

Lesson 5



THE LAND OF STORY-BOOKS

At evening when the lamp is lit,
Around the fire my parents sit;
They sit at home and talk and sing,
And do not play at anything.

Now, with my little gun, I crawl
All in the dark along the wall,
And follow round the forest track
Away behind the sofa back.

There, in the night, where none can spy,
All in my hunter's camp I lie,
And play at books that I have read
Till it is time to go to bed.

These are the hills, these are the woods,
These are my starry solitudes;
And there the river by whose brink
The roaring lions come to drink.

I see the others far away
As if in firelit camp they lay,
And I, like to an Indian scout,
Around their party prowled about.

So, when my nurse comes in for me,
Home I return across the sea,
And go to bed with backward looks
At my dear land of Story-books.

— ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



Lesson 5.1

Prose & Poetry

LITERARY ELEMENTS

3 Observe the Invention and Arrangement
♦ **Lyrical Elements**

- The Land of Story-Books is the imaginary land which the young boy visits each evening when his family gathers around the fire. This land and its inhabitants are inspired by the books he has read.
- Mostly sense of sight – the gun, the boy crawling behind the sofa, the hills, the stars, the woods, etc.
- His imagination is compared to a land. He compares himself to an Indian scout, coming and going from this land so silently that no one hears him or suspects what he is doing, though they are sitting right there with him.

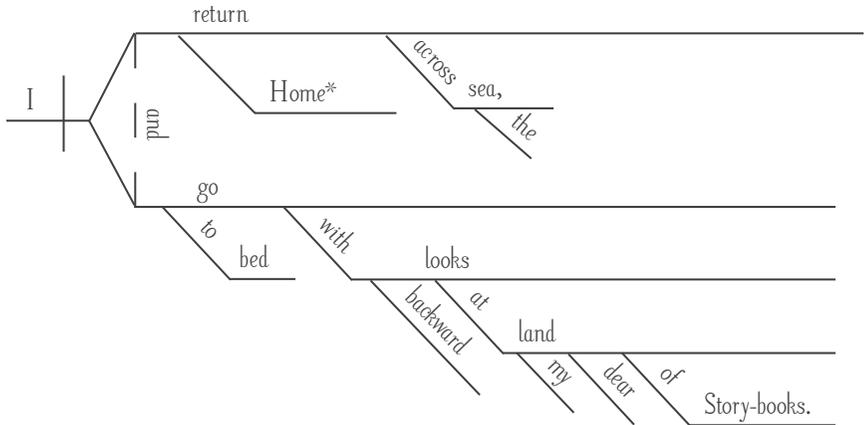
4 Investigate the Context
♦ **Identify the poem's Literary Genre**

- **Genre by literary period** – late 19th century British
- **Genre by poetic/narrative category** – lyrical

Language Logic

SENTENCE DIAGRAMMING AND PARSING

Home I return (across the sea), and go (to bed) (with backward looks) (at my dear land) (of Story-books.)



*Home is an adverbial noun here. See Sentence Sense – Modifiers: Adverbial Nouns

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	DEFINE	CLASSIFY	PROPERTIES	FUNCTION
looks	noun	idea	common	3rd plural neuter	OP <i>with</i>
sea	noun	thing or place	common	3rd singular neuter	OP <i>across</i>
Story-books	noun	thing	common	3rd plural neuter	OP <i>of</i>

Lesson 5.2

Prose & Poetry

RHYME ANALYSIS

Rhyme Scheme: AABB

Eloquent Expression

COPIA REVIEW: VERBS

Answers will vary: 1. So, when my nurse *too soon arrives* for me, home I *retire regretfully* across the sea.

2. I *journey ruefully* to bed with backward looks at my dear land of Story-books.

Lesson 5.3

Prose & Poetry

RHYMING WORDS

Spelled the Same: *it – sit; sing – anything; track – back; brink – drink; away – lay; scout – about; looks – books.*

Spelled Differently: *crawl – wall; spy – lie; read – bed; woods – solitudes (consonance); me – sea*

Rhyming Words (Answers may vary): drawl, awl, squall, fall, doll, loll, maul, y'all

Language Logic

PARSING THE PERSONAL PRONOUN – HARVEY’S EXERCISE 65

1. He and I attend the same school. 3. Have you seen him to-day?
 6. The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. 11 . My country, 't is of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee, I sing. 12. Thou great Instructor, lest I stray, Teach thou my erring feet thy way.

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	DEFINE	CLASSIFY	PROPERTIES	FUNCTION
1. he	pronoun	unknown	personal	3rd singular masculine	subject
1. I	pronoun	unknown	personal	1st singular common	subject
3. you	pronoun	unknown	personal	2nd singular or plural	subject
3. him	pronoun	unknown	personal	3rd singular masculine	DO <i>seen</i>
6. his	pronoun	<i>the wicked</i>	personal	3rd singular masculine	shows possession
11. My	pronoun	the poet	personal	1st singular common	shows possession
11. thee	pronoun	<i>my country</i>	personal	2nd singular feminine (usually)	OP <i>of</i>
11. I	pronoun	the poet	personal	1st singular common	subject
11. thee	pronoun	<i>my country</i>	personal	2nd singular feminine (usually)	OP <i>of</i>
12. Thou	pronoun	<i>God</i>	personal	2nd singular masculine	direct address

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	DEFINE	CLASSIFY	PROPERTIES	FUNCTION
12. I	pronoun	the poet	personal	1st singular common	subject
12. thou	pronoun	<i>God</i>	personal	2nd singular masculine	subject
12. my	pronoun	the poet	personal	1st singular common	shows possession
12. thy	pronoun	<i>God</i>	personal	2nd singular masculine	shows possession

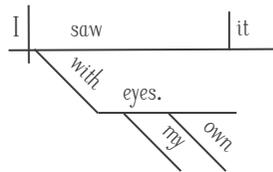
SENTENCE DIAGRAMMING

1. Have you seen him today?



**Today* is an adverbial noun here. See Sentence Sense – Modifiers: Adverbial Nouns

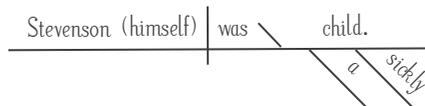
2. I saw it (with my own eyes.)



3. The Scot, Robert Louis Stevenson, wrote this poem.



4. Stevenson himself was a sickly child.



Eloquent Expression

COPIA REVIEW: SYNONYMS

Answers will vary: When my *nanny* shows up for me, to my house* I journey across the ocean, and go to my sleep with longing glances at my precious province of *fairy tales*.

*Because *home* is an adverbial noun, any synonym will probably require the addition of a preposition.

COPIA REVIEW: ANTONYMS

Answers will vary: I see the others *not nearby*.

Lesson 5.4

Prose & Poetry

STANZA FORM

“Land of Story-Books” is written in elegiac (heroic) quatrain. This is the stanza form for all the poems we have studied thus far.

Language Logic

PARSING THE POSSESSIVE PRONOUN – HARVEY’S EXERCISE 69

1. The farm is neither his nor theirs. 2. Is that horse of yours lame yet? 4. He is an old friend of ours. 5. This book is not mine; it must be his or hers. 7. Friend of mine, why so sad?

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	DEFINE	CLASSIFY	PROPERTIES	FUNCTION
1. his	pronoun	possessor and thing possessed (<i>farm</i>)	possessive	3rd singular masculine	PN renames <i>farm</i>
1. theirs	pronoun	possessor and thing possessed (<i>farm</i>)	possessive	3rd plural common	PN renames <i>farm</i>
2. yours	pronoun	possessor and thing possessed (<i>horse</i>)	possessive	2nd singular common (or plural)	OP of
4. ours	pronoun	possessor and thing possessed (<i>friend</i>)	possessive	1st plural common	OP of
5. mine	pronoun	possessor and thing possessed (<i>book</i>)	possessive	1st singular common	PN renames <i>book</i>
5. his	pronoun	possessor and thing possessed (<i>book</i>)	possessive	3rd singular masculine	PN renames <i>book</i>
5. hers	pronoun	possessor and thing possessed (<i>book</i>)	possessive	3rd singular feminine	PN renames <i>book</i>
7. mine	pronoun	possessor and thing possessed (<i>friend</i>)	possessive	1st singular common	OP of

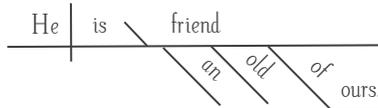
PARSING THE INTERROGATIVE PRONOUN – HARVEY'S EXERCISE 78

1. Who saw the horse run? 2. Whose house is that on the hill yonder? 5. Which will you have, the large or the small book? 8. What can be more beautiful than that landscape?

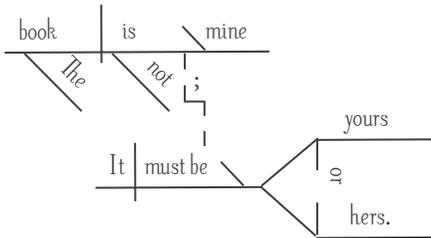
WORD	PART OF SPEECH	DEFINE	CLASSIFY	PROPERTIES	FUNCTION
1. Who	pronoun	used to ask a question	interrogative	3rd singular common	subject
2. Whose	pronoun	used to ask a question	interrogatives	3rd singular common	shows possession (modifies <i>house</i>)
5. Which	pronoun	used to ask a question	interrogative	3rd singular neuter	DO <i>will have</i>
8. What	pronoun	used to ask a question	interrogative	3rd singular neuter	subject

SENTENCE DIAGRAMMING

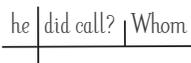
1. He is an old friend of ours.



2. This book is not mine; it must be yours or hers.



3. Whom did he call?



Eloquent Expression

COPIA REVIEW – OPENING WORDS

Answers will vary: Home I return across the sea when my nurse comes in for me, and go to bed with backward looks at my dear land of Story-

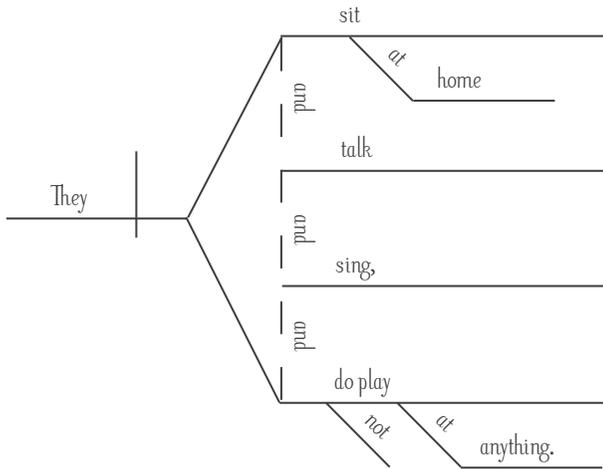
books. Across the sea I return home when my nurse comes in for me, and go to bed with backward looks at my dear land of Story-books.

Lesson 5.5

Language Logic

SENTENCE DIAGRAMMING AND PARSING

They sit (at home) and talk and sing, and do not play (at anything.)



WORD	PART OF SPEECH	DEFINE	CLASSIFY	PROPERTIES	FUNCTION
They	pronoun	stands in for parents	personal	3rd plural common	subject
home	noun	place	common	3rd singular neuter	OP at

WORD	PART OF SPEECH	DEFINE	CLASSIFY	PROPERTIES	FUNCTION
anything	noun	thing	common	3rd singular neuter	OP <i>at</i>

Eloquent Expression

COPIA REVIEW – SENTENCE CLASS BY USE

Answers will vary: Do I play at books that I have read? Self, play at books that you have read. I play at books that I have read!

COPIA REVIEW – DIALOGUE

Answers will vary: “They sit at home,” the poet complained, “and talk and sing, and do not play at anything.” “They sit at home and talk and sing,” marveled the poet, “and do not play at anything.”