

Poetry from A. A. Milne



A Reading Guide by Lisa Kelly

Poetry from A. A. Milne: A Reading Guide is a companion guide for both *Now We Are Six* and *When We Were Very Young* by A. A. Milne.



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Lesson Notes

1. “Connection” questions and prompts were written to bridge the gap between chapter readings. They were designed to bring forth what students already know about a topic so that the new information can be connected to it.
2. Have students define the words listed under “Words to Know” either independently or together orally with the teacher. Teachers and students should locate any listed places, read and discuss any notes included at the beginning of each lesson and discuss the pronunciation of any words, as needed.
3. Students should either have the poems read aloud to them or should read the poems together with the teacher or should read the poems independently, whichever best fits.
4. After listening or reading, students should narrate. There are multiple narration suggestions for each chapter.
5. Any lessons in literary terms can be included or omitted as it best fits the needs of your students.

Edition

This guide is based on the poems by title so that any edition can be used. Both books are available for free in the public domain at Project Gutenberg and Internet Archive.

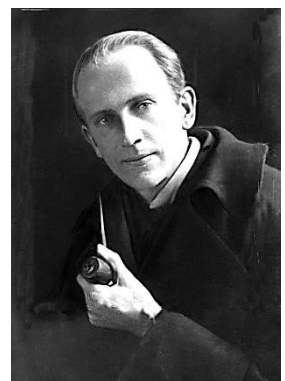
Poetic Elements and Techniques

The following literary terms are lightly discussed in this guide:

- alliteration
- narrator
- author, illustrator & illustration
- rhyme scheme

About A. A. Milne

A. A. Milne [Alan Anderson Milne] was born in 1881 and died in 1956. This English author is well-known for having written *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*, which contain the stories of the beloved characters of Pooh, Piglet, Tigger, Owl, Roo, Kanga, Eeyore, Rabbit and Christopher Robin. Some of these same characters appear in his two volumes of poetry: *Now We Are Six* and *When We Were Very Young*. Milne was inspired to write these books for his son Christopher Robin.



Reading Schedule –One Year

Reading #	Book	Poems
1	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Corner-of-the-Street” and “Buckingham Palace”
2	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Happiness”, “The Christening” and “Puppy and I”
3	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Twinkletoes”, “The Four Friends” and “Lines and Squares”
4	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Brownie”, “Independence” and “Nursery Chairs”
5	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Market Square” and “Daffodowndilly”
6	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Water-Lilies”, “Disobedience” and “Spring Morning”
7	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“The Island”, “The Three Foxes” and “Politeness”
8	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Jonathan Jo” and “At the Zoo”
9	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Rice Pudding” and “Missing”
10	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“The King’s Breakfast” and “Hoppity”
11	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“At Home”, “The Wrong House” and “Summer Afternoon”
12		End of Term Exam
13	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“The Dormouse and the Doctor”, “Shoes and Stockings” and “Sand-Between-the-Toes”
14	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Knights and Ladies” and “Little Bo-Peep and Little Boy Blue”
15	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“The Mirror”, “Halfway Down” and “The Invaders”
16	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Before Tea” and “Teddy Bear”
17	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“Bad Sir Brian Botany” and “In the Fashion”
18	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“The Alchemist” and “Growing Up”
19	<i>When We Were Very Young</i>	“If I Were King” and “Vespers”
20	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“Solitude” and “King John’s Christmas”
21	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“Busy” and “Sneezles”
22	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“Binker” and “Cherry Stones”
23	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“The Knight Whose Armor Didn’t Squeak” and “Buttercup Days”
24		End of Term Exam
25	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“The Charcoal Burner” and “Us Two” [“The Old Sailor” is optional.]
26	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“The Engineer”, “Journey’s End” and “Furry Bear”
27	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“Forgiven” and “The Emperor’s Rhyme”
28	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“Knight-in-Armor” and “Come Out With Me”
29	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“Down by the Pond” and “The Little Black Hen”
30	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“The Friend” and “The Good Little Girl”
31	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“A Thought”, “King Hillary and the Beggarman” and “Swing Song”
32	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“Explained” and “Twice Times”
33	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“The Morning Walk”, “Cradle Song” and “Waiting at the Window”
34	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“Pinkle Purr” and “Wind on the Hill”
35	<i>Now We Are Six</i>	“Forgotten”, “In the Dark” and “The End”
36		End of Term Exam

When We Were Very Young

- * Reading 1 –Read “Corner-of-the-Street” and “Buckingham Palace” from *When We Were Very Young*.

Before the Reading

- * Connection: Using the title as a guide, of what you think *When We Were Very Young* might be? What does it mean to be “very young”? In what way are poems different from stories?
- * Watch the video “Changing the Guard” at Buckingham Palace. Tell a friend or family member of what you learned. [R: Poetry, Literary Worlds I] Share with students that it is important to never touch a guard and not to expect him to smile. Be sure to locate London, England on a map or globe.

After the Reading

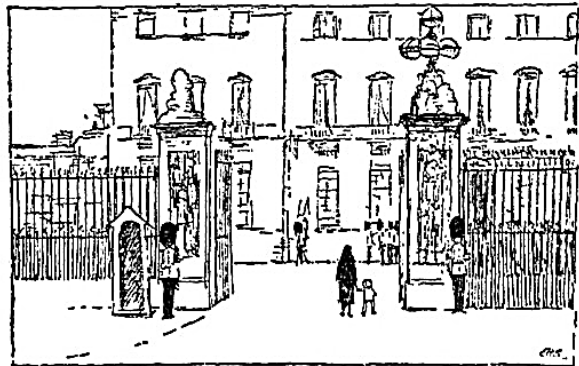
Narration Suggestions –Choose One

“Corner-of-the-Street”

- Draw a picture of a street corner by drawing two intersecting roads. Draw a picture of yourself standing at one of the street corners. Add as many details to your picture as you would like. You might even consider naming both of your streets and writing their names each in their own street sign. Share your picture, telling of it.
- Tell why this poem has the title “Corner-of-the-Street”.

“Buckingham Palace”

- Tell why you think that Alice would *not* like to be king. [or queen]
- Tell which parts of the poem are repeated. Why do you think they are repeated?
- Give three questions that you would ask if you were with Christopher Robin and Alice.



When We Were Very Young

- * Reading 2 –Read “Happiness”, “The Christening” and “Puppy and I” from *When We Were Very Young*.

Before the Reading

- * Connection: In what ways are poems similar to stories? What story does “Buckingham Palace” tell us?
- * Word to Know: Macintosh

After the Reading

Narration Suggestions –Choose One

“Happiness”

- Tell why you think the title of this poem is “Happiness”.
- Tell what brings you happiness.

“The Christening”

- Tell why you think this poem is titled “The Christening”.
- Tell what name you would choose if you had a dormouse and why you would name it this.
- Research to find a picture of a dormouse. Draw a picture of it and write the name you would give it underneath your picture.

“Puppy and I”

- Tell why the boy would not go with the other people and animals but would go with the puppy.
- Add a verse to the poem by following its pattern. You might use a cow for your animal, white splotches for its description and grass for its food. You can also create your own ideas.
- Draw a picture of a cow (with white splotches eating grass) or draw a picture to match your own idea for a verse at the top of your paper. Copy your verse underneath your picture and then share your verse with someone.

