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From a Railway Carriage

Getting Started

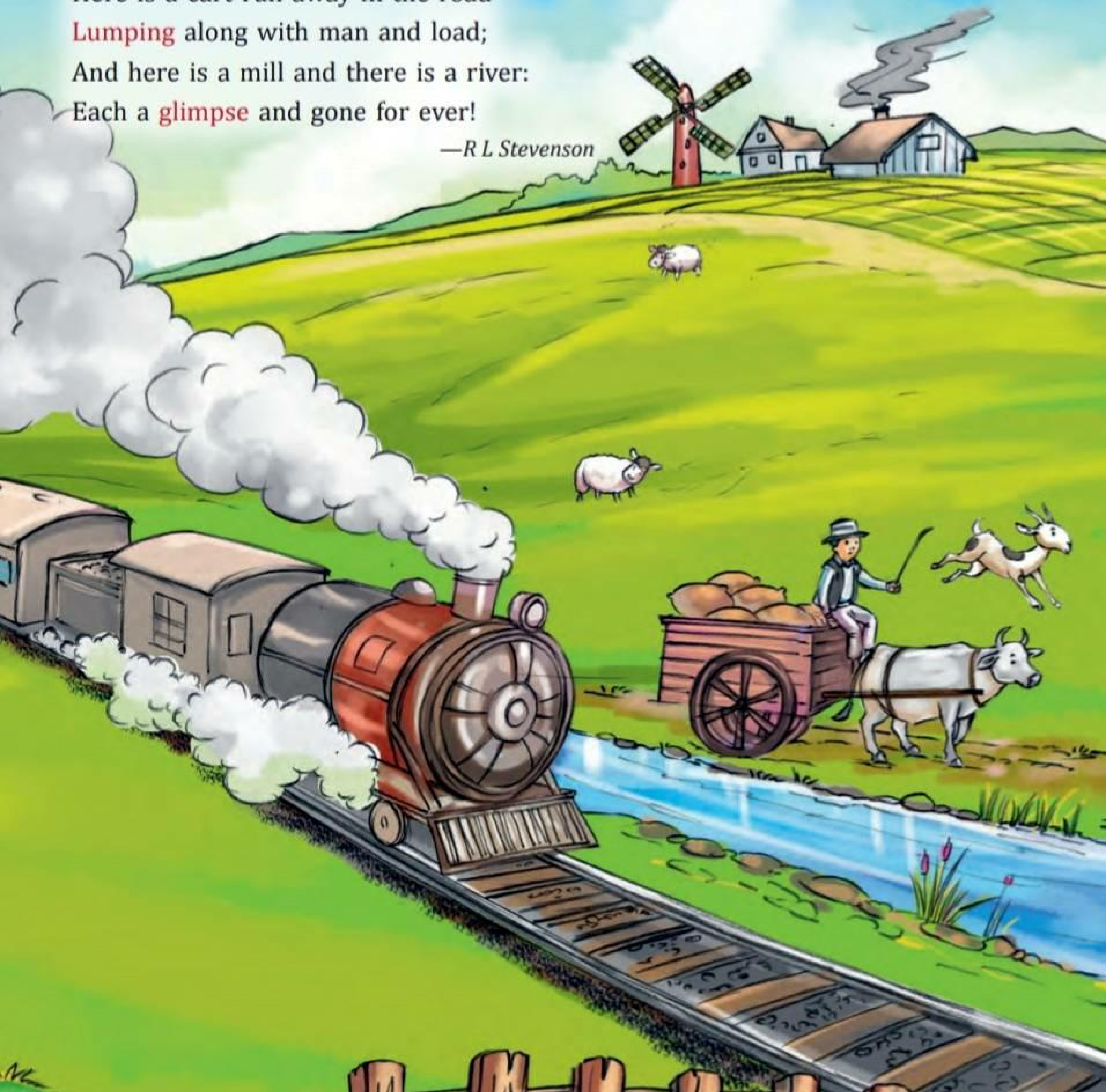
- * Do you like to travel by train? What makes a train journey interesting, fun and a learning experience?

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



About the Poet.

Robert Louis Stevenson was a Scottish writer. He is well known for his evergreen works like 'Treasure Island', 'Kidnapped' and 'Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.'

Title of the Poem.

The title "From a Railway Carriage" captures the essence of the poem, as it is a record of the poet's journey in a train. The poem communicates the poet's observations and thoughts as he was sitting in a railway carriage.

Summary of the Poem.

The poet describes the sights that he notices while travelling in the train. The train is moving faster than fairies and witches. The train rushes forward like soldiers who are attacking their enemies in the battlefield. The speedy movement of the train leaves behind bridges, houses, fences and ditches behind. It also leaves behind the green fields where horses and cattle are grazing. All the scenes of the hill and the plain were being crossed by the train as quick as one drop of rain following the other in a storm. In the next moment, the train passes railway stations and it looked like painted pictures.

The poet sees a child climbing a steep ground and collecting berries during climbing. He also sees a homeless person who looks at the train with amazement. As the train moves forward, he sees some ladies in a common village grassyland making garlands with daisies (flower). The poet then sees a cart moving slowly in the highway. It was full of load and the cart driver was sitting on the top of the load. He also gets a glimpse of a mill and a river by its side. All these objects appear and disappear so quickly.

Meanings

hedges - fences formed by closely growing bushes.

ditches - narrow channels dug to hold or carry water

charging - to rush forward, aggressively

clambers - to climb or move in a laborious way

scrambles - to move or make one's way quickly

brambles - prickly shrubs of the rose family.

glimpse - a brief or a partial view.

ENGLISH 2
CLASS V

From a Railway Carriage:

R. L. Stevenson.

A. Answer the following questions:-

1. To which supernatural creature has the speed of the train been compared?

→ The speed of the train has been compared to supernatural creature like fairies and witches.

2. Name any four sights of the hill and the plain when the train rushes by.

→ Any four sights of the hill and the plain when the train rushes by are bridges, houses, hedges and green fields where horses and cattle are grazing.

3. The child 'all by himself' is 'gathering brambles'. Give one word for 'all by himself'.

→ One word for 'all by himself' is 'alone'.

4. What do you understand by the term 'stringing the daisies'?

→ The term 'stringing the daisies' means making garlands with daisies (flower).
As the train moves forward, some ladies are seen in a village grassy land making garlands with daisies.

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5) What does the term 'lumping along' seem to signify?

→ The term 'lumping along' seems to signify moving forward with difficulty.

A cart is seen moving slowly. It was full of load and the cart driver was sitting on the top of the load. The cart was pulled by the animal with difficulty.

HOME WORK.

B. Solve the questions:

1. Explain the lines:

"All of the sights of the hill and the plain
Fly as thick as driving rain;"

2. What is the child seen from the train doing?

3. What are the objects mentioned in the poem ~~are~~ said to be 'gone for ever'?

C. Think and answer.

Briefly explain a train journey.