

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat

by Edward Lear

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
“O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!”



Questions

1. Who is the poem about? Tick two.

- an owl
- a pussycat
- a tortoise
- a squirrel

2. This is a rhyming poem. Which of these words make a rhyming pair?

Tick one.

- money and note
- boat and note
- guitar and love

3. What did the Owl and the Pussy-cat take with them? Tick one.

- a picnic
- a blanket
- some honey and plenty of money

4. Which adjective did the Owl use to describe the Pussy-cat? Tick one.

- funny
- strong
- beautiful

5. Which words are repeated three times in the poem? Tick one.

- O Pussy my love
- You are
- Sang to a small guitar

Answers

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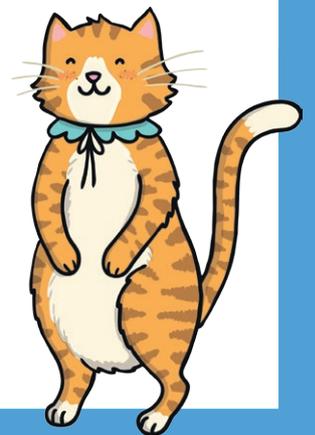
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What a beautiful Pussy you are!”

Pussy said to the Owl, “You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! Too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?”
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-Tree grows
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.



Questions

1. What did the Owl and the Pussy-cat travel in? Tick one.

- a beautiful pea-green boat
 a lovely sea-blue bus
 a pretty rose-red car

2. How long did the Owl and the Pussy-cat sail for? Tick one.

- a day
 a week
 a year and a day

3. Draw a line to match the rhyming words. One has been done for you.

above	—	sing
nose	—	love
ring	—	grows

4. In the poem, the guitar is described as 'small'. Tick one word which means the same as 'small'.

- big
 little
 wide

5. Write in the missing words to complete the sentence.

There in a wood a _____ stood.

Bong-Tree	Piggy-wig	Pussy-cat
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Answers

1. What did the Owl and the Pussy-cat travel in? Tick one.

a beautiful pea-green boat

a lovely sea-blue bus

a pretty rose-red car

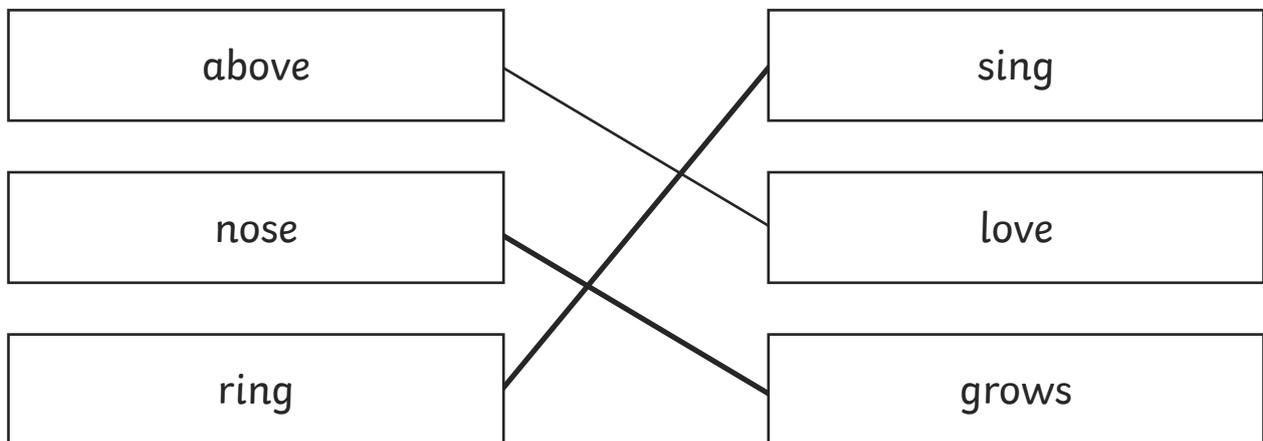
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There in a wood a **Piggy-wig** stood.

Bong-Tree

Piggy-wig

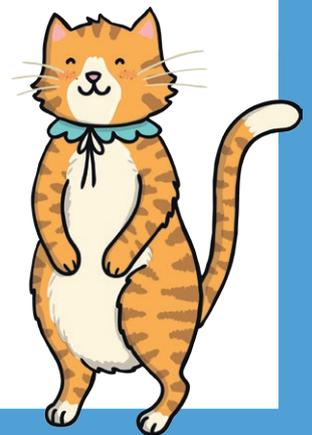
Pussy-cat

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What a beautiful Pussy you are!”

Pussy said to the Owl, “You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! Too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?”
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-Tree grows
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.



“Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?” Said the Piggy, “I will.”
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.



Questions

1. How many verses are there in the poem? Tick one.

two

three

four

2. Which two adjectives are used to describe the boat in the second line of the poem?

3. Each verse of the poem has some repeated words. Where do they appear in the verse? Tick one.

at the beginning

at the end

in the middle

4. The Owl and the Pussy-cat did three things in the last verse of the poem. What were they?

5. At what time of day is the poem set? How do you know?

6. The animals in the poem can talk. Do you think it would be good if animals could talk? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. How many verses are there in the poem? Tick one.

- two
 three
 four

2. Which two adjectives are used to describe the boat in the second line of the poem?

The two adjectives that are used to describe the boat are beautiful and pea-green.

3. Each verse of the poem has some repeated words. Where do they appear in the verse? Tick one.

- at the beginning
 at the end
 in the middle

4. The Owl and the Pussy-cat did three things in the last verse of the poem. What were they?

They got married, they ate a feast and they danced by the light of the moon.

5. At what time of day is the poem set? How do you know?

It is night-time. We know because the poet talks about the Owl looking up at the stars, and the Owl and the Pussy-cat dancing by the light of the moon.

6. The animals in the poem can talk. Do you think it would be good if animals could talk? Explain your answer.

Answer will vary.