

From a Railway Carriage

- 6 Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
12 Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches,
20 And running along like troops in a battle,
28 All through the meadows, the horses and cattle,
38 All of the sights that I see from the train,
44 Fly as thick as driving rain,
54 And all at once, in the blink of an eye,
58 Painted stations whistle by.
- 66 Here is a child who clammers and scrambles,
72 All by himself and gathering brambles,
80 Here is a man who stands and gazes,
89 And here is a field for picking the daisies!
96 Here is a forest of mighty oak,
103 Next to a factory pumping out smoke,
113 And here is a road, and there is a river:
119 Each a glimpse and gone forever!



Quick Q



1. What does the poem mean by 'running along like troops in a battle'?



2. What do you think the 'blink of an eye' means?



3. Why do you think the poem says 'running along like troops in a battle'?



4. Where do you think the train is going?

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Answers



1. What does the poet mean by 'faster than fairies and witches'?



2. What do you think 'in the blink of an eye' means?
Very fast - faster than you can see!



3. Why do you think the poet says 'running along like troops'?
Accept any inference. The train is moving quickly because troops in a battle run quickly.



4. Where do you think the poet might be going?
Accept any sensible answer. The poet might be going to a railway station.