



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Do you like the wind? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Can you remember a time when you were in a very windy place?
- 3 Do you remember your dreams?
- 4 Tell your partner(s) about a dream you had recently.

1 Read the poems. As you read, think about this question.

Which poem do you like most? Why?

'Windy Nights' and 'The Land of Nod' from *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885)

Robert Louis Stevenson

WINDY NIGHTS

Whenever the moon and stars are set,
Whenever the wind is high,
All night long in the dark and wet,
A man goes riding by.

- 5 Late in the night when the fires are out,
Why does he gallop and gallop about?
Whenever the trees are crying aloud,
And ships are thrown by sea,
By, on the highway, low and loud,
10 By at the gallop goes he.
By at the gallop he goes, and then
By he comes back at the gallop again.

THE LAND OF NOD

From breakfast on through all the day
At home among my friends I stay,
But every night I go abroad
Afar into the land of Nod.
5 All by myself I have to go,
With none to tell me what to do –
All alone beside the streams
And up the mountain-sides of dreams.

- The strangest things are there for me,
10 Both things to eat and things to see,
And many frightening things abroad
Till morning in the land of Nod.

- Try as I like to find the way,
I never can get back by day,
15 I can't remember loud and clear
The curious music that I hear.

These are two poems about night-time. One is about the wind at night, the other is about sleep and dreams. *The land of nod* is an expression which means *sleeping*. Sleep is an activity but many writers describe sleep as a place, a land, a country – somewhere we go when we are asleep.

GLOSSARY

whenever	every time
set	not changing
out	not burning
gallop	if a horse gallops, it runs very fast
abroad	in or to a foreign country
streams	small rivers
frightening	making you feel afraid
curious	strange or unusual



LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Read the text again and answer the questions.

1 Who do you think the man is in 'Windy Nights'?

2 Why do you think the poet uses the word *by* so many times in 'Windy Nights'?

3 What does 'The Land of Nod' look like?

4 Why do you think the speaker in 'The Land of Nod' poem can't remember the music they heard there?

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VOCABULARY

3 Complete the description of a picture using the words in the box.

curious galloping out stream

It's a windy place – a woman is on a horse and it is ¹ along the road. There is a small ² of very clear water. It's a ³ picture – it doesn't look like a real place. There's a man by the road putting ⁴ a fire, I don't know why!

4 One word is not spelled correctly in each sentence.
Find the word and correct the spelling.

- 1 That cheese sandwich had a very curieous taste –
like fish.

.....

- 2 It was a scary movie and I was fryghtened.

.....

- 3 We always go aboard in the summer – usually to
England.

.....

- 4 I buy popcorn whenever I go to the cinema.

.....

WRITING

5 Think of a place – it can be somewhere real or you can imagine it. It's a place you see in a dream. Describe the place by answering these questions.

- What does it look like?
- Are you happy or afraid?
- Is anyone else in the dream?
- What kind of music can you hear in this place?
- How do you feel when you wake up?

SPEAKING

- 6 Work in a group. Prepare one of the poems to read out loud. Different people can read different lines and some lines can be read by everyone at the same time. Practise your poem and perform it to the class.

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