



From a Railway Carriage

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!



Questions

E The poet uses rhyme and repetition throughout. Why do you think he does this?

I Why might the author have chosen fairies and witches to compare the train's speed to?

V Find and copy a simile.

V Define 'clambers'. You may want to use a dictionary to help you.

V What are brambles?

R Name two things that can be seen from the train.

R What is the tramp doing?

I Why do the stations 'whistle by'?

E A lot of people say Robert Louis Stevenson wrote this poem to rhythmically mimic the sound and speed of a train.

Do you think this was successful and if so how did he achieve it?

E - 'Each a glimpse and gone forever!' Are these things gone forever? What does the poet mean?

S - Write down what this poem is about using only one sentence
