

Reading Comprehension 7- Poem

Grade 5

The Swing

By Robert Louis Stevenson

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown—
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the main topic of this poem?
2. What does the speaker see from the swing? List at least three things.
3. What color is the air described as in the poem?
4. How does the speaker feel about swinging?
5. What is described as "brown" in the poem?
6. What is described as "green" in the poem?
7. According to the poem, what makes swinging special?
8. What motion does the swing make according to the last stanza?
9. Is the speaker standing, sitting, or lying down in this poem? How do you know?

Vocabulary Questions

10. What does "pleasantest" mean in the first stanza?
11. What does "countryside" refer to in the poem?
12. The word "Till" is used in the poem. What does it mean in this context?
13. What does "wide" mean in "Till I can see so wide"?
14. What are "cattle" mentioned in the poem?

Grammar Questions

15. In the line "How do you like to go up in a swing," what type of sentence is this?
16. Find an example of rhyming words in the first stanza.
17. In the line "Ever a child can do," what is the subject of the sentence?
18. In the phrase "Up in the air and down," identify the prepositions.
19. The poem has a specific rhythm. How many lines are in each stanza?

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Answer Key

Comprehension Answers

1. The main topic of this poem is the joy of swinging on a swing.
2. The speaker sees rivers, trees, cattle, the countryside, the garden, and the roof of a house/building.
3. The air is described as blue.
4. The speaker thinks swinging is "the pleasantest thing ever a child can do" - they love it.
5. The roof is described as brown.
6. The garden is described as green.
7. Swinging is special because it allows the child to see far and wide over everything.
8. The swing moves up and down.
9. The speaker is sitting (on a swing). We know this because they talk about going up in a swing.

Vocabulary Answers

10. "Pleasantest" means most enjoyable or most delightful.
11. "Countryside" refers to rural areas outside cities, with fields, farms, and natural landscapes.
12. "Till" in this context means "until" or "to the point when."
13. "Wide" in this context means "over a large area" or "extensive distance."
14. "Cattle" refers to cows or similar farm animals.

Grammar Answers

15. It is an interrogative sentence (a question).
16. Rhyming words in the first stanza are "swing" and "thing" / "blue" and "do."
17. The subject is "a child."
18. The prepositions are "in," "up," and "down."
19. Each stanza has four lines.