

Owl and the Moon

One night Owl went down to the seashore. He sat on a large rock and looked out at the waves. Everything was dark. Then a small tip of the moon came up over the edge of the sea. Owl watched the moon. It climbed higher and higher into the sky. Soon the whole, round moon was shining. Owl sat on the rock and looked up at the moon for a long time.

“If I am looking at you, moon, then you must be looking back at me. We must be very good friends.” The moon did not answer, but Owl said, “I will come back and see you again, moon. But now I must go home.” Owl walked down the path. He looked up at the sky. The moon was still there. It was following him.

“No, no, moon,” said Owl. “It is kind of you to light my way. But you must stay up over the sea where you look so fine.” Owl walked on a little farther. He looked at the sky again.

There was the moon coming right along with him. “Dear moon,” said Owl, “you really must not come home with me. My house is small. You would not fit through the door. And I have nothing to give you for supper.”



Owl kept on walking. The moon sailed after him over the tops of the trees. “Moon,” said Owl, “I think that you do not hear me.” Owl climbed to the top of a hill. He shouted as loudly as he could, “Good-bye, moon!”

The moon went behind some clouds. Owl looked and looked. The moon was gone. "It is always a little sad to say good-bye to a friend," said Owl.

Owl came home. He put on his pyjamas and went to bed. The room was very dark. Owl was still feeling sad.

All at once, Owl's bedroom was filled with silver light. Owl looked out of the window. The moon was coming from behind the clouds. "Moon, you have followed me all the way home. What a good, round friend you are!" said Owl.

Then Owl put his head on the pillow and closed his eyes. The moon was shining down through the window. Owl did not feel sad at all.

(from Owl at Home by Arnold Lobel)



The Owl and the Pussycat

By Edward Lear

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 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.



Sample Performance Tasks

Learners (with prompting and support from the teacher) compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of the owl in Arnold Lobel's *Owl and the Moon* to those of the owl in Edward Lear's poem "The Owl and the Pussycat." (LIT 5.5)

(Resource 3)

Using Edward Lear's poem "The Owl and the Pussycat", learners draw a story map and put the main events in order. They use the story map to write the poem in the form of a story. (LIT 5.5)

Using Edward Lear's poem "The Owl and the Pussycat", learners mark all the examples where **personification** (when you describe something by giving it human qualities) is used. In pairs, learners discuss why they have chosen these examples. (LIT 5.4)

After reading or listening to the story, learners **ask and answer questions** about the events that occur using key details from the text. (LIT 5.2/LIT 5.5)

(Resource 1)

Learners read the two texts and **distinguish** between the text that is a story and the text that is a poem. They identify some features of poetry and stories and give examples from the texts. (LIT 5.4)

After reading the story *The Owl and the Moon*, learners **empathise** with the main character and comment on events and ideas from the text or own experiences. (LIT 5.6)

(Resource 2)

Learners practise reciting the poem or retelling the story. They can record their own performance and make use of additional props. (LIT 5.2/LIT 5.5)

(Resource 4)


Analysing the Literature

Provided below are discussion questions you can use in small groups, with the whole class or for written tasks. Each question is written at two levels so you can choose the right question for your learners. For each question, a few key points are provided for your reference as you discuss the text with the learners.

Story Element	Level 1	Level 2	Key Discussion Points
Character	How do you know that Owl is a good friend in this story?	In what ways does Owl show the moon that he is a good friend?	Owl says that they must be very good friends. He also says he will come back to see the moon again. Owl feels sad when he thinks the moon is gone.
Setting	Describe the setting of this story.	What could you see, feel, hear, smell, as you read?	The setting takes place outside of Owl's home. This setting changes from the seashore to the path through the trees, and to the top of a hill.
Character	How does Owl feel at the very end of the story?	Describe how Owl's mood changes throughout the story.	Owl is happy at the beginning of the story as he talks with the moon. Then, Owl becomes sad as he says good-bye to the moon. Owl is happy again when the moon shines through his window.
Plot	Why does Owl think the moon is following him?	What are some clues that show why Owl thinks the moon is following him home?	Owl thinks the moon is looking at him. Then, the moon is still in the same place, even after Owl walks away

Post-Reading Theme Thoughts

Directions: Pretend you are Owl. Draw a picture of a happy face or a sad face to show how Owl would feel about each statement. Then use words to explain your picture.

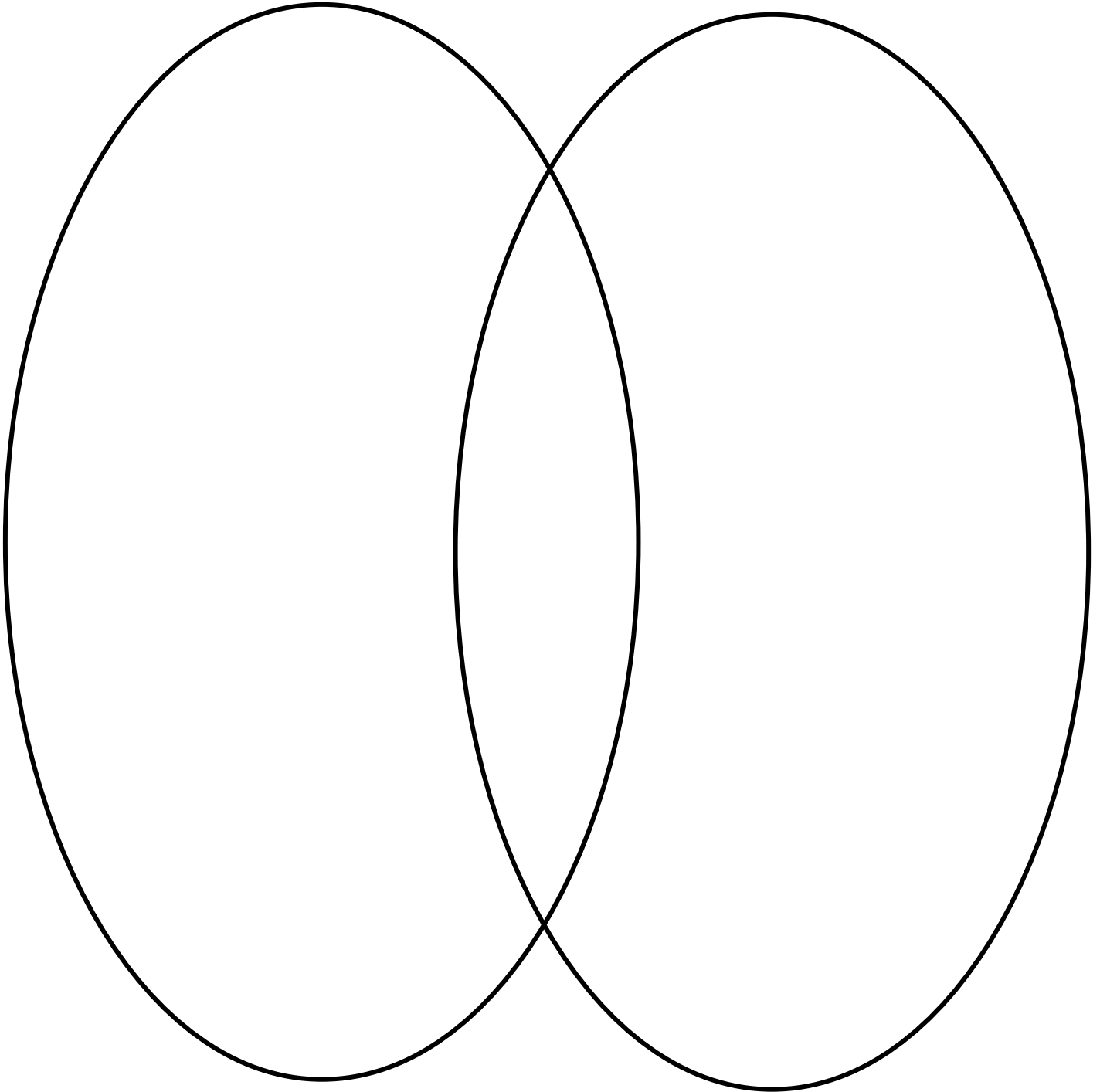
Statement	How does Owl feel? 	Explain Owl's Answer
It is wonderful to have a friend.		
It is hard to say good-bye to a friend.		
Friends must always agree.		
The moon is a good friend.		

Compare and Contrast

Directions: Read the text *Owl and the Moon* by Arnold Lobel and the poem “The Owl and the Pussycat” by Edward Lear. Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of the owl in the two texts.

Owl and the Moon

“The Owl and the Pussycat”



Recording a Story or Poem

Directions: Record yourself telling the story *Owl and the Moon* or reciting the poem “The Owl and the Pussycat”. Add visual displays to help your recording come alive. Play your recording for your peers.

The story or poem I will record is:

I used a _____ to make my recording.

When I recorded, I...

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ★ spoke clearly | ★ used descriptive words |
| ★ used different voices | ★ used descriptive verbs |
| ★ changed my volume | ★ used sound effects |
| ★ used gestures | ★ read with expression |

I added visuals to my storytelling.

Here is what I added:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| ★ drawings | ★ puppets |
| ★ clipart | ★ book illustrations |
| ★ photographs | ★ props |
| ★ 3D models | ★ _____ |