

The Swing

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!

--Robert Lewis Stevenson

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Questions:

Research and Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been on a swing?
2. What did you see?
3. What do you like about swings?
4. Make a list of some simple pleasures.

Multiple Choice Questions

5. What question is posed to the reader in the poem?
 - a. Have you ever swing high?
 - b. What do you like most about swinging?
 - c. How would you like to go up in a swing?
 - d. Do you know what a swing is?
6. According to the poem, what is the most “pleasantest” thing a child could do?
 - a. Swing high.
 - b. Run around.
 - c. Play with friends.
 - d. Read poems.
7. What would a child see swinging high according to the poem?
 - a. cities far off
 - b. the great wall
 - c. the dirt roads
 - d. the wide countryside
8. What cannot be seen over the wall?
 - a. The river
 - b. The trees
 - c. The cattle
 - d. The church top
9. Why does the child look down?
 - a. The child wants to see the valley below.
 - b. The child wants to see the green garden and the brown roof.
 - c. The child wants to call out to someone.
 - d. The child doesn’t know how to get down from the swing.
10. The poet thinks that being in the swing is like _____.
 - a. running
 - b. falling
 - c. flying
 - d. laughing
11. Why is the roof brown?
 - a. It is made of wood.
 - b. It is made of steel.
 - c. It is made of hay.
 - d. It is made of dried palm leaves.

12. What season is there in the poem?

- a. winter
- b. spring
- c. summer
- d. autumn

14. "How would you like to go up in the swing.." can be considered:

- a. A rhetorical question
- b. Sarcasm
- c. A statement

13. How do you know the child is enjoying the swing?

- a. The child laughs a lot.
- b. The child continues swinging.
- c. The child can see home.
- d. The child swings the entire day.

More questions

15. What does "up in the air and down" represents?

16. What is the rhyming scheme for this poem? _____

17. What is the purpose of this poem?

18. What is the tone of the poem?

19. What does the poet want the reader to think while reading this poem?

20. Circle the words that rhyme in the poem.

21. Do you like this poem? Why?

Visual activity:

22. Use the poem to draw a picture of a child on a swing.