

From a Railway Carriage

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh in 1850. When he wrote this poem in the 1880s, steam trains were a very popular form of transport. They enabled people to travel long distances at much greater speeds than ever before. This poem describes a journey on a steam train.

- 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:
5 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,
10 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;
15 And here is a mill, and there is a river:
Each a glimpse and gone for ever!

Robert Louis Stevenson



1

Why do you think the poet compares the speed of the train to magical creatures like "fairies" and "witches" (line 1)?

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1 mar

2

What does the poet compare to "troops in a battle" (line 3)?

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1 mar

3

"Fly as thick as driving rain" (line 6). This is an example of (circle one):

- a. a metaphor b. a simile c. onomatopoeia d. personification

1 mar

4

What is the poet describing in lines 9-15?

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1 mar

5

Why are the things described in the poem "gone for ever" (line 16)?

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2 mar

6

What effect does the rhythm of the poem have on the reader?

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2 mar

7

Do you think this is an effective description of train travel? Explain your answer.

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2 mar

Total
out of 10

