

From a Railway Carriage

by Robert Louis Stevenson

twinkl Rail

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!

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1. Why does the author compare the train to fairies and witches?

2. Which verbs in verse 1 tell us that the train is moving quickly? Write two.

3. Find and copy a simile from the first verse.

4. What two animals are in the meadows?

5. The child '*clambers and scrambles*'. Can you think of another word for clambers?

6. What are '*brambles*'? Use a dictionary to help you if you need to.

7. What is on the runaway cart?

8. The second verse is a long list of things seen from the train. What does this suggest about the speed of the train?

9. The poem is written in rhyming couplets. Find and copy an example of a rhyming couplet.

10. What would happen to the rhythm of the poem as the train arrives at a station?

Questions

1. Why does the author compare the train to fairies and witches?

Fairies and witches fly very fast.

2. Which verbs in verse 1 tell us that the train is moving quickly? Write two.

charging, fly or whistle (by)

3. Find and copy a simile from the first verse.

as thick as driving rain

4. What two animals are in the meadows?

horses and cows/cattle

5. The child '*clambers and scrambles*'. Can you think of another word for clambers?

climbs or another relevant synonym

6. What are '*brambles*'? Use a dictionary to help you if you need to.

blackberries

7. What is on the runaway cart?

A man and his load, but we don't know what the load is.

8. The second verse is a long list of things seen from the train. What does this suggest about the speed of the train?

It suggests that the train is moving very fast and the person on the train can see lots of things.

9. The poem is written in rhyming couplets. Find and copy an example of a rhyming couplet.

Any two lines from the poem which rhyme e.g.

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,

Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;

10. What would happen to the rhythm of the poem as the train arrives at a station?

The rhythm of the poem would slow down as the train gets ready to stop.

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