

## From a Railway Carriage

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh in 1850. When he wrote this poem in the 1880s, steam trains were a very popular form of transport. They enabled people to travel long distances at much greater speeds than ever before. This poem describes a journey on a steam train.

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,  
 Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;  
 And charging along like troops in a battle,  
 All through the meadows the horses and cattle:  
 5 All of the sights of the hill and the plain  
 Fly as thick as driving rain;  
 And ever again, in the wink of an eye,  
 Painted stations whistle by.

Here is a child who clambers and scrambles,  
 10 All by himself and gathering brambles;  
 Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;  
 And there is the green for stringing the daisies!  
 Here is a cart run away in the road  
 Lumping along with man and load;  
 15 And here is a mill, and there is a river:  
 Each a glimpse and gone for ever!

Robert Louis Stevenson

