets all night → the shoe comes down from the skies → the shoe is a trundle-bed.

Ideas to extend the lesson

- Make a wooden-shoe boat from paper and float it in a tub.
- Fold a paper fishing net and "catch" paper stars with it.
- Read it with "The Shut-Eye Train," another dreamy bedtime journey.

MORE FROM STORYLAND CLASSICS

Find more Eugene Field poems with free guides at storylandclassics.com and on YouTube at @StorylandClassics.

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com

FOR TEACHERS

Standards Alignment

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod ✦ 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.

© Storyland Classics · storylandclassics.com