

# Tea Time: Robert Browning

Post by Wende

Robert Browning was born in a suburb of London, England on May 7, 1812. His mother was an accomplished pianist and a devout Christian. His father, who worked as a bank clerk, was an artist, scholar, and collector of books and pictures. Through most of his childhood, Robert was homeschooled, being proficient at reading and writing by the age of five, and learning Latin, Greek, and French by the time he was fourteen. In 1828, he enrolled at the University of London, but he soon left, desiring to read and learn at his own pace. Robert Browning enjoyed the poetry of Elizabeth Barrett, and after corresponding with her for a time, married her in 1846. The couple moved to Italy, where they both continued to write. They had a son, Robert "Pen" Browning, in 1849. After Elizabeth's death in 1861, Robert and Pen moved to London. In his long life Robert Browning wrote many volumes of poems. *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* is always a favorite with children, as are *How they brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix*, and *Rabisbon*. His most popular poems are *Pippa Passes*, *The Ring and the Book*, *A Blot on the 'Scutcheon*, and *Saul*. Robert Browning died on the same day that his final volume of verse, *Asolando*, was published, in 1889.



The following poem "Spring Song", excerpted from *Pippa Passes*, is great for younger children to memorize and recite due to its simple rhyme scheme and vocabulary.

The year's at the spring,  
And day's at the morn;  
Morning's at seven;  
The hillside's dew-pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn:  
God's in His Heaven –  
All's right with the world!

**Activities:**

Read *Poetry for Young People*, Robert Browning

Recite and/or memorize the poem, "Spring Song"

Record what you learn about Robert Browning on the notebooking page.

Analyze "Spring Song" excerpt using the study notes.

**Tea Time Treat:**

For a tea time treat, these [Snail Cookies](#) sound fun to make!

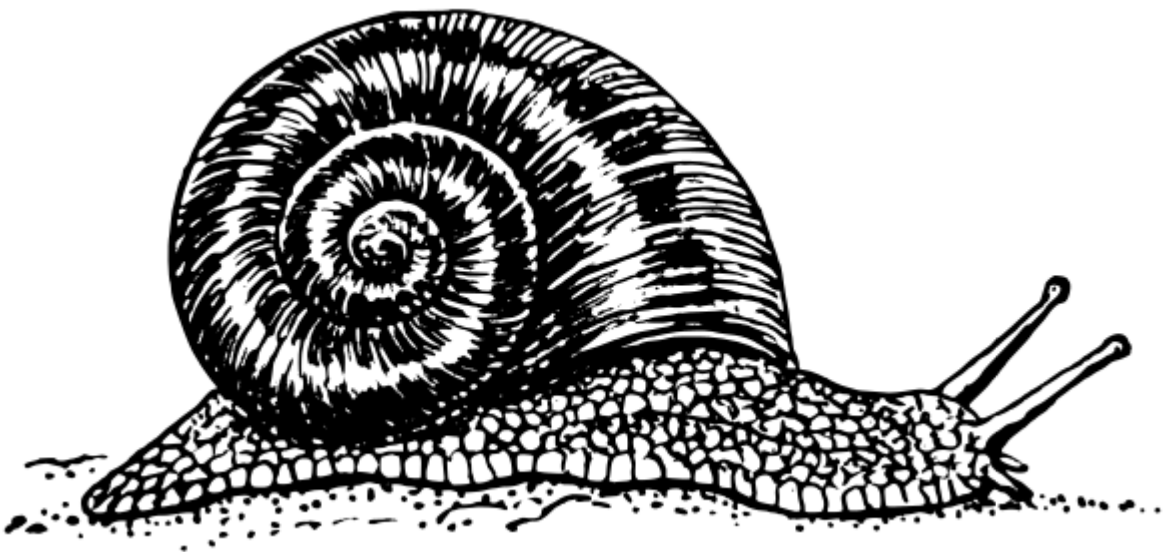
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“Spring Song”, excerpted from *Pippa Passes*

By Robert Browning

The year's at the spring,  
And day's at the morn;  
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**“Spring Song”, excerpt from *Pippa Passes*  
By Robert Browning**

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**“Spring Song”, excerpt from *Pippa Passes*  
By Robert Browning**

*The year's at the spring,*

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*And day's at the morn;*

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*Mornings' at seven;*

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*The hillside's dew-pearled;*

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*The lark's on the wing;*

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*The snail's on the thorn:*

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*God's in His Heaven -*

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*All's right with the world!*

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“Spring Song”, excerpt from *Pippa Passes*  
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**Study Notes**

Define:

Excerpt: \_\_\_\_\_

Dew-pearled: \_\_\_\_\_

Lark: \_\_\_\_\_

Interpret:

What made the poet think “All’s right with the world”?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem.

Line – Poems are made up of lines. How many lines in this excerpt? \_\_\_\_\_

Stanza – A group of lines make up a stanza. How many stanzas in this excerpt? \_\_\_\_\_

Rhyme Scheme - The pattern of rhyming words is called the rhyme scheme. The rhyme scheme is shown by using a different letter to label each line that ends with a new rhyme. Write the last word of each line below, and label the different rhyme sounds with consecutive letters starting with “a.”

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Evaluate:

The value of a poem is determined by the impact it has on its reader. How does this poem make you feel?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“Spring Song”, excerpt from *Pippa Passes*  
by Robert Browning

**Study Notes**

Define:

Excerpt: a passage from a larger work

Dew-pearled: moisture leaving small pearl-like drops on cool surfaces

Lark: small singing bird

Interpret:

What made the poet think “All’s right with the world”?

Poet believed everything was just where it should be.

Examine:

Look at the individual elements of the poem.

Line – Poems are made up of lines. How many lines in this excerpt? 8

Stanza – A group of lines make up a stanza. How many stanzas in this excerpt? 1

Rhyme Scheme - The pattern of rhyming words is called the rhyme scheme. The rhyme scheme is shown by using a different letter to label each line that ends with a new rhyme. Write the last word of each line below, and label the different rhyme sounds with consecutive letters starting with “a.”

Spring a

Morn b

Seven c

Dew-pearled d

Wing a

Thorn b

Heaven c

World d

Evaluate:

The value of a poem is determined by the impact it has on its reader. How does this poem make you feel?

Answers will vary.