

Foreign Lands

Up into the cherry tree
Who should climb but little me?
I held the trunk with both my hands
And looked abroad in foreign lands.

I saw the next door garden lie,
Adorned with flowers, before my eye,
And many pleasant places more
That I had never seen before.

I saw the dimpling river pass
And be the sky's blue looking-glass;
The dusty roads go up and down
With people tramping in to town.

If I could find a higher tree
Farther and farther I should see,
To where the grown-up river slips
Into the sea among the ships,

To where the roads on either hand
Lead onward into fairy land,
Where all the children dine at five,
And all the playthings come alive.

--Robert Lewis Stevenson

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Questions:

Research and Discussion Questions

1. How tall does a cherry tree grow?
2. What climate does a cherry tree needs to grow best?
3. Have you ever climbed a tree? What did you see when you were up in the branches?
4. What do you enjoy doing when you are outdoors?

Multiple Choice Questions

5. What does “foreign” mean in the poem?
 - a. Not real
 - b. Unfamiliar
 - c. Far off
 - d. Familiar
6. What is the theme of the poem “Foreign Lands”?
 - a. Observing people in different places below
 - b. Longing for distant places and escaping the monotony of everyday life.
 - c. Climbing a cherry tree to dream of foreign lands.
 - d. All of the above.
7. What does the speaker do in stanza one?
 - a. The speaker thinks about climbing a tree.
 - b. The speaker dreams of traveling abroad.
 - c. The speaker writes letters to people abroad.
 - d. The speaker climbs a cherry tree.
8. What does the speaker do when he was up in the tree?
 - a. The speaker looks onto foreign lands.
 - b. The speaker travels abroad.
 - c. The speaker calls out to people below.
 - d. The speaker wishes to travel abroad.
9. What does the speaker first see?
 - a. Many pleasant places
 - b. The river
 - c. The dusty roads
 - d. The neighbours garden
10. Why did the speaker say “many pleasant places more than I had never seen before”?
 - a. The speaker had never travel out.
 - b. The speaker lives in a remote region.
 - c. The speaker had never climb a tall tree before.
 - d. The speaker saw places but never pleasant ones.

11. According to the poem, what would the speaker see from a higher tree?

- a. The path to fairyland
- b. The river merging into the sea
- c. The toy soldiers at play
- d. The ships in the sea

12. What is a "grown-up river"?

- a. A river that enters the sea.
- b. A muddy river.
- c. A long river.
- d. A river that grown-ups use often.

13. What does the speaker see climbing the tall tree?

- a. The river and sea
- b. The river and dusty roads
- c. The ships in the sea
- d. The children in the village
- e. People walking about.
- f. All of the above

14. What does it mean by the phrase "people tramping in to town"?

- a. People are walking to town.
- b. People are running into town.
- c. People are traveling about the town.
- d. People are shopping.

15. Who is the speaker in this poem?

- a. A young man
- b. An old person
- c. A child

More question

16. Why do you think the speaker wish for a “higher tree”?

17. What kind of place does the speaker imagine in the last stanza?

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18. Do you think the speaker lives a sheltered and protected life?

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

20. What is the purpose of this poem?

21. What is the tone of the poem?

22. What does the poet want the reader think about in the last stanza?

23. Circle the words that rhyme in the poem.

Visual activity:

24. Draw child upon a tall tree? Use the poem to help you show what the child sees?