

What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

1. Read about a writer

- Read *Edward Lear – Biography* and *Edward Lear Facts*.
- Which of these pieces of writing do you think gives the best information? Why? Which three facts about Edward Lear do you find most interesting?
- What other information would you like to research about Edward Lear? Write 3-5 questions.

2. Read and listen to a poem

- Read *The Owl and the Pussycat by Edward Lear*. Read it twice - in your head and out loud.
- You can listen to the poem being sung as a song here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cpi_jT2QMMs.
- What do you like about the poem? Is there anything that you dislike about it? What patterns can you spot in it?
- Sort the *Events* from the poem into the right order.

3. Now for some writing

- Imagine your own magical journey. Answer the questions on *Magical Journey Planner*.
- Write about your magical journey. You can write it as a story or you could try writing it as a poem.

Well done. Show your writing to a grown-up. Find out from them where they would like to go on a magical journey and what might happen if they did.

Try the Fun-Time Extra

Choose one of the Owl and Pussycat *Events* to illustrate.

Edward Lear – Biography



Edward Lear lived from 1812 to 1888, in the Victorian period. He was good at all sorts of things. He illustrated books about birds and animals with beautiful drawings, and painted colourful pictures of all the places he travelled to in the world. He played the guitar and the flute and wrote lots of songs. He was also a well-known writer of stories and poems. He is most famous nowadays for writing ‘nonsense verse’ – quirky poems full of funny ideas and words that have a strong rhythm and lots of rhyming. Lear also liked writing a special kind of funny poem called a ‘limerick’.

Edward Lear - Five Facts



Because Edward Lear had so many brothers and sisters (twenty of them altogether!), he was mainly looked-after by his big sister, Ann. His tired Mum was too busy with all the other children!

Poor Edward was not a very healthy person. He suffered from a disease called epilepsy and he did not have very good eyesight. That is why most photographs or drawings of Lear show him wearing little round glasses.

Edward Lear was only 19 years old when he wrote his first book. Funnily enough, for someone who became famous for nonsense verse and limericks, it was a serious book about parrots.

When you mention limericks, everyone thinks of Edward Lear. In fact, Lear did not invent limericks and he never even called his poems limericks, preferring to say they were 'nonsense poems'.

Edward loved travelling. During his life he visited Italy, Greece, Egypt, Switzerland and Malta. He did all his travelling before cars, aeroplanes or coaches had been invented, so it took Lear weeks and weeks to get to these countries from England.

The Owl and the Pussy-cat

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,
They took some honey and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
“O lovely Pussy, O Pussy my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!”



Pussy said to the Owl, “You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! Too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?”
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-Tree grows
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.

“Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?” Said the Piggy, “I will.”
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.

Edward Lear

Events

Cut out and sort or use numbers to show the order of events in the poem.

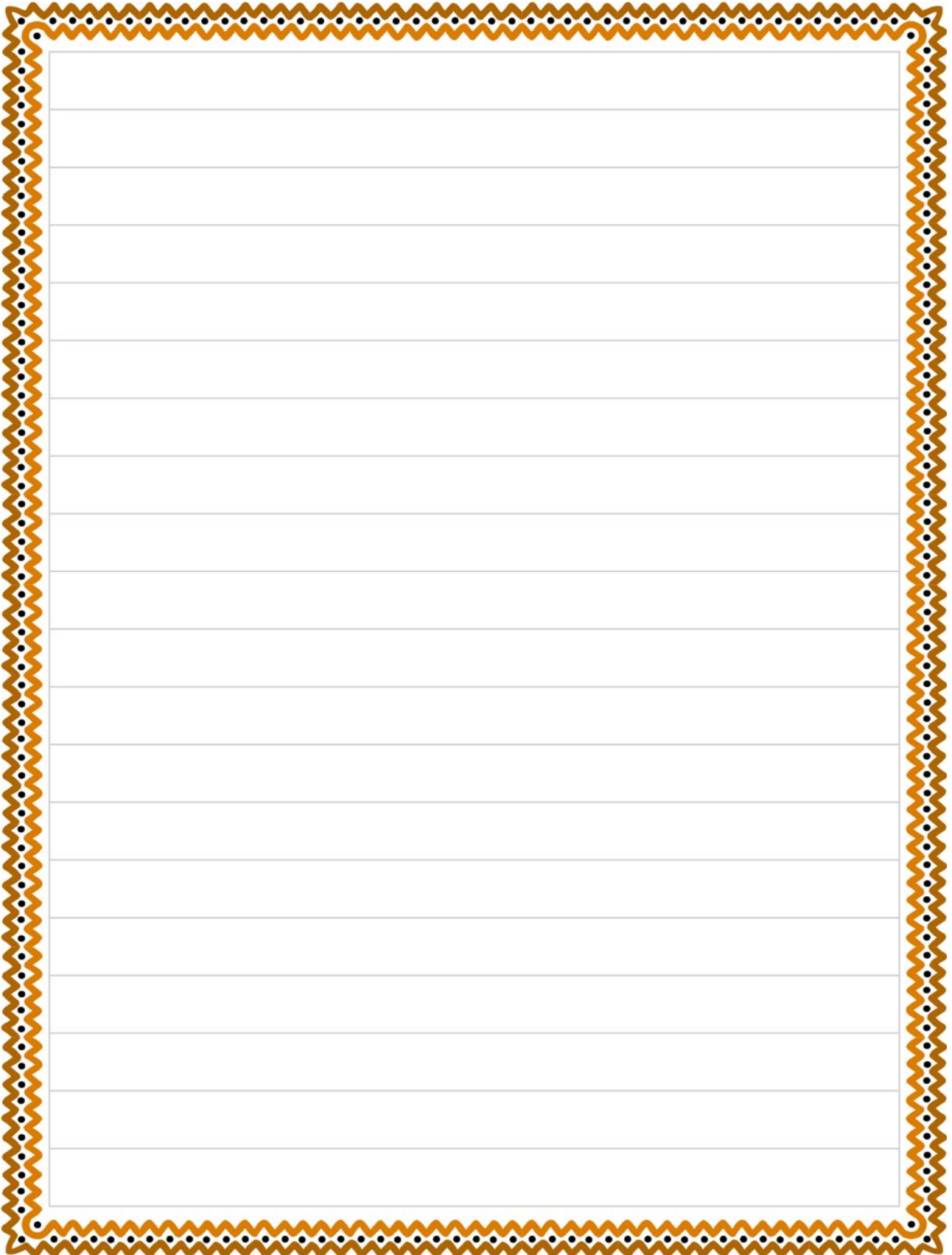
	The Pig agrees to sell his nose ring for a shilling so that the Owl and the Pussycat can use it to get married.
	The Owl and the Pussycat take some honey and some money and set off to sea in a pea-green boat.
	They sail on and arrive in the land of the Bong-Tree, where they meet a Pig who has a ring on the end of his nose.
	The Owl and the Pussycat are married by the Turkey who lives on the hill.
	They decide to get married but realise that they do not actually have a wedding ring.
	The Owl sings and plays his guitar and tells the Cat how very beautiful she is.
	The pair finish their lovely evening by dancing together on the seashore by the light of the moon.
	The two animals have a wedding feast at which they eat mince and slices of quince. They use a runcible spoon to eat their quince slices.

Magical Journey Planner

Where would you go?	
Who would you take?	
How would you get there?	
What would happen?	

Your magical journey

Write about your magical journey here.



A large rectangular writing area with a decorative orange and black zigzag border. The interior of the rectangle is filled with horizontal lines, providing a guide for writing. The border consists of a repeating pattern of orange zigzags with small black dots at the peaks and valleys.

Answers - Events

5	The Pig agrees to sell his nose ring for a shilling so that the Owl and the Pussycat can use it to get married.
1	The Owl and the Pussycat take some honey and some money and set off to sea in a pea-green boat.
4	They sail on and arrive in the land of the Bong-Tree, where they meet a Pig who has a ring on the end of his nose.
6	The Owl and the Pussycat are married by the Turkey who lives on the hill.
3	They decide to get married but realise that they do not actually have a wedding ring.
2	The Owl sings and plays his guitar and tells the Cat how very beautiful she is.
8	The pair finish their lovely evening by dancing together on the seashore by the light of the moon.
7	The two animals have a wedding feast at which they eat mince and slices of quince. They use a runcible spoon to eat their quince slices.