

6- Poem Comprehension

Grade 4

The Duck and the Kangaroo

by Edward Lear

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,
"Good gracious! how you hop!
Over the fields and the water too,
As if you never would stop!
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,
And I long to go out in the world beyond.
I wish I could hop like you!"

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

"Please give me a ride on your back!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.
"I would sit quite still, and say nothing but 'Quack,'
The whole of the long day through!
And we'd go to the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee,
Over the land, and over the sea;
Please take me a ride! O do!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,
"This requires some little reflection;
Perhaps on the whole it might bring me luck,

And there seems but one objection,
Which is, if you'll let me speak so bold,
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,
And would probably give me the roo-
Matiz!" said the Kangaroo.

Said the Duck, "As I sat on the rocks,
I have thought of that with a plan.
I have bought four pairs of worsted socks,
Which fit my web-feet so well I can
Keep them all properly warm and dry."
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

1. What does the Duck admire about the Kangaroo?

2. Why is the Duck bored with its life?

3. What promise does the Duck make to the Kangaroo?

4. What was the Kangaroo's only objection?

5. How does the Duck solve the Kangaroo's problem?

6. Where does the Duck want to go with the Kangaroo?

7. What does "roo-matiz" mean? Why is it a clever word in this poem?

8. Find words from the poem that mean:

- a) jumping movement _____
- b) thinking carefully _____
- c) disagreeable _____
- d) speak in a brave way _____

9. What does the phrase "go out in the world beyond" mean?

10. Make sentences using these phrases:

- a) "requires some reflection" _____
- b) "bring me luck" _____
- c) "properly warm" _____

11. Find three pairs of rhyming words from the first stanza.

12. In the line "I would sit quite still," what type of word is 'quite'?

13. Change this line to past tense:

"I wish I could hop like you!"

14. Find three verbs from the poem that show movement.

15. Draw a picture of the Duck wearing its four pairs of socks!

16. Imagine you could spend a day with any animal. Which animal would you choose and why? What would you do together? Write a short paragraph.

17. Create a short dialogue between you and your favorite animal, like the Duck and Kangaroo's conversation.

18. If you were the Kangaroo, would you give the Duck a ride? Give reasons for your answer.

19. Think of another solution the Duck could have found for its cold feet. Be creative!

Answer Key

1. The Duck admires the Kangaroo's ability to hop over fields and water.
2. The Duck finds life in the pond boring and wants to explore the world.
3. The Duck promises to sit still and only say 'Quack'.
4. The Duck's wet and cold feet might give the Kangaroo rheumatism.
5. The Duck buys four pairs of worsted socks to keep its feet warm and dry.
6. To the Dee and the Jelly Bo Lee, over land and sea.
7. "Roo-matiz" is a play on "rheumatism" - it's clever because it includes "roo" from kangaroo.
8. hop, reflection, nasty, bold
9. It means to explore places beyond the pond, to adventure into the wider world
10. Accept any logical sentences using the phrases correctly
11. Kangaroo/too, hop/stop, beyond/pond
12. 'Quite' is an adverb
13. "I wished I could hop like you!"
14. hop, stop, sit, go, ride (any three)