

Name: _____ Class: _____

The Land of Story-Books

By Robert Louis Stevenson
1913

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) was a Scottish writer who is best known for Treasure Island and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. This poem, "The Land of Story-Books" was published in 1913. As you read this poem, make notes about the speaker; what can we conclude about him/her from the words in the poem?

[1] At evening when the lamp is lit,
Around the fire my parents sit;
They sit at home and talk and sing,
And do not play at anything.

[5] Now, with my little gun, I crawl
All in the dark along the wall,
And follow round the forest track
Away behind the sofa back.

[10] There, in the night, where none can spy,
All in my hunter's camp I lie,
And play at books that I have read
Till it is time to go to bed.

[15] These are the hills, these are the woods,
These are my starry solitudes;
And there the river by whose brink
The roaring lions come to drink.

[20] I see the others far away
As if in firelit camp they lay,
And I, like to an Indian scout,
Around their party prowled about.

So when my nurse comes in for me,
Home I return across the sea,
And go to bed with backward looks
At my dear land of Story-books.



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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Who is the speaker of this poem? How do you know? [RL.1]

2. Summarize the fourth stanza. Where is the speaker and what is he doing? Cite [RL.1] [RL.2] evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. How does the author characterize childhood? What symbols, images, or words [RL.3] contribute to this depiction?

4. What is the mood of this poem? Support your answer with evidence from the text. [RL.1]

5. What does this poem teach us about childhood and growing up? Support your answer with evidence from the text. [RL.1] [RL.2]
