

talk  
to  
me!

LET'S TALK EMPOWERMENT. LET'S TALK ENGLISH

# Beehive

## 7: The Duck and the Kangaroo

by  
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### 1. Summary

This is a funny poem about the friendship between two characters - a duck and a kangaroo. The duck is bored of living in his pond, and envies the kangaroo who can hop everywhere. He longs to explore the world outside the pond. He asks the kangaroo to give him a ride on his back. But the kangaroo is worried that the duck's wet and cold feet might give him rheumatism. The duck has thought about that already, and tells the kangaroo that he has bought socks and a cloak to keep warm. The Kangaroo then agrees to carry the duck on the end of his tail. The two of them hop merrily around the world three times.

The poem tells us that a friend who helps others, not only gives joy to others, but also enjoys happiness himself.

Listen to a recitation of this poem. Click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbIDjwECPu4&list=RDOzUQGKpNVcE&index=5>

The kangaroo is a very unusual animal. To learn more about it click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BbZTCdB2X4>

### 2. Stanza By Stanza Explanation

I  
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,  
"Good gracious! how you hop!  
Over the fields and the water too,  
As if you never would stop!  
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,  
And I long to go out in the world beyond!  
I wish I could hop like you!"  
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

The Duck tells the Kangaroo that he admires his ability to hop everywhere. In contrast, the Duck states that he is bored in his "nasty pond" and "longs" to explore the world.

## II

"Please give me a ride on your back!"  
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.  
"I would sit quite still, and say nothing but 'Quack',  
The whole of the long day through!  
And we'd go to the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee,  
Over the land, and over the sea;  
Please take me a ride! O do!"  
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

The Duck asks the Kangaroo to take him for a ride on his back so that he can see more of the world. He promises to sit quietly and say nothing but "Quack" all day.

## III

Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,  
"This requires some little reflection;  
Perhaps on the whole it might bring me luck,  
And there seems but one objection,  
Which is, if you'll let me speak so bold,  
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,  
And would probably give me the roo-  
Matiz!" said the Kangaroo.

The Kangaroo tells the Duck that he will have to think about this. It sounds like a good idea. However, he has one fear. The Duck has cold and wet feet and that will probably give him rheumatism.

## IV

Said the Duck, "As I sat on the rocks,  
I have thought over that completely,  
And I bought four pairs of worsted socks  
Which fit my web-feet neatly.  
And to keep out the cold I've bought a cloak,  
And every day a cigar I'll smoke,  
All to follow my own dear true  
Love of a Kangaroo!"

The Duck reassures the Kangaroo that he has thought about this problem already. He has bought four pairs of socks, and a cloak to keep warm. He also says that he will smoke a cigar everyday!

### V

Said the Kangaroo, "I'm ready!  
All in the moonlight pale;  
But to balance me well, dear Duck, sit steady!  
And quite at the end of my tail!"  
So away they went with a hop and a bound,  
And they hopped the whole world three times round;  
And who so happy — O who,  
As the Duck and the Kangaroo?

The Kangaroo agrees to carry the Duck. He requests the Duck to balance himself carefully at the end of his tail. Then the Duck and the Kangaroo go hopping around the world three times. They are both very happy.

### 3. Vocabulary

1. **'Good gracious!'** – exclamation of surprise, dismay, or alarm  
**Good gracious!** What a big girl you are!
2. **The Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee:** Imaginary places
3. **O do!** – please  
**O do!** Take me for a ride on your new bike!
4. **Reflection** – thinking  
On further **reflection**, I have decided to do my B.A. rather than to get a job.
5. **Unpleasantly** – unkindly  
The teacher was sorry she spoke to me **unpleasantly**, she told me she was very tired.
6. **Roo-Matiz** – made up word for rheumatism, which is a disease that causes pain and stiffness in the joints.  
My grandmother has **rheumatism** and it is very hard for her to move around.
7. **Worsted** – high quality wool  
In the winter, I wear pants made from **worsted** wool.

8. **Cloak** – long, sleeveless clothing that hangs loosely from the shoulders; it is worn over other clothes  
My friend bought a worsted wool **cloak** for winter.
9. **Cigar** – cigars are rolls of dried tobacco leaves which people smoke  
I hate the smell of **cigar** smoke because it is very strong.
10. **Pale** – light coloured  
She looked very **pale** after her surgery.
11. **Bound** – to move quickly with large leaps; also to tie up  
The goat **bounded** up the mountain effortlessly.

#### 4. Literary Devices

##### 1. Rhyme scheme of the poem:

Stanza 1 - ababccaa

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,	<b>a</b>
“Good gracious! how you hop!	<b>b</b>
Over the fields and the water too,	<b>a</b>
As if you never would stop!	<b>b</b>
My life is a bore in this nasty pond,	<b>c</b>
And I long to go out in the world beyond!	<b>c</b>
I wish I could hop like you!”	<b>a</b>
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.	<b>a</b>

Stanza 2 - ababccbb

“Please give me a ride on your back!”	<b>a</b>
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.	<b>b</b>
“I would sit quite still, and say nothing but ‘Quack’,	<b>a</b>
The whole of the long day through!	<b>b</b>
And we’d go to the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee,	<b>c</b>
Over the land, and over the sea;	<b>c</b>
Please take me a ride! O do!”	<b>b</b>
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.	<b>b</b>

## Stanza 3, 4, 5 – ababccdd

Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,	<b>a</b>
“This requires some little reflection;	<b>b</b>
Perhaps on the whole it might bring me luck,	<b>a</b>
And there seems but one objection,	<b>b</b>
Which is, if you’ll let me speak so bold,	<b>c</b>
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,	<b>c</b>
And would probably give me the roo-	<b>d</b>
Matiz!” said the Kangaroo.	<b>d</b>

2. **Alliteration:** The repetition of a consonant sound at the start of two or more closely placed words.

1. Good gracious - ‘g’ sound is repeated
2. how you hop - ‘h’ sound is repeated
3. sit quite still, and say - ‘s’ sound is repeated
4. But to balance- ‘b’ sound is repeated
5. dear duck - ‘d’ sound is repeated
6. whole world - ‘w’ sound is repeated

3. **Refrain:** The use of a musical rhyming sentence throughout the poem. “Said the duck to the kangaroo” has been repeated to lay stress on the request made by the duck to the kangaroo.