

Oh, Give Me a Home in a Book

By Carol Montgomery

Time = less than 1 1/2 min.

Readability = grade 1.6

Cast (3 or 3 choral groups):

Reader 1

Reader 2

Reader 3

Suggestion: Use this script with our Readers Theater script “[My Western Home on the Range](#)” ([Script Buffet Club member’s only](#)) to incorporate the history of the famous poem this script humorously imitates. See our other silly poem “[Not Your Home on the Range](#)” ([member’s only](#)) for more fun from “Home on the Range.”

Note: Of course some readers will recognize the reference to the book Tacky the Penguin in this poem. But, what other stories does it bring to mind (e.g., Androcles)? Are they only fiction stories?

Vocabulary:

elephants
penguins
dinosaurs
animals
knights
princesses
treasures
kingdoms



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Reader 1: Oh, give me a home,
Where the elephants roam,
Where the lions and tigers can play.
Where monkeys live free to be best friends with me,
And the penguins sing loudly all day.

All: Home, home in a book,
Where the lions and tigers can play.
Where monkeys live free to be best friends with me,
And the penguins sing loudly all day.

Reader 2: Oh, give me a home
Where the dinosaurs roam
Where the food is not going to be me!
Where animals talk as we go for a walk,
And the bugs do not bite, but serve tea.

All: Home, home in a book,
Where the lions and tigers can play.
Where monkeys live free to be best friends with me,
And the penguins sing loudly all day.

Reader 3: Oh, give me a home,
Where the real heroes roam,
Where the knights only fight with a sword.
Where princesses cling to the dream of a king,
And the treasures of kingdoms are stored.

All: Home, home in a book,
Where the lions and tigers can play.
Where monkeys live free to be best friends with me,
And the penguins sing loudly all day.



Curriculum Links (Valid June 2021):

<http://www.kshs.org/p/read-kansas-intermediate-i-11-home-on-the-range/14894>

Kansas Historical Society lesson on the history of “Home on the Range” with 10 printables for fourth grade, but easily adaptable. Many of the worksheets focus on the odd vocabulary in the different verses. **This is probably the best and most detailed lesson on the song itself that you’ll find**; although units on cowboys, the Westward Movement, and pioneers may also include the song.

<http://www.kshs.org/kansapdia/home-on-the-range/17165>

Kansas Historical Society page on their state song, “Home on the Range.” Includes a short history, a nice large photo of Dr. Brewster Higley, and **all the verses to the song**.

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1142515>

A 6 minute National Public Radio audio on “Home on the Range”, an **abbreviated, audible history**. Part of the Present at the Creation series, it includes references to other resources—including the log cabin where Dr. Brewster Higley lived. (I’m not sure he wrote the song in the house. He may have been OUTSIDE! In this audio you can listen to versions of the song as it changed through time. Note: At the end of the 6 minute mark, the audio reverts to the current live NPR broadcast. :)

<https://www.kcur.org/arts-life/2017-08-04/for-the-people-of-this-kansas-prairie-town-home-on-the-range-is-not-just-an-iconic-song#stream/0>

An abbreviated, written history of the song and its writer, Dr. Brewster Higley.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_on_the_Range

Wiki article on “Home on the Range” with a photo of Dr. Brewster Higley and a comparison of the major versions.

NOTE: Although I checked for children’s library books on “Home on the Range”, nothing was super helpful. But, I did like this story about John Lomax—who collected all the cowboy songs he could via his “Ediphone,” including “Home on the Range”:

<http://www.amazon.com/Home-Range-Lomax-Cowboy-Songs/dp/0399239960>

Amazon says this is a story of discover, “which shows that if you love something as a child, you don’t have to give it up as an adult!”

You Tube:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_YK7ebcZ2o

Video of “Home on the Range—Cowboy Songs” including **two verses. It would be easy to sing along with this. There may be video ads!** 1:52

