

The Duck and the Kangaroo



Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,
“Good gracious! How you hop!
Over the fields and the water too,
As if you never would stop!
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,
And I long to go out in the world beyond!
I wish I could hop like you!”
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.



“Please give me a ride on your back!”

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

“I would sit quite still, and say nothing but ‘QUACK’,

The whole of the long day through!

And we’d go to the Dee and the Jelly Bo Lee,

Over the land, and over the sea;

Please take me a ride! O do!”

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.





Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,
“This requires some little reflection;
Perhaps on the whole it might bring me LUCK,
And there seems but one objection,
Which is, if you’ll let me speak so bold,
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,
And would probably give me the roo-
Matiz!” said the Kangaroo.

Said the Duck, “As I sat on the rocks,
I have thought over that completely.
And I bought four pairs of worsted socks
Which fit my web feet neatly.
And to keep out the cold I’ve bought a cloak,
And everyday a cigar I’ll smoke,
All to follow my own dear true
Love of a Kangaroo!”



Said the Kangaroo, “I’m ready!
All in the moonlight pale;
But to balance me well, dear Duck, sit steady!
And quite at the end of my tail!”
So away they went with a hop and a bound,
And they hopped the whole world three times round;
And who so happy – O who,
As the Duck and the Kangaroo?

- *Edward Lear*

About the poet

Edward Lear (12 May 1812 – 29 January 1888) was a British artist, illustrator, author, and poet, renowned today primarily for his literary nonsense, in poetry and prose. In his childhood he suffered from ill health. After a long decline in health, he died of heart disease. His principal areas of work as an artist were threefold: as a draughtsman employed to illustrate birds and animals; making coloured drawings during his journeys; as an author, Lear is principally known for his popular nonsense works, rather than as a travel writer. These show a great ability to use with relish the sound of real and invented English words. The poem ‘*The Duck and the Kangaroo*’ is a poem with a touch of light humour.



Glossary

long (v)	:	want / wish very much
hop (v)	:	move by jumping
ride (n)	:	a short journey
the Dee and the Jelly Bo Lee (n)	:	wonderful places imagined by the poet
reflection (n)	:	thought / careful thought
bold (adj)	:	(here) frank
roo-matiz (n)	:	a disease that makes the muscles and joints painful
worsted socks	:	woolen socks
web feet (n)	:	feet that have toes connected by membrane
cloak (n)	:	a coat that protects from cold



I. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the Duck get bored in life? What did it want to do?
2. What problem did the Kangaroo find with the Duck? How was it solved?
3. Who was happy in the end? Why?
- *4. What is the underlying message in the poem?

II. Read the above poem once again and choreograph it as described here under.

Do you know how to process choreography?

Here is the process.

Think of the following.

1. How do we begin the poem? www.apteachers.in
(Sing the poem three or four times to register the tune and rhythm.)
2. What are the characters in the poem?
(The Duck and the Kangaroo)
3. What is the theme of the poem?
(Wish of the Duck to go round the world)
4. What is the theme of each stanza? (sub themes)

Sl. No.	Stanza	Theme
1.	First	Wish of the Duck to hop and go round the world
2.	Second	Requesting the Kangaroo to take her for a ride
3.	Third	Conditional acceptance of the Kangaroo
4.	Fourth	Assurance of comfort from the Duck's side
5.	Fifth	Fulfilment of desire

5. Convert the themes into incidents and performable actions.
6. What are the actions involved in the poem?
- *Boredom with present life (feelings of boredom, pain)*
 - *Desire to go round the world (miming)*
 - *Wearing socks and smoking cigarettes (joy)*
 - *Displeasure due to wet and cold feet (gestures)*
 - *Sitting on kangaroo at the end of the tail (miming)*
 - *Joy (facial expression and gestures)*
7. Who are the characters involved?
(The Duck, the Kangaroo and other creatures in the pond like frogs, fish etc.)
8. Where does the incident take place (location)?
(By the side of the pond)
9. Presentation of the choreography on the stage:
- *The chorus team sings the poem*
 - *The characters perform their actions*
 - *The action of the Duck and the Kangaroo– expressing boredom, wish, discomfort, joy etc.*
 - *The actions related to miming, facial expressions and gestures*
 - *Actions related to hopping, sitting, walking, jumping etc.*

