

# Picture-books in Winter

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

Summer fading, winter comes—  
Frosty mornings, tingling thumbs,  
Window robins, winter rooks,  
And the picture story-books.

Water now is turned to stone  
Nurse and I can walk upon;  
Still we find the flowing brooks  
In the picture story-books.

All the pretty things put by,  
Wait upon the children's eye,  
Sheep and shepherds, trees and crooks,  
In the picture story-books.

We may see how all things are,  
Seas and cities, near and far,  
And the flying fairies' looks,  
In the picture story-books.

How am I to sing your praise,  
Happy chimney-corner days,  
Sitting safe in nursery nooks,  
Reading picture story-books?

**Questions**

1. List three words in the poem that rhyme with “books.”
2. What does the poet mean when he says, “Water is now turned to stone”?
3. “Sheep and shepherds” is an example of alliteration. Find another one in the poem.
4. What is one thing the poet says he sees in the books?

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**Vocabulary List**

Each of the vocabulary words below are used in the reading passage. As you read the passage, pay attention to context clues that suggest the word's meaning.

1. Fading
2. Frosty
3. Rooks
4. Pretty
5. Crooks
6. Praise

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**Context Clues**

Using context clues from the sentences in the passage, underline the correct meaning of the word in boldface.

1. "Summer **fading**, winter comes..."

- a. growing    b. weakening    c. graying    d. starting

2. "**Frosty** mornings, tingling thumbs..."

- a. warm    b. hot    c. wet    d. chilly

3. "Window robins, winter **rooks**..."

- a. birds    b. bugs    c. flakes    d. drifts

4. "All the **pretty** things put by..."

- a. cold    b. soft    c. beautiful    d. small

5. "Sheep and shepherds, trees and **crooks**..."

- a. thieves    b. streams    c. curves    d. plants

6. "How am I to sing your **praise**..."

- a. approval    b. criticism    c. prayer    d. song