

POETRY. Robert Louis Stevenson. MotherGooseCaboose.com
Grades 3 and up. MY KINGDOM. Directions. Print out. Read the poem.
Do the activities. Note: For younger children, just read the poem, talk about it, illustrate it or part of it, and act it out.

MY KINGDOM

1st stanza:

	<u>rhyme pattern</u>	<u>syllables</u>
Down by a shining water well	a	8
I found a very little dell,	a	8
No higher than my head.	b	6
The heather and the gorse about	c	8
In summer bloom were coming out,	c	8
Some yellow and some red.	b	6

2nd stanza:

I called the little pool a sea;	d	8
The little hills were big to me;	d	8
For I am very small.	e	6
I made a boat, I made a town,	f	8
I searched the caverns up and down,	f	8
And named them one and all.	e	6

3rd stanza:

And all about was mine, I said,	g	8
The little sparrows overhead,	g	8
The little minnows too.	h	6
This was the world and I was king;	i	8
For me the bees came by to sing,	i	8
For me the swallows flew.	h	6

(Poem cont'd on next page.)

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Grades 3 and up. MY KINGDOM cont'd. **p.2.**

Directions. Print out. Finish reading the poem.

<u>4th stanza:</u>	<u>rhyme pattern</u>	<u>syllables</u>
I played there were no deeper seas,	j	8
Nor any wider plains than these,	j	8
Nor other kings than me.	k	6
At last I heard my mother call	l	8
Out from the house at evenfall,	l	8
To call me home to tea.	k	6
 <u>5th stanza:</u>		
And I must rise and leave my dell,	m	8
And leave my dimpled water well,	m	8
And leave my heather blooms.	n	6
Alas! and as my home I neared,	o	8
How very big my nurse appeared,	o	8
How great and cool the rooms!	n	6

- Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894).
Scottish essayist, novelist, poet.
A Child's Garden Of Verses.

**POETRY. Robert Louis Stevenson. MotherGooseCaboose.com
Grades 3 and up. MY KINGDOM cont'd. p.3.**

Directions. Print out. Read the poem. Answer the questions using the “Blank Lined Poetry Answer Form” on p. 9. Print out as many pages as you need to answer the questions. Make sure you number your answers. Check what you have written with the answers on pages 7 & 8.

Questions About The Poem, “MY KINGDOM”:

1. What does the title of the poem tell you?
2. Who do you think the boy in the poem is?
3. What did the boy in the poem call the little pool of water he found? (Read line 1, 2nd stanza.)
4. What are some of the things he saw? (Read lines 2 & 4, 1st stanza; line 4, 1st stanza; line 5, 2nd stanza; lines 2, 3, 5 & 6, 3rd stanza; line 2, 4th stanza.)
5. What was the boy in the poem pretending to be? (Read line 3, 2nd stanza & line 4, 3rd stanza.)
6. What did the boy in the poem make? (Read line 4, 2nd stanza.)
7. What did the boy in the poem search and name? (Read lines 5 & 6, 2nd stanza.)
8. Who did the bees sing for? (Read line 5, 3rd stanza.)
9. How did the boy in the poem feel about the things around him? (Read the 3rd stanza.)
10. What did the boy in the poem feel about his new world? (Read lines 1, 2, & 3, 4th stanza.)
11. What did the mother of the boy in the poem do? (Read lines 4, 5, & 6, 4th stanza.)
12. Who did the boy in the poem see as he neared home? (Read line 5, 5th stanza.)
13. How did the boy in the poem feel when he saw his nurse as he neared his home? What did things look like to him? (Read lines 4, 5, & 6, 5th stanza.)

**POETRY. Robert Louis Stevenson. MotherGooseCaboose.com
Grades 3 and up. MY KINGDOM cont'd. p.4.**

Directions. Print out. Read the poem. Continue answering the questions. Do the activities and review the rhyming words.

Questions About The Poem, “MY KINGDOM” cont'd:

14. Do you like to pretend like the boy in the poem? What do you like to pretend to do or be?

15. Did you ever want to be a king? What would it be like to be a king?

16. Who is the nurse in the poem? See definitions, p. 7.

17. Is “My Kingdom” a good title for this poem? What would you call the poem?

18. What is a cavern (line 5, 2nd stanza) and a dell (line 2, 1st stanza)? See definitions, p. 6.

19. What is “heather” and “gorse”? See definitions, p. 6.

20. What does “evenfall” and “alas” mean? See definitions, p. 6.

Activities: Write a story about a king and his kingdom or a queen and her kingdom. Think of all the things you would want in a kingdom. Make a crown.

Rhyming words: 10 rhyming closed couplets and 5 rhyming open couplets. See poem.

1st stanza: well, dell (lines 1 & 2); head, red (lines 3 & 6); about, out (lines 4 & 5).

2nd stanza: see, me (lines 1 & 2); small, all (lines 3 & 6); town, down (lines 4 & 5).

3rd stanza: said, overhead (lines 1 & 2); too, flew (lines 3 & 6); king, sing (lines 4 & 5).

4th stanza: seas, these (lines 1 & 2); me, tea (lines 3 & 6); call, evenfall (lines 4 & 5).

5th stanza: dell, well (lines 1 & 2); blooms, rooms (lines 3 & 6); neared, appeared (lines 4 & 5).

**POETRY. Robert Louis Stevenson. MotherGooseCaboose.com
 Grades 3 and up. MY KINGDOM cont'd. p.5.**

Directions. Print out. Review the rhyme pattern, syllables, and meter in the poem.

Rhyme pattern: A sixtain or six-line stanza poem; also called “sestet.” There are 5 stanzas, each containing 2 rhyming closed couplets and 1 rhyming open couplet. 1st stanza: aabccb; 2nd stanza: ddeffe; 3rd stanza: ggghih; 4th stanza: jkllk; 5th stanza: mmnoon. in each stanza, lines 1 & 2 rhyme, lines 3 & 6 rhyme, and lines 4 & 5 rhyme. See “Rhyming words,” p. 4. See poem.

Syllables: Each stanza has an 8/ 8/ 6/ 8/ 8/ 6 syllable pattern. Lines 1, 2, 4, & 5 have 8 syllables and lines 3 & 6 have 6 syllables. Read the poem to get the rhythm. *Example:* 1st stanza: 8/8/6/8/8/6. See “syllables,” p. 7; “Meter,” p. 5 & “meter,” p. 7. See poem.

Meter: Accented words or parts of words are underlined; unaccented words are not underlined. See the 1st stanza of the poem below for the cadence; the slashes below the 1st stanza represent those accents; the dots represent the unaccented words or parts of words. (Iambic.) See definitions for “dactyl” “dactylic,” p. 6; “iamb” & “iambic,” p. 7; and “meter,” p. 7. See poem.

1 st stanza:	<u>rhyme pattern</u>	<u>syllables</u>
<u>Down</u> by a <u>shining</u> <u>water</u> <u>well</u>	a	8
I <u>found</u> a <u>very</u> <u>little</u> <u>dell</u>,	a	8
No <u>higher</u> <u>than</u> <u>my</u> <u>head</u>.	b	6
The <u>heather</u> <u>and</u> <u>the</u> <u>gorse</u> <u>about</u>	c	8
In <u>summer</u> <u>bloom</u> <u>were</u> <u>coming</u> <u>out</u>,	c	8
Some <u>yellow</u> <u>and</u> <u>some</u> <u>red</u>.	b	6

Iambic & Dactylic.

/ . . / . / . / (line 1; 1 dactyl & 3 iambs.)	. / . / . / . / (line 4; 4 iambs.)
. / . / . / . / (line 2; 4 iambs)	. / . / . / . / (line 5; 4 iambs.)
. / . / . / (line 3; 3 iambs.)	. / . / . / (line 6; 3 iambs.)

Definitions From The Poem, “MY KINGDOM”:

alas – *adv.* Unfortunately or regrettably. (Line 4, 5th stanza.)

cavern – *n.* . A large cave. **caverns** – *pl.n* Large caves. (Line 5, 2nd stanza.)

couplet – *n.* Two lines of verse that form a unit alone or as part of a poem, especially two that rhyme and have the same meter. Some are open and some are closed. See poem. *Example of two closed couplets and one open couplet from the poem, “My Kingdom.”* (Lines 1 & 2 rhyme, lines 3 & 6 rhyme, and lines 4 & 5 rhyme.) See poem.

<u>1st stanza:</u>	<u>rhyme pattern</u>	<u>syllables</u>
Down by a shining water well	a	8
I found a very little dell,	a	8
No higher than my head.	b	6
The heather and the gorse about	c	8
In summer bloom were coming out,	c	8
Some yellow and some red.	b	6

dactyl – *n.* 1. Poetry. A metrical foot in poetry consisting of one long syllable followed by two short syllables in classical verse, or one stressed syllable followed by two unstressed syllables in modern verse. 2. A finger, toe, or related body part. See “Syllables,” p. 5 & “syllables,” p. 7; “Meter,” p. 5, line 1, 1st stanza & “meter,” p. 7.

dactylic – *adj.* Relating to dactyl or containing dactyls. See above for “dactyl,”

dell – *n.* A small, secluded wooded valley. (Line 2, 1st stanza and line 1, 5th stanza.)

evenfall – *n.* Evening; dusk. (Line 5, 4th stanza.)

gorse – *n.* Any of several spiny, thickset shrubs, having fragrant yellow flowers. (Line 4, 1st stanza.)

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Grades 3 and up. MY KINGDOM cont'd. p.7.

Directions. Print out. Continue studying the definitions. Check your answers.

Definitions From The Poem, “MY KINGDOM” cont'd:

heather – *n.* A low-growing evergreen shrub, having pinkish-purple flowers. (Line 4, 1st stanza and line 3, 5th stanza.)

iamb – *n.* A unit of rhythm in poetry, consisting of one short or unstressed syllable or group followed by one long stressed syllable. Also called iambus and iambic. See “Meter,” p. 5 & “meter,” p. 7; “Syllables,” p. 5 & “syllables,” p. 7.

iambic – *n.* Relating or consisting of iambs. See “iamb.”

meter – *n.* An arranged pattern of natural rhythm in a line of verse, having accentual patterns of long and short syllables. See “Meter,” p.5; “Syllables,” p. 5 & “syllables,” p. 7. See poem.

nurse – *n.* A person’s nurse, babysitter, or caretaker. Robert Louis Stevenson had a nurse nicknamed “Cummie.” Her name was Alison Cunningham and he dedicated “A Child’s Garden of Verses” to her, “My second mother, my first wife.” (Line 5, 5th stanza.)

plain – *n.* plains – *n.pl.* A large expanse of fairly flat dry land, usually with few trees. (Line 2, 4th stanza.)

sixain – *n.* A six-line stanza in poetry. Also called “sestet.” See poem.

stanza – *n.* A number of lines of verse forming a separate unit within a poem. See example under “couplet,” p. 6. See poem.

syllable – *n.* **syllables** – *n.pl.* 1. A unit of spoken language that consists of one or more vowel sounds alone, a syllabic consonant alone, or any of these with one or more consonant sounds. 2. One or more letters in a word that roughly correspond to a syllable of spoken language. See “Syllables,” p.5; “Meter,” p. 5 & “meter,” p. 7. See poem.

Answers To Questions About The Poem, “MY KINGDOM”:

2. Robert Louis Stevenson.

3. He called the pool a little sea. (Line 1, 2nd stanza.)

Answers To Questions About The Poem, “MY KINGDOM” cont'd:

4.

1st stanza: A very little dell (line 2); yellow and red heather & gorse (line 4);

2nd stanza: little hills (line 2); a boat & a town (line 4); caverns (line 5);

3rd stanza: sparrows, minnows, bees, & swallows (lines 2, 3, 5, & 6);

4th stanza: deeper seas (line 1); plains (line 2).

5. Very small and the only king surrounded by things in a secret world.
(Line 3, 2nd stanza & line 4, 3rd stanza.)

6. A boat and a town. (Line 4, 2nd stanza.)

7. Caverns. (Lines 5 & 6, 2nd stanza.)

8. The boy in the poem. (Line 5, 3rd stanza.)

9. This was a world he created where he was the only king. (3rd stanza.)

10. In this world, he was the only king and no other place had what his place has. (Lines 1, 2, & 3, 4th stanza.)

11. The mother called the boy to come home for tea. (Lines 4, 5, & 6, 4th stanza.)

12. His nurse.

13. His nurse seemed very big and the rooms in his house “great and cool.” (Lines 4, 5, & 6, 5th stanza.)

16. See definitions, “nurse,” p. 7.

18, 19, & 20. See definitions, p. 6, for “dell” (line 2, 1st stanza); “heather” & “gorse” (line 4, 1st stanza); “caverns” (line 5, 2nd stanza); “evenfall” (line 5, 4th stanza); and “alas” (line 4, 5th stanza).

