

The Duck and the Kangaroo

by Edward Lear

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo,
"Good gracious! how you hop
Over the fields, and the water too,
As if you never would stop!
My life is a bore in this nasty pond;
And I long to go out in the world beyond:
I wish I could hop like you,"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

"Please give me a ride on your back,"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo:
"I would sit quite still, and say nothing but 'Quack'
The whole of the long day through;
And we 'd go the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee,
Over the land, and over the sea:
Please take me a ride! oh, do!"
Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

Said the Kangaroo to the Duck,
"This requires some little reflection.
Perhaps, on the whole, it might bring me luck;
And there seems but one objection;

Which is, if you'll let me speak so bold,
Your feet are unpleasantly wet and cold,
And would probably give me the
roo-Matiz," said the Kangaroo.

Said the Duck, "As I sat on the rocks,
I have thought over that completely,
And I bought four pairs of knitted socks
Which fit my webbed feet neatly.
And to keep out the cold, I've bought a cloak,
And every day a cigar I'll smoke,
All to follow my own dear true
Love of a Kangaroo!"

Said the Kangaroo, "I'm ready!
All in the moonlight pale;
But to balance me well, dear Duck, sit steady!
And quite at the end of my tail!"
So away they went with a hop and a bound,
And they hopped the whole world three times round;
And who is so happy, oh who,
As the Duck and the Kangaroo?



1. What does the Duck want in the first and second verses?



2. 'This requires a little reflection.'
What does reflection mean in this sentence?



3. How does Duck solve the problem of his cold, wet feet?



4. How do you think both characters feel in the fifth verse? Why?

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Answers

1. What does the Duck want in the first and second verses?

Accept a reasonable synopsis of the verses which states that the Duck wanted to be like/ hop like a kangaroo by riding on the Kangaroo's back.

2. 'This requires a little reflection.'

What does reflection mean in this sentence?

In this sentence, reflection means thought or consideration. (Accept any appropriate synonyms.)

3. How does Duck solve the problem of his cold, wet feet?

The Duck has bought four pairs of knitted socks to wear.

4. How do you think both characters feel in the fifth verse? Why?

Accept any of the following answers providing that a reasonable reason is given to justify why, for example:

- **Happy because the text says, 'who is so happy as the Duck and the Kangaroo?'**
- **Happy because they enjoyed hopping around the world.**
- **Excited to be hopping around the world.**
- **Overjoyed about their adventure.**