

2.1 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 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!

- R. L. Stevenson



ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. Read the poem aloud with proper rhythm. What does the rhythm remind you of?
2. Find pairs of rhyming words from the poem.
3. Write the following :
 - (1) The sights seen through a railway carriage mentioned in the first stanza.
 - (2) The sights mentioned in the second stanza.
 - (3) The sights mentioned in the third stanza.
4. Think and answer:
 - (1) Why are the sights said to 'fly'?
 - (2) Does the last line make you happy or sad? Why?
5. List the lines that begin with 'Here' or 'And here'.
Also list the sentences or phrases that begin with 'And there'.
These phrases and sentences tell us about things that appear one after the other as the carriage moves. Can we tell which ones are closer to the train and which ones are at a distance? How?
6. Read the following :
 - Charging along like troops in a battle.
 - Fly as thick as driving rain.Using your imagination, write one or two comparisons each with –
 - like
 - as as
7. Write about the sights you may see from a bus or an aeroplane.
You may write it in the form of a short poem.
8. Find and read other poems of R. L. Stevenson using the internet.
Find other rhythmic poems about trains, in English or other languages.

