

From a Railway Carriage

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 clammers 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 forever!

**By Robert Louis Stevenson**

From *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885)



## From a railway carriage by Robert Louis Stevenson

Name: ..... Date:.....

### Understanding the poem

Fill in the table below with words from the poem:

Nature	
Buildings	
Transport	
People	

### Which explanation fits the poem best?

1. The poem is read from the point of view of a child on a station. He is watching the trains go past and commenting on their speed.
2. The poem is about a journey on a train carriage and all the things that can be seen out of the window. Everything flashes past.
3. The speaker is a train conductor. He is collecting tickets on a train and describing all the things he can see from the train window.

### Which explanation about the rhythm is correct?

1. The poem should be read slowly because the train is travelling slowly.
2. The poem should be read normally.
3. The reader can't help reading quickly because of the way the words are combined. The poem's rhythm and pace mimic a fast train.

### What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?

1. AABCCDD
2. ABBACDDC
3. ABCDABCD

Collect together, in the space below, all the words and phrases that give an idea of movement and speed e.g. faster than fairies.