

Now, let's read this lovely poem about a boy sailing his boats on a river.

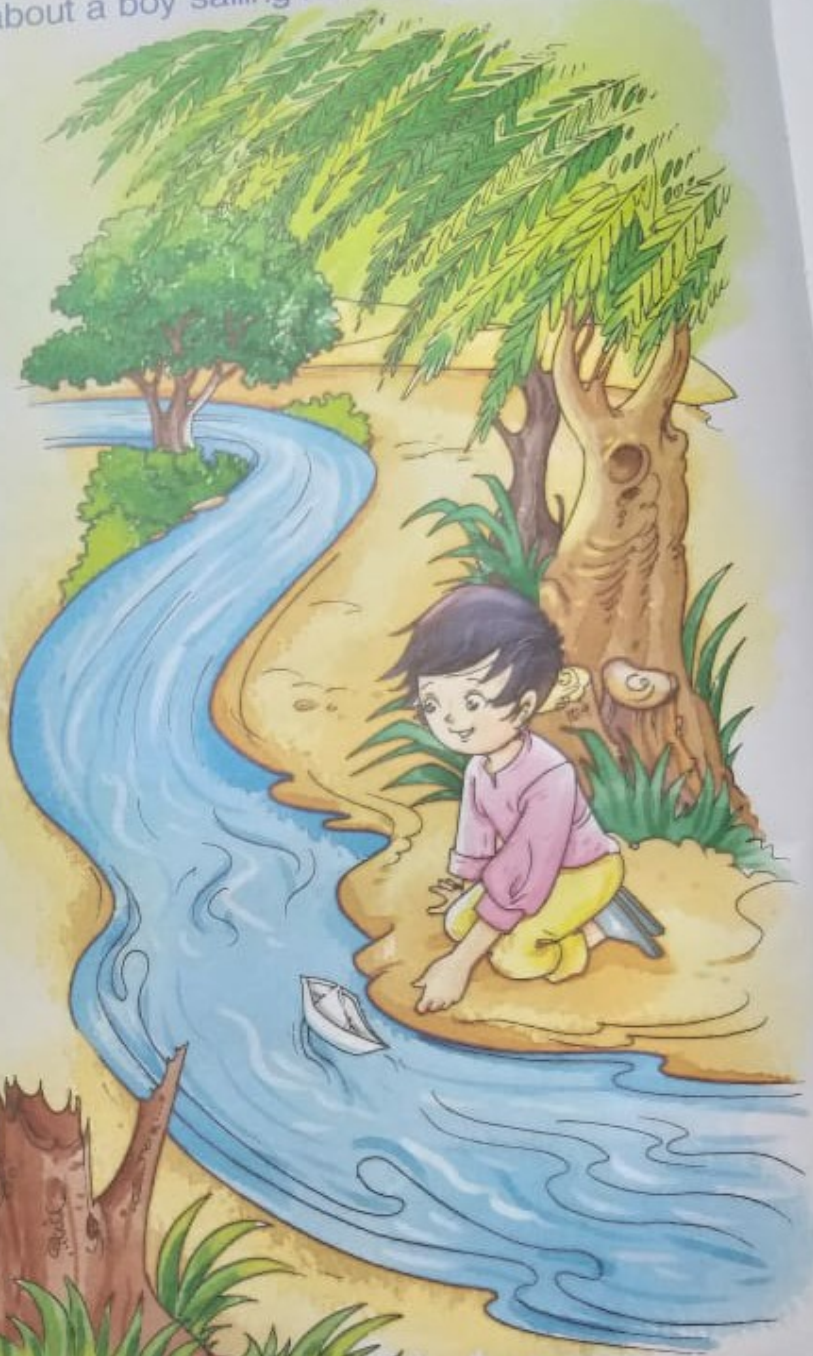
Dark brown is the river,
Golden is the sand.
It flows along for ever,
With trees on either **hand**.

Green leaves a-floating,
Castles of the **foam**,
Boats of mine a-boating—
Where will all come home?

On goes the river
And out past the **mill**,
Away down the **valley**,
Away down the hill.

Away down the river,
A hundred miles or more,
Other little children
Shall bring my boats **ashore**.

—Robert Louis Stevenson



About the poet



Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 – 1894) was a Scottish novelist and travel writer. His famous works are *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, and *A Child's Garden of Verses*.

hand: (here) side **castles:** large, strong buildings with thick high walls and towers built by kings or queens in olden days
foam: very small air bubbles on the surface of water or waves **mill:** a building next to a river in which there is machinery to grind grain into flour **valley:** low land between hills or mountains **ashore:** towards land – coming from the sea or a river



Let's answer

Complete the summary of the poem by filling in the blanks.

children river falling dark-brown hill trees
valley leaves float flowing mill

The poet is standing near a (1) river watching the boats (2) float. The water of the river is (3) dark brown in colour. Both sides of the riverbanks are filled with (4) trees. Their (5) leaves keep (6) falling into the waters of the river and float in the water. The river keeps (7) flowing along. It flows past a (8) mill and down the (9) valley and then down a (10) hill. It covers hundreds of miles. The poet wonders when the boats floating on the river will come ashore. He wishes that other (11) children like him will bring them ashore.

