

# Block City

by Robert Louis Stevenson *from A Child's Garden of Verses*

What are you able to build with your blocks?  
Castles and palaces, temples and docks.  
Rain may keep raining, and others go roam,  
But I can be happy and building at home.

Let the sofa be mountains, the carpet be sea,  
There I'll establish a city for me:  
A kirk and a mill and a palace beside,  
And a harbor as well where my vessels may ride.

Great is the palace with pillar and wall,  
A sort of a tower on the top of it all,  
And steps coming down in an orderly way  
To where my toy vessels lie safe in the bay.

This one is sailing and that one is moored:  
Hark to the song of the sailors on board!  
And see on the steps of my palace, the kings  
Coming and going with presents and things!

Now I have done with it, down let it go!  
All in a moment the town is laid low.  
Block upon block lying scattered and free,  
What is there left of my town by the sea?

Yet as I saw it, I see it again.  
The kirk and the palace, the ships and the men,  
And as long as I live and where'er I may be,  
I'll always remember my town by the sea.

**Questions**

1. What does the poem say the carpet is suppose to be?
2. What are two sets of rhyming words in the poem?
3. What do you think happens when the poet says, "Now I have done with it, down let it go! / All in a moment the town is laid low"?
4. If you were to build a city out of blocks, what kind of buildings would you have?