

Robert Louis Stevenson

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1850-1894

Robert Louis Stevenson was a Scottish novelist, essayist, poet and travel writer. He is best known for works such as *Treasure Island*, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *Kidnapped* and *A Child's Garden of Verses*.



The Swing

BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

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!

Stanza No. 01

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!



Explanation of Stanza No. 01

In the first stanza, the poet begins by asking a question

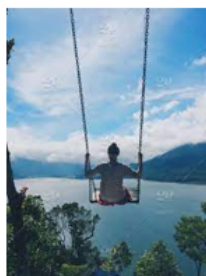
(How do you....?)

This question and the lines that follow makes it clear that the speaker is like a small child who asks a question about swinging up in the air. The poet is interested to know what is the most pleasant thing a child could do. There is nothing else that brings pleasure than freedom of flying on a swing.



Stanza No. 02

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside—



Explanation of Stanza No. 02

Here the speaker is imagining the best moments they have had on the swing and the joy they rose so high that they could see “over the wall.” When the child swings this high then they are able to see so wide



Stanza No. 03

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!



Explanation of Stanza No. 03

In the last stanza, the speaker highlights on how the child has risen up to see over the wall, and then as the swing starts to fall they look down and see the green garden. The swing is in the garden and it is the garden wall the child is looking over. On the way back the child also sees the roof which is brown in colour. The speakers tries to explain the fun and pleasure a child is having on the swing.





English Poem

The Swing

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CBSE Board

Class : 3rd

