

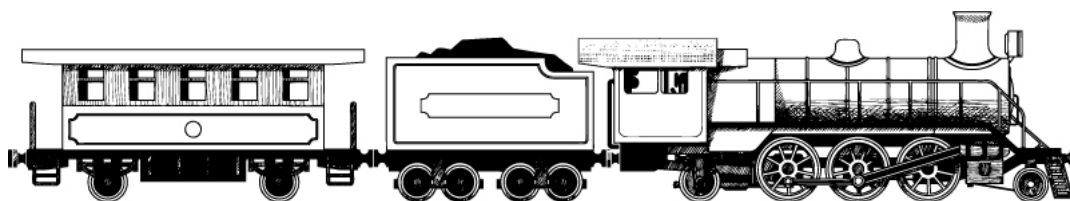
# From a Railway Carriage

By Robert Louis Stevenson

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Faster than fairies, faster than witches,  
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;  
And charging along like troops in a battle,  
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:  
All of the sights of the hill and the plain  
Fly as thick as driving rain;  
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,  
Painted stations whistle by.  
Here is a child who clambers and scrambles,  
All by himself and gathering brambles;  
Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;  
And there is the green for stringing the daisies!  
Here is a cart run away in the road  
Lumping along with man and load;  
And here is a mill and there is a river:  
Each a glimpse and gone for ever!



## Questions

The poet uses rhyme and repetition throughout. Why do you think he does this?

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Why might the author have chosen fairies and witches to compare the train's speed to?

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Find and copy a simile.

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Define 'clambers'. *You may want to use a dictionary to help you.*

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What are brambles?

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Name two things that can be seen from the train.

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What is the tramp doing?

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# From a Railway Carriage

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Why do the stations 'whistle by'?

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A lot of people say Robert Louis Stevenson wrote this poem to rhythmically mimic the sound and speed of a train.

Do you think this was successful and if so how did he achieve it?

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'Each a glimpse and gone forever!' Are these things gone forever? What does the poet mean?

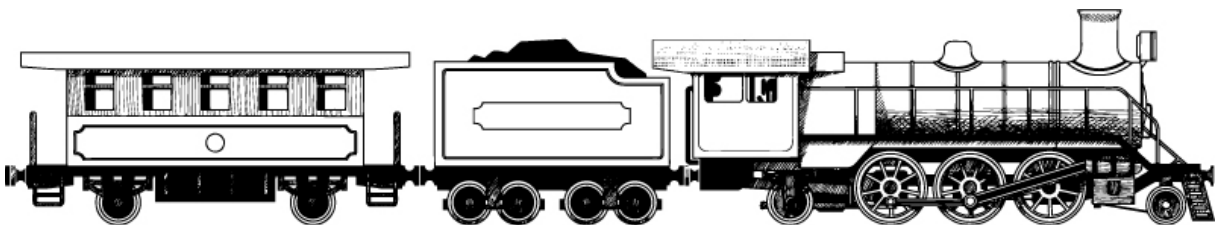
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Write down what this poem is about using only one sentence

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## Answers

The poet uses rhyme and repetition throughout. Why do you think he does this?

**Accept: it mimics the speed of the train, it makes it flow well, they are typical features of poetry.**

Why might the author have chosen fairies and witches to compare the train's speed to?

**They are mythical creatures, so it makes it seem like the train is going super-fast/ leaves the speed to the imagination of the reader**

Find and copy a simile.

**Charging along like troops in a battle**

Define 'clambers'. You may want to use a dictionary to help you.

**climbs**

What are brambles?

**A shrub/bush that grows berries.**

Name two things that can be seen from the train.

**Bridges**

**A child**

**Houses**

**A tramp**

**Hedges**

**The green for stringing the daisies**

**Ditches**

*(note: do not accept 'the daisies')*

**Meadows**

**A cart**

**Horse**

**A man**

**Cattle**

**His load**

**Hills**

**A mill**

**Plains**

**A river**

**Painted stations**

What is the tramp doing?

**Standing and gazing**

Why do the stations 'whistle by'?

**Because the train is going so fast**

A lot of people say Robert Louis Stevenson wrote this poem to rhythmically mimic the sound and speed of a train. Do you think this was successful and if so how did he achieve it?

**Accept answers that say yes with reasons.**

'Each a glimpse and gone forever!' Are these things gone forever? What does the poet mean?

**Accept answers which point out that it will be hard to see**

**Higher level answers may mention – industry taking over the countryside.**

Write down what this poem is about using only one sentence