

ENGLISH

THE DUCK AND THE KANGAROO

~Summary~

-by Edward Lear

Stanza- 1

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.

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet describes the talk between a Duck and his friend Kangaroo. The Duck told his friend Kangaroo that he was amazed at his ability to hop over the fields and water bodies. He says that hopping appears to be never ending. The Duck further said that he had been bored with his life in that pond. He had a strong desire to go out to the world that lies beyond that pond. He expressed his inability to hop like the Kangaroo. Due to his inability, he was very sad.

Stanza- 2

"Please give me a ride on your back!"
Said that 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 to the Dee, and the Jelly Bo Lee.
Over the land, and over the sea;
Please take me a ride! O do!"

Said the Duck to the Kangaroo.

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet further elaborates the conversation between the Duck and the Kangaroo. The Duck is requesting the Kangaroo to allow him to have a ride on his back to see the whole world. He added that he would sit still and say nothing but quack. Throughout the day, they would visit many places, which are beautiful and pleasing. They had planned to go over the field and over the seas. The Duck wished to go to imaginative places 'Dee' and the 'Jelly Bo Lee'. Saying all these, the Duck again put the request before the Kangaroo to allow him a ride on his back.

Stanza- 3

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.

Explanation: In this stanza, the poet has come out with the reply of the Kangaroo for the request made by the Duck. The continuous pleading of the Duck forced the Kangaroo to accept it. The Kangaroo thought that journey may bring good fortune to him. The Kangaroo told the Duck that there is a need of consideration so that there may be an ease in making the journey possible and favourable. The Kangaroo put an objection before the Duck saying that he would state his objection only if the Duck allowed him to say so. The objection of the Kangaroo was the unpleasantly wet and cold feet of the Duck. If the Kangaroo allowed the duck, with the cold feet, to ride his back, then he might catch cold for sure. The Kangaroo, thus, put his objection very clearly.

Stanza- 4

Said the Duck, "As I sat on the rocks,
I have thought over that completely,
And I bought four pairs of worsted socks
Which fit my web-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!"

Explanation: The stanza describes the situation after the objection of the Kangaroo to give a ride on his back. The Duck came up with its solution. He told Kangaroo that he had thought about it in detail when he was sitting over the rocks. He told the Kangaroo that he had bought some pairs of worsted fine smooth yarn) socks and a cloak to protect the Kangaroo from getting cold. The socks would keep his web-like feet dry which is always damp and the clock will provide him warmth. Also, he had decided to smoke a cigar so that he could keep himself warmer. He told Kangaroo that since he loved him, therefore he was already prepared with all this so that comfort could be ensured.

Stanza- 5

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 so happy - who,
As the Duck and the Kangaroo?

Explanation: In the last stanza, the poet describes the journey covered by the Duck and the Kangaroo. The Kangaroo told the Duck that they would start their journey on the day with moonlight. The Kangaroo issued some advice to the Duck that he should sit steady at the end of his tail in order to balance his hop properly. With all the preparations and instruction, the two went on their journey to the world. They went round the whole world three times. In the end, the poet leaves us with a question that which of the two-the Duck and the Kangaroo, would have been happier?

Conclusion of The Duck and the Kangaroo

The Duck and the Kangaroo Summary teaches about the importance and value of friendship.