

The Duck and the Kangaroo

Two friends, the Duck and the Kangaroo, are about to set out on a long pleasure trip. The Kangaroo, though happy to carry the Duck all the way on the tip of his tail, is wary of her wet feet. What will the Duck do to make the Kangaroo feel comfortable over land and sea? Let us find out how they go about it.



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.

'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 on a ride! O do!
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,
'This requires a 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.

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!'

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?

EDWARD LEAR



glossary

worsted socks: woollen socks

working with the poem

1. Taking words that come at the end of lines, write five pairs of rhyming words. Read each pair aloud
For example, pond – beyond
2. Complete the dialogue.
Duck : Dear Kangaroo! Why don't you

Kangaroo : With pleasure, my dear Duck,
though _____
Duck : That won't be a problem. I will

3. The Kangaroo does not want to catch 'rheumatism'. Spot this word in stanza 3 and say why it is spelt differently. Why is it in two parts? Why does the second part begin with a capital letter?
4. Do you find the poem humorous? Read aloud lines that make you laugh.

A February Surprise

The trees are still asleep today
And do not seem to know
A storm came by last night and heaped
Their branches full of snow.

See how they start up with surprise
As one by one they wake.
"Why, gracious me!" they seem to say,
And give themselves a shake.

—Ralph Marcellino

