

From a Railway Carriage

by Robert Louis Stevenson

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 clambers 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!

Questions



1. What does the poet say the train is faster than?



2. What do you think the phrase **in the blink of an eye** means?



3. Why do you think the train is described as **running along like troops in a battle**?



4. Where do you think the poet is travelling to on the train?

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Answers



1. What does the poet say the train is faster than?

The poet says the train is faster than fairies and witches.



2. What do you think the phrase **in the blink of an eye** means?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think 'in the blink of an eye' means really fast because when you blink, it's gone.



3. Why do you think the train is described as **running along like troops in a battle**?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the train is described as 'running along like troops in a battle' because it's moving so quickly.



4. Where do you think the poet is travelling to on the train?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the poet might be going on holiday.