



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Do you like the wind? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Can you remember a time when you were in a very windy place?
- 3 Do you remember your dreams?
- 4 Tell your partner(s) about a dream you had recently.

These are two poems about night-time. One is about the wind at night, the other is about sleep and dreams. *The land of nod* is an expression which means *sleeping*. Sleep is an activity but many writers describe sleep as a place, a land, a country – somewhere we go when we are asleep.

- 1 Read the poems. As you read, think about this question.

Which poem do you like most? Why?

‘Windy Nights’ and ‘The Land of Nod’ from *A Child’s Garden of Verses* (1885)

Robert Louis Stevenson

WINDY NIGHTS

Whenever the moon and stars are set,
Whenever the wind is high,
All night long in the dark and wet,
A man goes riding by.

- 5 Late in the night when the fires are out,
Why does he gallop and gallop about?
Whenever the trees are crying aloud,
And ships are thrown by sea,
By, on the highway, low and loud,
- 10 By at the gallop goes he.
By at the gallop he goes, and then
By he comes back at the gallop again.

THE LAND OF NOD

From breakfast on through all the day
At home among my friends I stay,
But every night I go abroad
Afar into the land of Nod.



- 5 All by myself I have to go,
With none to tell me what to do –
All alone beside the streams
And up the mountain-sides of dreams.

- The strangest things are there for me,
- 10 Both things to eat and things to see,
And many frightening things abroad
Till morning in the land of Nod.

- Try as I like to find the way,
I never can get back by day,
- 15 I can’t remember loud and clear
The curious music that I hear.

GLOSSARY

whenever	every time
set	not changing
out	not burning
gallop	if a horse gallops, it runs very fast
abroad	in or to a foreign country
streams	small rivers
frightening	making you feel afraid
curious	strange or unusual

