

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 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!



Quick 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?
fairies and witches.



2. What do you think the phrase 'in the blink of an eye' means?
Very fast - faster than the time it takes to blink.



3. Why do you think the train is described as 'running along like troops in a battle'?
Accept any inference that relates to the text, e.g. because troops in a battle move quickly and the train is moving quickly.



4. Where do you think the poet is travelling to on the train?
Accept any sensible prediction e.g. I think the poet might be going on holiday.