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TREASURY READERS



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FIRST READER

AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY



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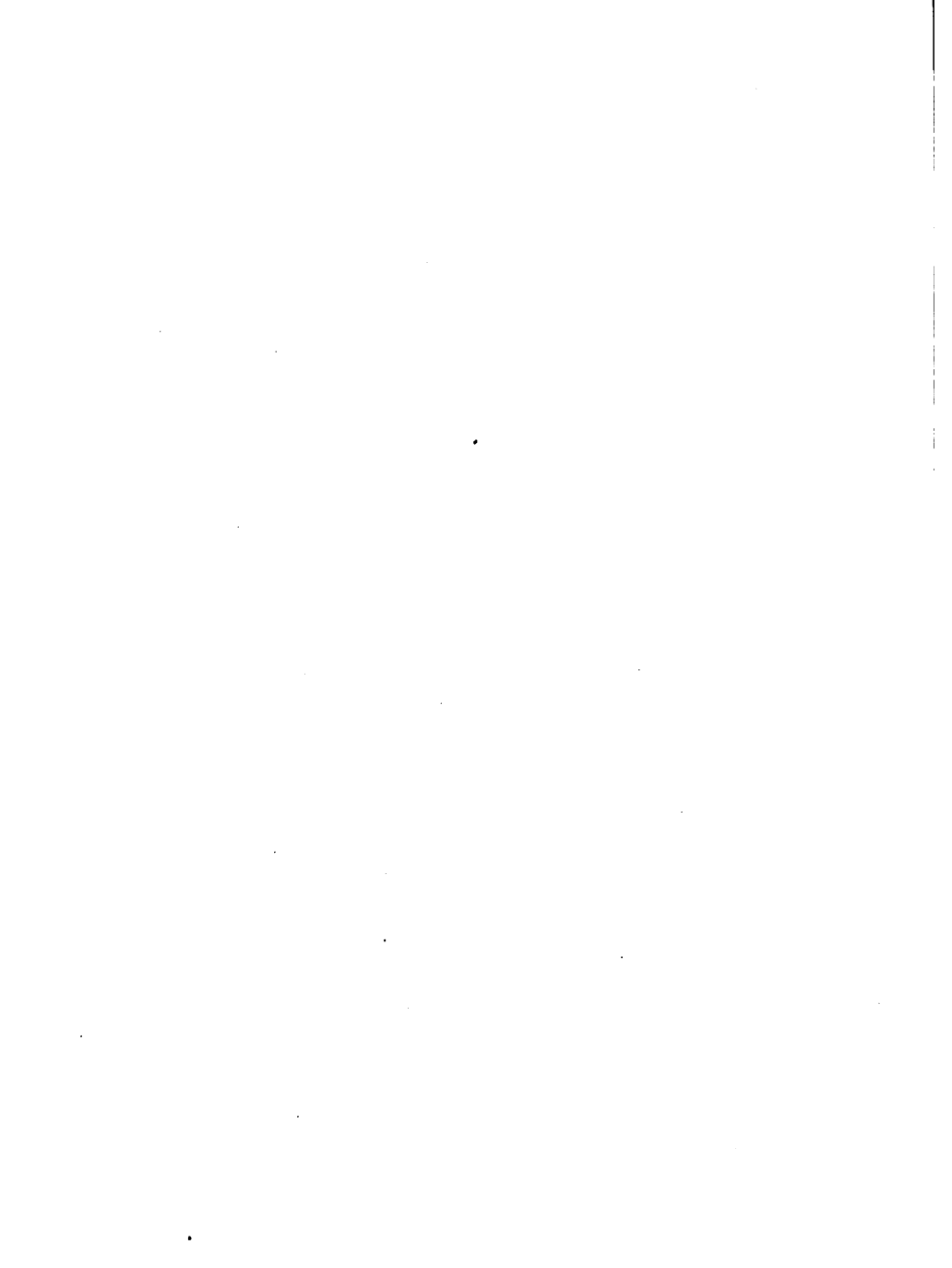
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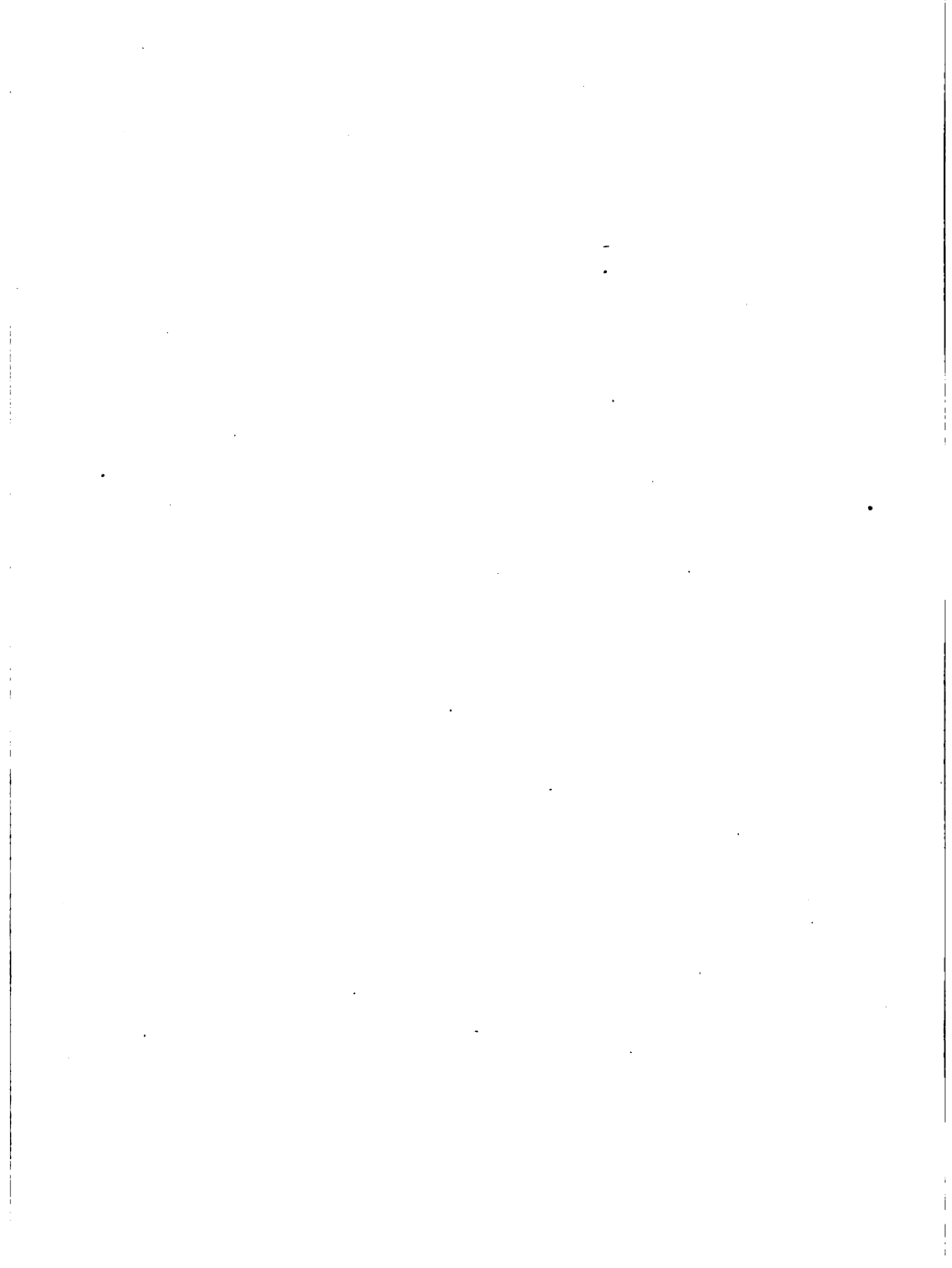
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GOLDEN TREASURY READERS

FIRST READER

BY

CHARLES M. STEBBINS

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AND

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BROOKLYN

ILLUSTRATIONS BY HERBERT E. MARTINI

NEW YORK ·· CINCINNATI ·· CHICAGO
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

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By CHARLES M. STEBBINS

PREFACE

THE essential characteristics of a first reader are the same as those of a good primer, — vitally interesting subject-matter, an effective system, and an attractiveness in the book itself that will arrest the child's attention and hold his interest.

Subject-matter. — The stories used in this book all deal with things that have been found to be intensely interesting to children; and they are told in language and in a style pleasing to children. Another feature of the material is its wide variety. As a result appeal is made to the widely differing temperaments among children, as well as to their various moods. The serious, the humorous, the pathetic, the real, the imaginative, the moral, — all find a place. In other words, the stories make a many-sided appeal to the child; and, consequently, lead to symmetrical mental development.

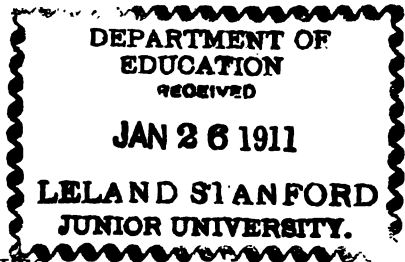
Method. — The method of teaching reading that underlies this book does not lay principal stress on the learning of a vocabulary, — a task which at best is irksome to the average child. The plan followed is simple, interesting, and extremely effective. The child is told the story by his teacher; he is led to talk about it, to tell it and retell it, till it becomes thoroughly his own, till he uses all the words freely and naturally in conversation. As soon as

he has learned to tell the story fluently, he undertakes to read it, and the undertaking is a comparatively easy matter. The stories in the book are divided into natural units, so that it is an easy matter to take each lesson as a story in itself; while the several units, taken together, form a kind of serial story, which continually leads the child's interest forward. Finally, the child learns to write about the story he has read.

Illustrations.—The pictures in the book are an essential part of the method. Their attractiveness, of course, adds to their value. In the study of the story before the class undertakes to read at all, the pictures form the basis of interesting conversational exercises, which both develop the child's power of observation and make free use of his imagination. All of this tends toward naturalness and force of expression.

Vocabulary.—The number of new words used in this book is intentionally somewhat smaller than that of most first readers. Time is given the pupil to master what he uses, and to practice word building by means of rhyme-families. Many of the words in the stories are studied first in the lists of rhymes. The vocabulary is so arranged at the end of the book that the teacher can use it to test pupils on their knowledge of each day's lesson.

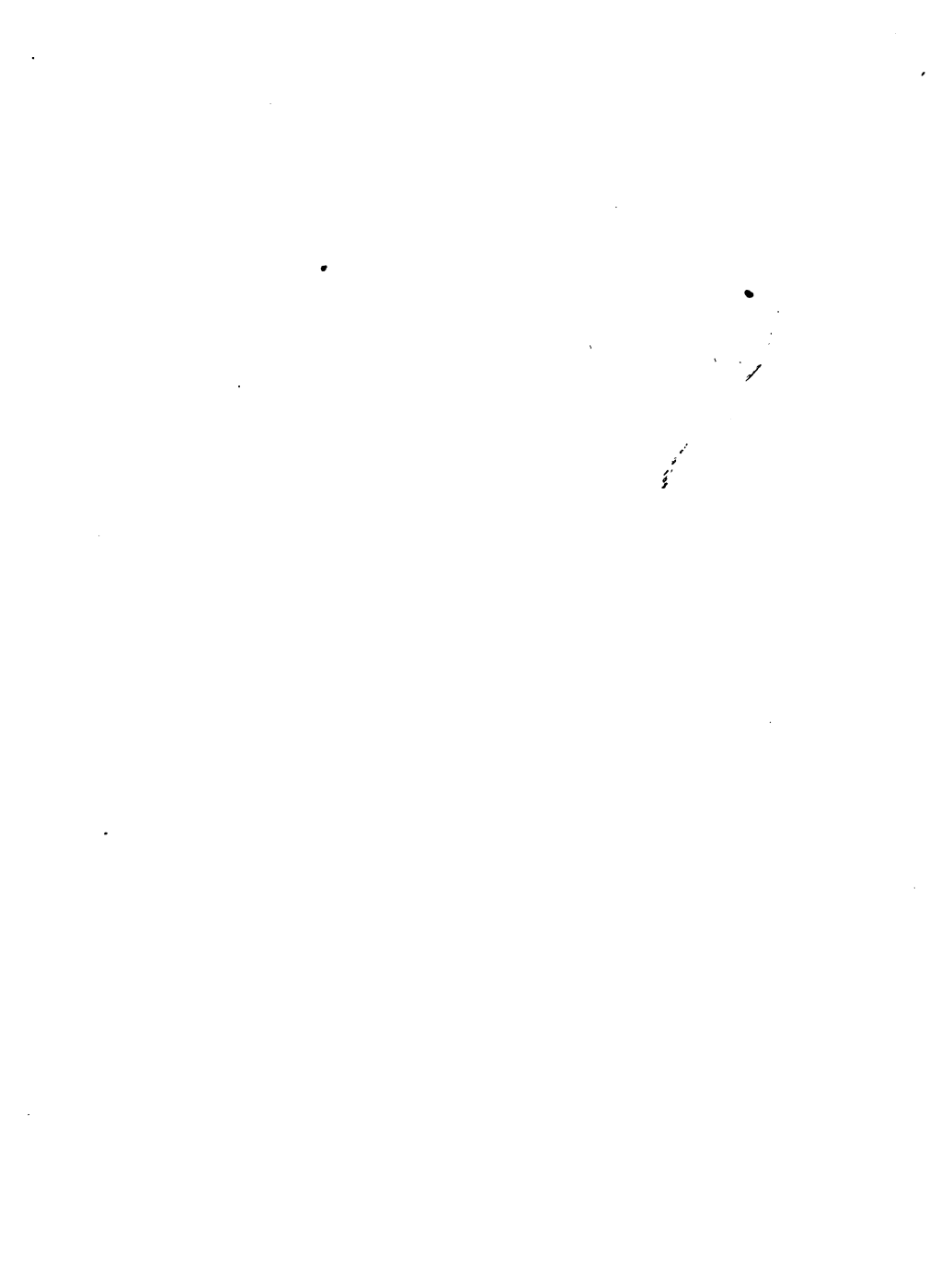
All the verse selections in the book should be memorized by the pupils.



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The cat and the mouse
Played in the malt-house.

The cat bit off the tail of the mouse.
“Cat, cat, give me my tail,” said
the mouse.

“No,” said the cat, “I will not give
you your tail till you go to the cow
and bring me some milk.”

mouse played off milk



First she leaped and then she ran,
Till she came to the cow and thus
began :

“Pray, cow, give me some milk,
That I may give the cat milk,
That the cat may give me my own
tail again.”

“No,” said the cow, “I will give you
no milk till you go to the farmer and
bring me some hay.”



First she leaped and then she ran,
Till she came to the farmer and thus
began :

“Pray, farmer, give me some hay,
That I may give the cow hay,
That the cow may give me milk,
That I may give the cat milk,
That the cat may give me my own
tail again.”

“No,” said the farmer, “I’ll not
give you any hay till you go to the
butcher and bring me some meat.”

First she leaped and then she ran,
Till she came to the butcher and thus
began :

“ Pray, butcher, give me some meat,
That I may give the farmer meat,
That the farmer may give me hay,
That I may give the cow hay,
That the cow may give me milk,
That I may give the cat milk,
That the cat may give me my own tail
again.”

“ No,” said the butcher, “ I’ll give you
no meat till you go to the baker and
bring me some bread.”



br ing	h ay	g ive	p ail
s ing	m ay	l ive	t ail

First she leaped and then she ran,
Till she came to the baker and thus
began:

“Pray, baker, give me some bread,
That I may give the butcher bread,
That the butcher may give me meat,
That I may give the farmer meat,
That the farmer may give me hay,
That I may give the cow hay,
That the cow may give me milk,
That I may give the cat milk,
That the cat may give me my own
tail again.”



“Yes,” said the baker, “I’ll give you some bread, if you will guard my flour.”

“I will guard your flour,” she said.

Then the baker gave mouse some bread, and mouse gave bread to the butcher.

Then the butcher gave mouse some meat, and mouse gave meat to the farmer.

Then the farmer gave mouse some hay, and mouse gave hay to the cow.

Then the cow gave mouse some milk, and mouse gave milk to the cat, and the cat gave the mouse her own tail again.



Put words in the blank places.

1. The cat played with the
_____.
2. The cat _____ off the _____
of the mouse.
3. The cow would not give
_____ to the mouse.
4. The mouse then _____ to
the farmer.
5. The _____ would not give
hay to the _____.
6. The mouse ran to the
_____.
7. Then she ran to the _____
for bread.

Write a story for each question.

1. What did the cat do?
2. Why did the mouse go to the farmer?
3. Why did the mouse go to the baker?
4. Did the mouse eat flour?
5. What did the mouse do with the bread?
6. What did the mouse give to the farmer?
7. What did the farmer give to the mouse?
8. Who gave the mouse her own tail again?



An old woman was sweeping her house, and she found a little sixpence.

“What,” said she, “shall I do with this little sixpence?”

“I will go to market and buy a little pig.”

As she was coming home, she came to a stile, but the pig would not go over the stile.

go ing com ing sweep ing

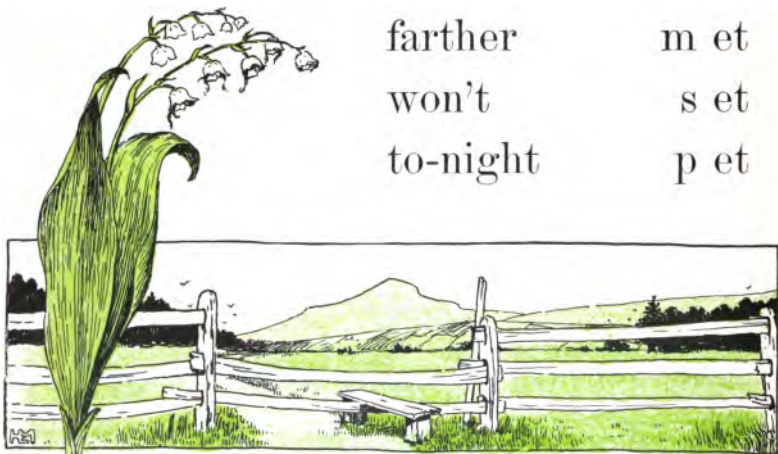
She went a little farther, and she met a dog. So she said to him:

“Dog, dog, bite pig;

Pig won't get over the stile;

And I shall not get home to-night.”

But the dog would not.



farther

m et

won't

s et

to-night

p et

sh e

w ould

h im

h e

c ould

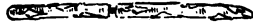
J im



So she went a little farther, and she met a stick. So she said:

“Stick, stick, beat dog;
Dog will not bite pig;
Pig will not get over the stile;
And I shall not get home to-night.”

But the stick would not.



The pig would not get over the stile.
The stick would not beat the dog.

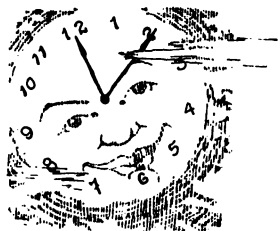
So she went a little farther, and she met a fire. So she said:

“Fire, fire, burn stick;
Stick won’t beat dog;
Dog won’t bite pig;
Pig won’t get over the stile;
And I shall not get home to-night.”

But the fire would not.



An old woman bought a pig.
The pig would not get over a stile.
Then the old woman went to a stick.
The stick would not beat the pig.
The fire would not burn the stick.



She went a little farther, and she met some water. So she said :

“Water, water, put out fire ;

Fire won't burn stick ;
Stick won't beat dog ;
Dog won't bite pig ;
Pig won't get over the stile .

I see by the moonlight
It's long past midnight,
And I shall not get
home to-night.”

But the water would
not.



p ig	b ig	n ight	l ight
d ig	f ig	r ight	s ight

She went a little farther, and she met an ox. So she said:

“Ox, ox, drink water;
Water won't put out fire;
Fire won't burn stick;
Stick won't beat dog;
Dog won't bite pig;
Pig won't get over the stile.

I see by the moonlight
It's long past midnight,
And I shall not get home to-night.”

But the ox said to her, “If you will go to yonder haystack and bring me a handful of hay, I will drink the water.”



Away went the old woman to the haystack, and came back, bringing a handful of hay.

When he had eaten the hay,
The ox began to drink the water;
The water began to put out the fire;
The fire began to burn the stick;
The stick began to beat the dog;
The dog began to bite the pig;
And the pig jumped over the stile.

And so the old woman got home that night.

haystack	when	had	bring ing
handful	eaten	ox	drink ing
began	jumped	got	jump ing



Write a short story for each question.

1. Who found a sixpence?
2. What would not the pig go over?
3. What did the old woman say to the dog?
4. What would the dog not do?
5. What did the old woman do?
6. What would the fire not do?
7. What would the water not do?
8. What did the old woman do for the ox?

Write short stories in which you use some of these words :

buy *sweeping* *jumped*

stile *would not* *farther*

ox *midnight* *put out*

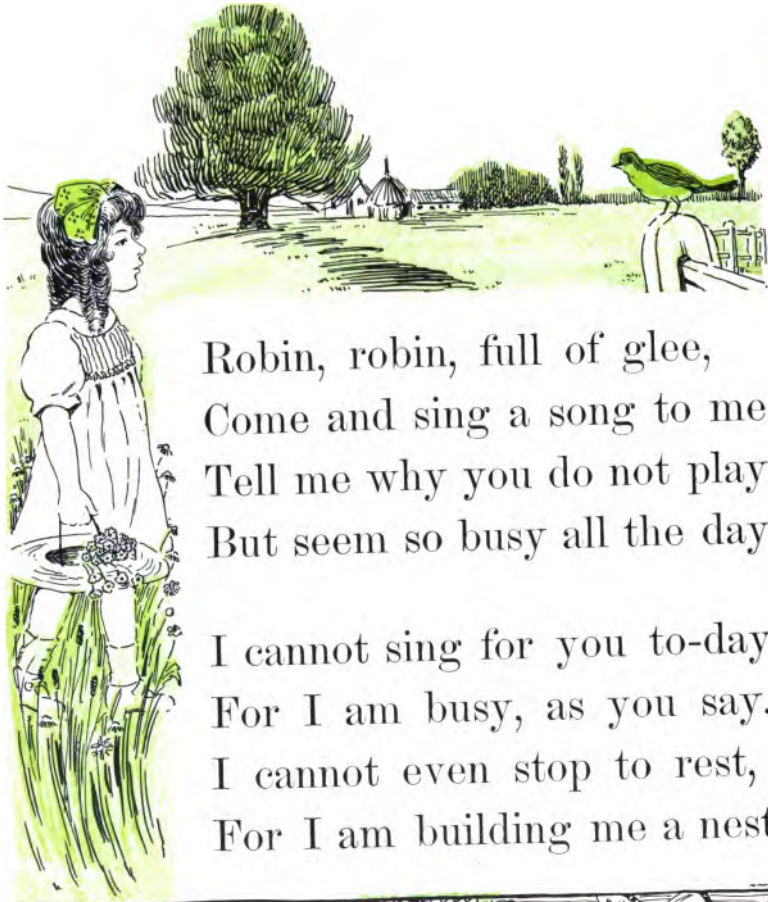
bite *bringing* *home*

stick *moonlight* *yonder*

fire *haystack* *beat*

old *handful* *market*





Robin, robin, full of glee,
Come and sing a song to me.
Tell me why you do not play,
But seem so busy all the day.

I cannot sing for you to-day,
For I am busy, as you say.
I cannot even stop to rest,
For I am building me a nest.





THE MICE OF THE MILL

The rats and mice that lived in the
mill

Came out one night to eat their fill.

They ate, and ate! how full they felt!

And every one let out his belt.

A little mill stood in a field.

In the mill lived some rats and mice.

One night they came out and ate
and ate.

Every mouse had to let out his belt.



Then one old rat said to another :

“Come, let us have some fun, my
brother.

Let's go and slide down yonder hill,
And then come back to our dear
mill.”

So rats and mice all left the mill
To take a slide adown the hill.

The hill was long, and smooth the
track ;

They slid so far they never got back.

an other	b elt	f ill	l ong
br other	f elt	m ill	s ong

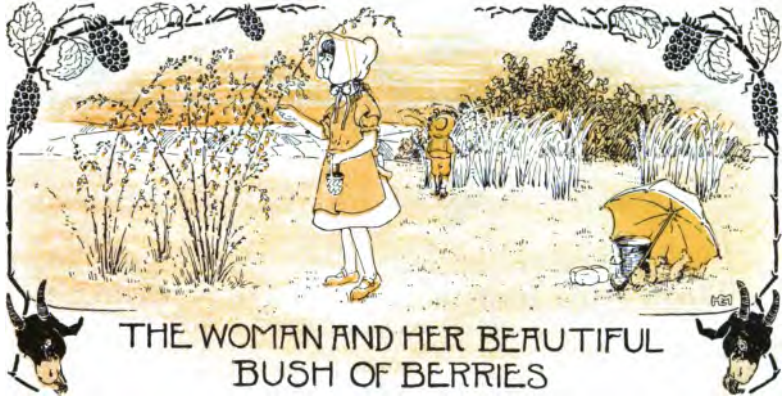
Tell a short story for each question.

1. *What lived in the mill?*
2. *Why did the rats and mice come out one night?*
3. *What did every mouse do?*
4. *Who said, "Let's have some fun"?*
5. *What were they going to do?*



Put words in the blank places.

1. Some rats lived in a
_____.
2. One night they _____ out.
3. The rats and _____ ate
till they _____ full.
4. Every rat let out his _____.
5. One _____ rat said, "Let's
have some _____."
6. They went to _____ down
_____.
7. The hill was _____ and
_____.
8. The _____ and mice _____
far down the track.



THE WOMAN AND HER BEAUTIFUL
BUSH OF BERRIES

A woman had a beautiful bush of berries, and she wanted to pick them.

She could not do that unless she had some one to keep her house.

She went to a kid and said, “Kid, kid, come and keep my house till I pick my beautiful bush of berries.”

“Indeed, no,” said the kid, “I’ll not keep your house till you pick your beautiful bush of berries.”



Then the woman went to a dog and said :

“ Dog, dog, bite kid ;

Kid will not keep my house till I pick my beautiful bush of berries.”

“ Indeed,” said the dog, “ I’ll not bite the kid, for the kid never did me any harm.”



A woman had a bush of berries.
She wanted to pick the berries.
There was no one to keep the house.

Then the woman went to a stick.
“Stick, stick, beat dog,” she said ;
“Dog will not bite kid ;
And kid will not keep my house till I
pick my beautiful bush of berries.”
“Indeed,” said the stick, “I’ll not beat
the dog, for the dog never did me any
harm.”

See the little kids.
They will not keep the house.
The dog will not bite the little kids.
They never did the dog any harm.



Then the woman went to a fire.
“Fire, fire, burn stick,” she said;
“Stick will not beat dog;
Dog will not bite kid;
And kid will not keep my house till I
pick my beautiful bush of berries.”

“Indeed,” said the fire, “I’ll not burn
the stick, for the stick never did me any
harm.”



This is a little kid.
He will not keep the woman’s house.
He wants to run and play in the
fields.

Will the fire burn the kid ?

Then the woman
went to some water
and said:

“Water, water,
quench fire;

Fire will not burn
stick;

Stick will not
beat dog;

Dog will not bite kid;

And kid will not keep my house till
I pick my beautiful bush of berries.”

“Indeed,” said the water, “I’ll not
quench the fire, for the fire never did
me any harm.”



p ick D ick k ick s ick

Then the woman went to an ox.
“Ox, ox, drink water,” she said;
“Water will not quench fire;
Fire will not burn stick;
Stick will not beat dog;
Dog will not bite kid;
And kid will not keep my house till
I pick my beautiful bush of berries.”

“Indeed,” said the ox, “I’ll not drink
the water, for the water never did me
any harm.”



Then the woman
went to an ax and
said :

“Ax, ax, strike ox;
Ox will not drink
water ;

Water will not
quench fire ;

Fire will not burn stick ;

Stick will not beat dog ;

Dog will not bite kid ;

And kid will not keep my house till
I pick my beautiful bush of berries.”

“Indeed,” said the ax, “I’ll not strike
the ox, for the ox never did me any
harm.”



Then the woman went to a smith
and said :

“Smith, smith, grind ax ;

Ax will not strike ox ;

Ox will not drink water ;

Water will not quench fire ;

Fire will not burn stick ;

Stick will not beat dog ;

Dog will not bite kid ;

And kid will not keep my house till
I pick my beautiful bush of berries.”

“Indeed,” said the smith, “I’ll not
grind the ax, for the ax never did me
any harm.”



The ax did not strike the ox.

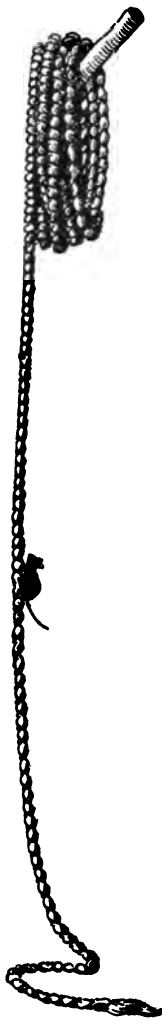
The ox had never done any harm.

Then the woman went to a rope and said :

“Rope, rope, hang smith ;
Smith will not grind ax ;
Ax will not strike ox ;
Ox will not drink water ;
Water will not quench fire ;
Fire will not burn stick ;
Stick will not beat dog ;
Dog will not bite kid ;
And kid will not keep my house till
I pick my beautiful bush of berries.”

“Indeed,” said the rope, “I’ll not hang the smith, for the smith never did me any harm.”





Then the woman went to a mouse and said:

“Mouse, mouse, gnaw rope;
Rope will not hang smith;
Smith will not grind ax;
Ax will not strike ox;
Ox will not drink water;
Water will not quench fire;
Fire will not burn stick;
Stick will not beat dog;
Dog will not bite kid;

And kid will not keep my house till I pick my beautiful bush of berries.”

“Indeed,” said the mouse, I’ll not gnaw the rope, for the rope never did me any harm.”

Then the woman went to a cat and said :

“Cat, cat, kill mouse ;
Mouse will not gnaw rope ;
Rope will not hang smith ;
Smith will not grind ax ;
Ax will not strike ox ;
Ox will not drink water ;
Water will not quench fire ;
Fire will not burn stick ;
Stick will not beat dog ;
Dog will not bite kid ;

And kid will not keep my house till
I pick my beautiful bush of berries.”



k id	d id	Sm ith	h ang
h id	b id	w ith	s ang



“Indeed,” said the cat, “I’ll not kill the mouse, for the mouse never did me any harm.”

• “Do it,” said the woman, “and I’ll give you bread and milk.”

With that the cat ran to the mouse, and the mouse to the rope, and the rope to the smith, and the smith to the ax, and the ax to the ox, and the ox to the water, and the water to the fire, and the fire to the stick, and the stick to the dog, and the dog to the kid; and the kid kept the woman’s house till she picked her beautiful bush of berries.

Write a short story for each question.

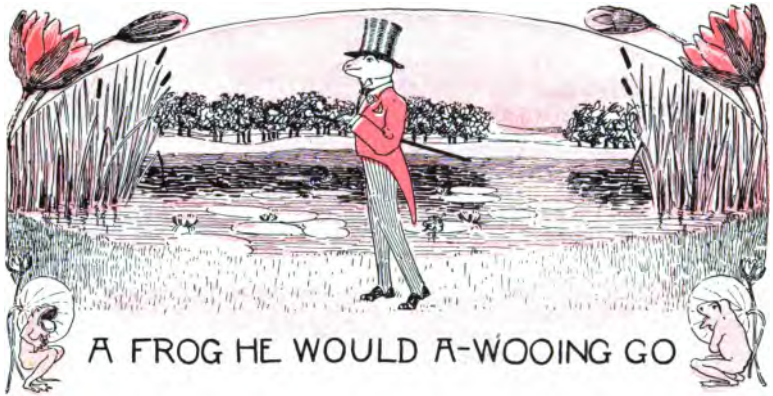
1. *Who had a bush of berries?*
2. *Who would not keep the woman's house?*
3. *Did the dog bite the kid?*
4. *What did the stick not do?*
5. *Why would the fire not burn the stick?*
6. *What said the water?*
7. *Would the ox drink the water?*
8. *To what else did the old woman go?*
9. *What did the woman give to the cat?*



Good-morrow, little rose-bush!

I pray thee, tell me true,
To be as sweet as a red, red rose,
What must a body do?

To be as sweet as a red, red rose,
A little girl like you
Just grows and grows and grows,
And that's what she must do.



A FROG HE WOULD A-WOOING GO

A frog he would a-woeing go,
Whether his mother would let him or
no.

So off he went with his opera hat,
And on the way he met with a rat.

See the frog in his opera hat.
He is going a-woeing.
Do you see a rat?
No, the frog met a rat on the way.

And when they came to Mouse's Hall,
They gave a loud knock, and they
gave a loud call.

“Pray, Mrs. Mouse, are you within?”

“Yes, kind sir, I am sitting to spin.”



The frog and the rat went to see
Mrs. Mouse.

They found Mrs. Mouse sitting down
to spin.



“Pray, Mrs. Mouse, will you let us
dine here ?

For Froggy and I are fond of good
cheer.”

Now as they were making a merry
din,

The cat and her kittens came tum-
bling in.

The cat she caught the rat by the
crown,

The kittens they pulled the little mouse
down.

This put poor frog in a terrible fright,
So he took up his hat and wished
them good night.



fr og one tw o th ree
l og d one d o t ree

But as Froggy was going over a brook,
An old white duck came and gobbled
him up.

So there was an end of one, two, three,
The rat, the mouse, and the little
Frog-ee.

The rat and the frog were with
Mrs. Mouse.

The cat came in with her kittens.

The cat caught the poor rat.

The kittens pulled down the mouse.

The frog had a terrible fright.

He took his hat and went away.



Put words in the blank places.

1. A _____ wanted to go a-wooing.
2. His _____ did not want him to go.
3. He went away with his opera _____.
4. By the _____ he met a _____.
5. They went to the house of _____.
6. They gave a _____ knock.
7. They found Mrs. Mouse _____ to spin.
8. A cat ate the _____.

Write a story for each question.

1. *Who went a-wooing?*
2. *The frog met with what on the way?*
3. *Where did the frog and the rat go?*
4. *What was Mrs. Mouse doing?*
5. *What did the cat and her kittens do?*
6. *Who was in a terrible fright?*
7. *Over what did the frog go?*
8. *What gobbled up the frog?*

WHAT DOES LITTLE BIRDIE SAY?



What does little birdie say

In her nest at peep of day?

“Let me fly,” says little birdie,

“Mother, let me fly away.”

“Birdie, rest a little longer,

Till the little wings are stronger.”

So she rests a little longer,

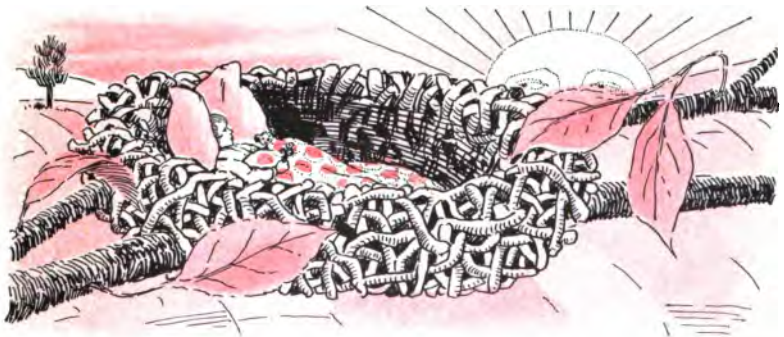
Then she flies away.

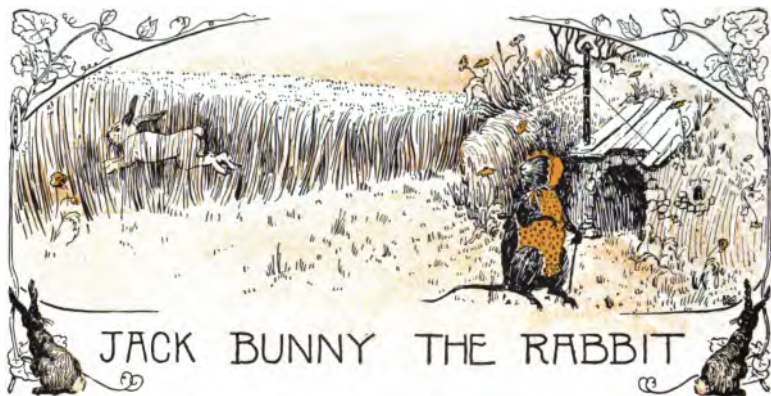


What does little baby say
In her bed at peep of day?
Baby says, like little birdie,
“Mother, let me fly away!”

“Baby, sleep a little longer,
Till the little limbs are stronger.”
If she sleeps a little longer,
Baby, too, may fly away.

—ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON.





Jack Bunny was a little rabbit. He sometimes did not do as his mother told him.

One day Mrs. Bunny, Jack's mother, went out to call. She told Jack not to go away from home.

Jack stayed by the house till his mother was out of sight. Then he said: "What shall I do? I know. I'll go over into Mr. White's garden."

Jack knew that he had no business to be there.

He looked behind him now and then.

He did not see any one ; so he ate his fill.

Then he said, "I will climb up on this shed and take a look."

He was almost up, when something gave way. Poor Jack fell into an old net.

He got so tangled up that he could not get away.

"Oh, I am caught!" he cried. What would become of him? He did not know. He began to cry.

"What shall I do?" he said.



Mrs. Mouse heard him and ran out.

“What is it?” she said, when she saw Jack. “Oh, I see you are tangled up in the net. You have no business here, but I will help you this time.”

She began to gnaw, and soon had set Jack free.

“Now, do not get into trouble again, Jack Bunny,” she said. “Do as your mother tells you.”



Jack ran out of the garden. But there he met a dog and had to turn back.

Now he caught sight of Mr. White.

What could he do to get away? He did not know.

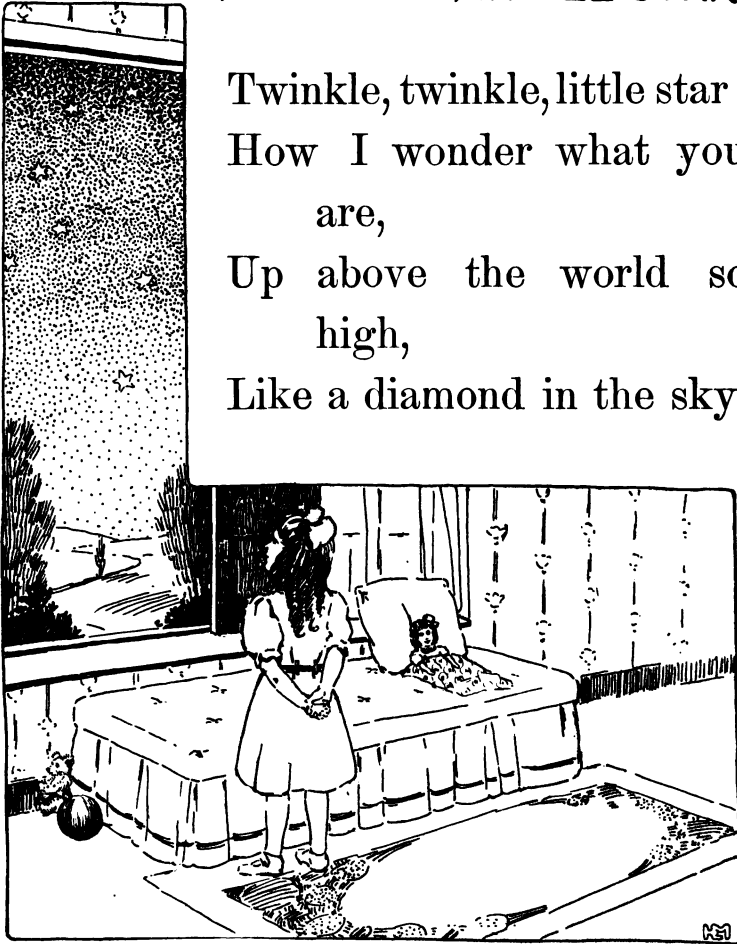
He saw a box and ran for it. He got into it and lay there till it was night.

Then he stole out and ran home. But his mother would not give him anything to eat that night.



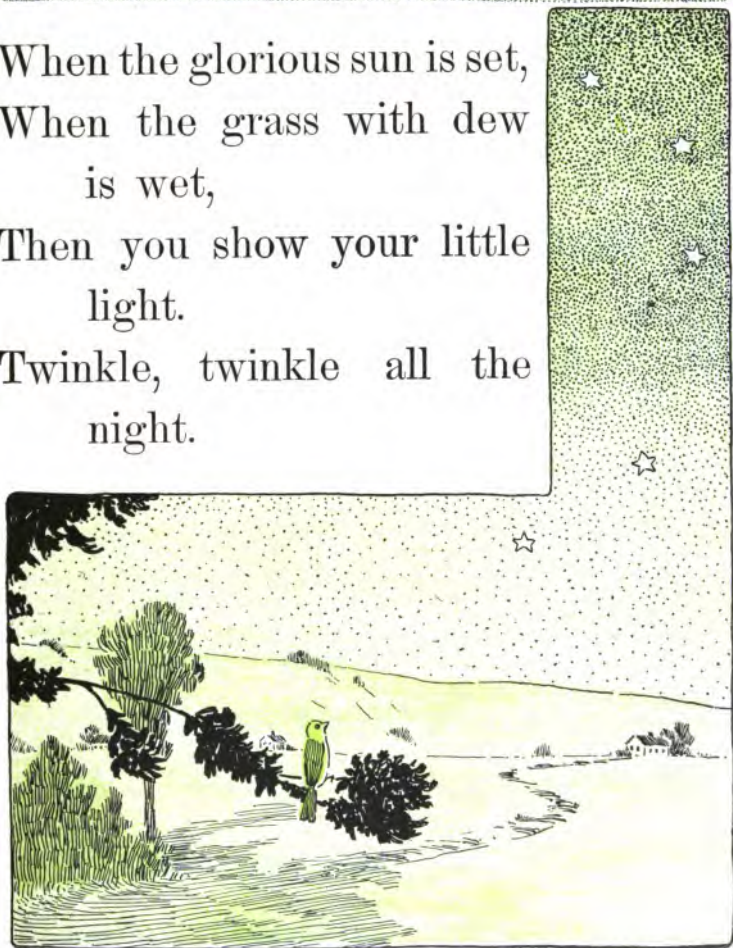
TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

Twinkle, twinkle, little star!
How I wonder what you
are,
Up above the world so
high,
Like a diamond in the sky.





When the glorious sun is set,
When the grass with dew
is wet,
Then you show your little
light.
Twinkle, twinkle all the
night.



Write a story for each question.

1. What was Jack Bunny?
2. Did he do as his mother told him?
3. Where did Mrs. Molly go?
4. What did Jack do in Mr. White's garden?
5. What was it that Jack fell into?
6. Who gnawed the strings that held Jack?
7. What made Jack turn back into the garden?
8. When did Jack go home?



One day a lion lay down to rest under a great tree.

As he lay sleeping, a family of mice ran over his back and waked him.

This made the lion very angry.

He caught one of the mice in his great paw, and was about to kill it.

The little creature begged for mercy.

sleep ing

great

lion

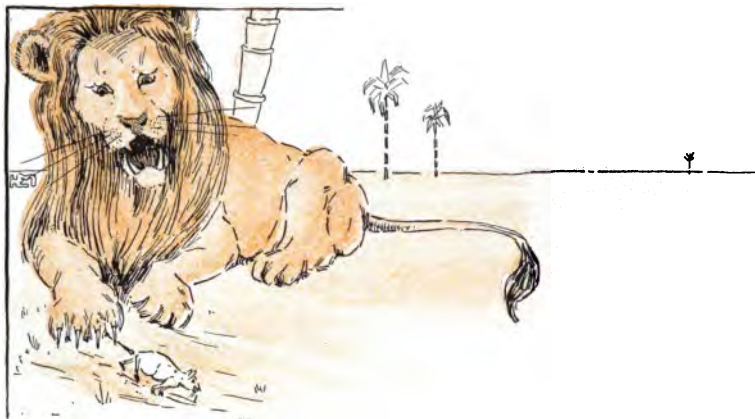
family

kill ing

angry

paw

creature



“Noble lion,” the little mouse said,
“be noble indeed. Do not kill so small
a creature as I.”

“I think I will free you,” said the
lion, after thinking it over. “You may
go.”

The lion felt very noble at his deed.

think	small	tall	indeed
thinking	fall	wall	deed

Not long after this, as he was looking for something to eat, the lion got caught in a net.

Seeing that he could not free himself, he set up a loud roar.

The mouse heard it, and knew that it was the lion.

He ran as fast as he could to see what had happened.

When he came near, he tried to quiet the lion.



“Be quiet,” the little creature said. “I am a friend, and will free you.”

Then the mouse began to gnaw, and soon the lion was free.

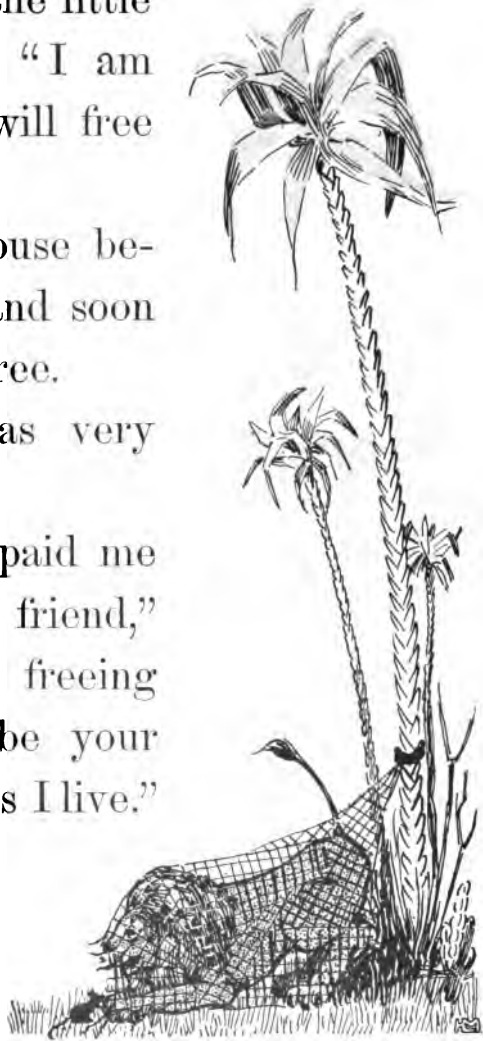
The lion was very humble now.

“You have paid me well, my little friend,” he said, “for freeing you. I shall be your friend as long as I live.”

gn aw

p aw

s aw



Write a story for each question.

1. Where was the lion sleeping?
2. What ran over the great creature?
3. Why was the lion about to kill the mouse?
4. In what was the great creature caught?
5. What did the lion do?
6. What did the mouse do when he heard the roar?
7. What did the mouse do when he saw the lion?
8. How did the lion feel?

I SAW A SHIP A-SAILING



I saw a ship a-sailing,
A-sailing on the sea.
It was full of pretty things
For baby and for me.

There were comfits in the
cabin,
And apples in the hold;
The sails were all of velvet,
And the masts of beaten
gold.



The four-and-twenty sailors
That stood between the decks,
Were four-and-twenty white
mice,
With chains about their
necks.

The captain was a duck,
With a packet on his back.
When the ship began to move,
The captain said, “Quack!
quack!”



Write a short story for each question.

1. On what was the ship sailing?
2. What was the ship full of?
3. For whom were the pretty things?
4. Where were the comforts?
5. What were in the hold?
6. What were the sails made of?
7. What were of beaten gold?
8. Who were the four-and-twenty sailors?
9. Who was the captain of the ship?



THE COW-BIRD

Once, a very long time ago, birds did not know how to build their nests.

“I wonder where we can learn how to build good nests,” said the robin.

“I cannot tell,” said the wren.

“We will ask all the other birds,” the robin said, “some one may know.”

So the wren and the robin asked all the other birds. But not one of them knew how to make a good nest.

“What are we to do?” asked the robin at last. “If we lay our eggs in the weeds, they will be stepped on. If we lay them in the trees, they will roll out.”

Just then some little fairies appeared near the birds.

The birds were frightened at first, and some of them were about to fly away.





“Do not be frightened,” said the queen of the fairies; “we are only little fairies. We do no harm, but like to do good. Can we do anything for you?”

“Can you teach us how to build a nest?” asked the wren.

“No,” answered the queen of the fairies; “but I know who can. Isn’t the magpie here?”

All the birds looked about for the magpie, but she was not there.



“I know where she is,” said the fairy. “She is sitting on her nest now. Come with me, and I will take you to her.”

“How far is it,” asked the cow-bird of one of the fairies.

“It is a long way from here,” answered the little fairy.

“I think I will not go,” said the cow-bird. “I am tired. I will ask the other birds when they come back.”

But the other birds did not come back. As soon as they learned how

to build a nest, they flew away and went to work at once.

The cow-bird has never learned how to make a nest. It lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, when they are away from home.

So the cow-bird never has any babies. Its little ones are brought up by other birds.



fl ew	build ing	learned
bl ew	ask ing	answered
gr ew	think ing	looked
d ew	work ing	asked
f ew	lay ing	rolled
m ew	learn ing	appeared
n ew	know ing	frightened

Write a story for each question.

1. When did birds not know how to make nests?
2. Who wanted to learn?
3. Who frightened the birds?
4. Where did the fairies take the birds?
5. What bird would not go with the others?
6. Why did the other birds not come back?
7. Where does the cow-bird lay its eggs?
8. Who brings up the cow-bird's little ones?



THE MAGPIE'S LESSON

An old story says that the fairies showed the birds the way to Mrs. Magpie's home.

Then all at once the fairies were gone.

"What do you wish?" asked Mrs. Magpie.

"Will you please teach us how to build nests like yours?" said the robin.

"Oh, yes," answered the magpie. "I will show you how to do it."

They all came close to the magpie to see what she did.

“Just watch what I do,” she said.

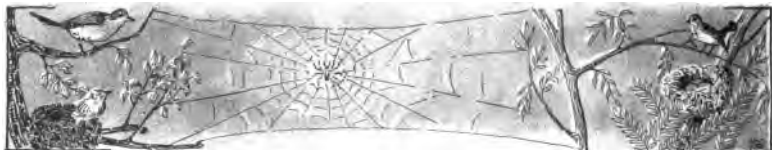
She first took some mud. This she made into a round cake.

“Oh!” cried the thrush, “I see how the nest is built. You make a cake of mud, and pat it down in the middle.”

She flew away. And that is the way the thrush builds her nest to-day.

The magpie next took some twigs and laid them around the cake of mud.

“Oh!” cried the blackbird, “I know how the nest is built now.”





Away she flew to the trees by the river. And that is the way the black-birds build their nests to this very day.

Then the magpie put some mud on the twigs and smoothed it a little.

“I see,” said the owl, “I know how to build a nest.”

He flew away to a great oak tree, and built a nest like that. And that is the only way an owl knows to build his nest.

The magpie next took some long, slender twigs, and twined them around the outside.

“I know now how to build a nest,” cried the song sparrow.

Away he flew. Sparrows still twine twigs to make their nests.

After this, the magpie took some feathers and fine moss. With these she lined the nest, making it very soft and warm.

“I know now,” said the starling. “I will make a nest like that.”

Off he flew to make a nest for himself. Starlings still line their nests with feathers and moss.

The magpie kept on working. But soon all the birds had gone. They all thought they knew how to build nests like the magpie's.

At last the magpie looked up from her work. Not a bird was to be seen.

“That is the last lesson I shall ever give,” said the magpie to herself.

She flew away to her own nest. And never from that day to this has she told another bird how to build a nest.

fair y

fair ies

l ast

stor y

stor ies

f ast

bird y

bird ies

p ast



Put words in the blank places.

1. The _____ showed the birds
to the magpie's _____.
2. Mrs. _____ asked the _____
what they wished.
3. All came _____ to the _____
as she began.
4. The magpie took _____
and _____ and _____ to
build the nest.
5. The _____ flew _____ first.
6. The other birds _____ away
one by _____.
7. The _____ has never given
a _____ since.



A lion and a bear went out to look for something to eat one day.

They found nothing but a hen. It was too little for both the lion and the bear. Each wished to have all of it.

“I should have it,” said the bear, “because I saw it first.”

“I should have it,” said the lion, “because I caught it.”

because some thing wished nothing

The bear was angry and began to growl. The lion was angry, too, and began to roar.

Then the bear put his paw on the hen as if to take it. At this the angry lion slapped the bear. Then they began to fight.

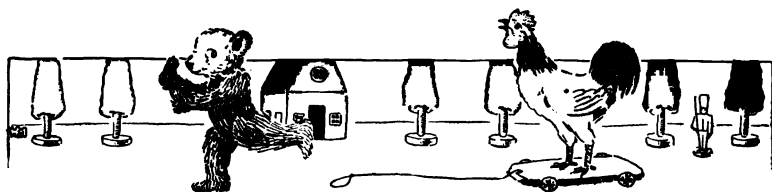
They fought and fought, till neither the lion nor the bear could stand up.

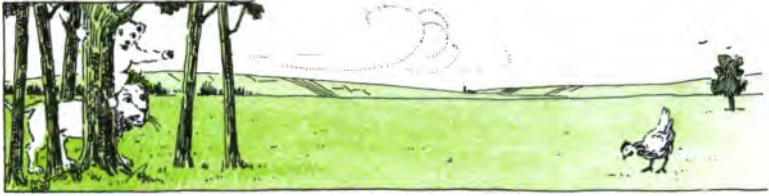
The bear lay down under one tree, and the lion lay down under another. They could neither fight nor eat now.

look

look ing

looked





While they were resting, a fox came along. He saw the hen on the ground.

“What fine friends you are!” he said. “If it had not been for you, I should have had to go hungry. You are the kind of friends to have.”

At this the fox took the hen and went away with it. The bear and the lion watched the fox, as he went off with the hen, but could not move.

“How silly we have been!” they both thought. But they did not say a word, and they have never said anything about it since.

Put words in the blank places.

1. A lion and a ——— were
——— for something to
———.
2. “I should have the ———,”
said the ———.
3. The bear and the ———
were ———.
4. They ——— till they could
not ———.
5. A ——— came and ——— the
hen.
6. The lion and bear said,
“How ——— we have
———!”



Billy's real name is Opossum, but many people call him Billy Possum for short.

One day Billy was taking a walk with Jim Coon, his friend. It was a beautiful day, and the two friends were having a good time.

“O Jim!” cried Billy, “just see that fine peach tree over in the field! What a fine feast we shall have.”

They started for the tree.

All at once they heard the bark of a dog. They both stopped and looked around.

“What are you going to do, Jim, my friend, if the dog comes this way?” asked Billy.

“I shall teach him something that he does not know,” replied Jim Coon. “What will you do, Billy?”

“I shall stand by you,” said Billy.

Just then the dog came into sight. He ran straight for Billy Possum.

Billy fell over and lay quite still.





Then Mr. Dog turned to the coon. But Jim Coon knew how to fight, and Mr. Dog got away as soon as he could.

He didn't even stop long enough to look around. Jim Coon ran after him.

Billy Possum lay very still, just as if he were dead. But after a while he got up and looked around.

He saw no one about; so he went home as fast as he could.

On the way he met Jim Coon. Jim Coon held his head high and would not speak to Billy.

“What is the matter, Jim?” said Billy.

“I don’t speak to cowards,” replied Jim, and started on.

“Why, Jim,” said Billy, “did you think I was afraid? No, Jim, Billy Possum was not afraid. But I can’t stand tickling. My father was like that, and his father was like that, too.”

“That is a fine story,” said Jim.

“Well, it is the truth, Jim. Nobody in my family could stand tickling.”

Jim did not say a word.

“And that dog just ran his nose against my ribs. I could not stand it, and just fell over to catch my breath.”



“Well, I see you caught it, Billy,”
said Jim.

“Yes, I caught it, but it took me a
long time.”

This happened a long time ago.
But to this day Billy Possum cannot
stand tickling.

If anybody touches him, he falls
over and seems to lose his breath.
He never catches it again till all dan-
ger is over. Then he steals away.



Write a short story for each question.

1. *What is Billy's real name?*
2. *Who was taking a walk with Billy?*
3. *What did they see in the field?*
4. *What did the dog do to Billy?*
5. *What did Jim Coon do?*
6. *Why would Jim not speak to Billy?*
7. *What did Billy tell Jim?*
8. *Can opossums stand tickling?*

WHO HAS SEEN THE WIND?

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you;
But when the leaves hang
trembling,
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I;
But when the leaves bow
down their heads,
The wind is passing by.





PUSSY WILLOW

Once a little gray kitten ran away from her mother. It was a bright day in spring, and the kitten wandered far away from home.

At last the kitten became hungry. Then she wished to go home, but could not find the way. She was lost and did not know where to go.

The little kitten wandered about all day. She only got farther and farther from home.

She had come to a stream. She was very tired and hungry now. She was greatly frightened, too. It was getting dark. So she sat down and began to cry.

It happened that the kitten sat down near some willows, which a fairy loved.

One of the willows heard the kitten cry, and was sorry. She bent close over as if to love the kitten.

“Do not be afraid,” said the willow; “I will keep you safe. Oh, how soft and warm your fur is!”

“Can’t you take me home to my mother?” asked the kitten.

“No,” said the kind willow, “I can’t do that. I always have to stay right here at home. I can never go away.”

“I wish I had never gone from home,” said the kitten. Then she began to cry again.



“Do not cry any more,” said the willow. “I will bend over you and keep you safe all night. I like you very much. Now lie down and sleep.”

The kitten soon fell asleep and dreamed of her own dear mother. The willow bent closer and closer. She liked to touch the soft fur.

“I wish I had soft fur like that,” she sighed.

Just then the fairy that loved the willow appeared. She heard what the willow said.

“What would you do in the summer, when it is so warm?” asked the fairy. “You would not like the fur then.”

“But I should like it in the spring,” answered the willow. “It would be very soft and warm. Besides, it would make people love me. But, dear fairy, take the poor little kitten home to its mother.”



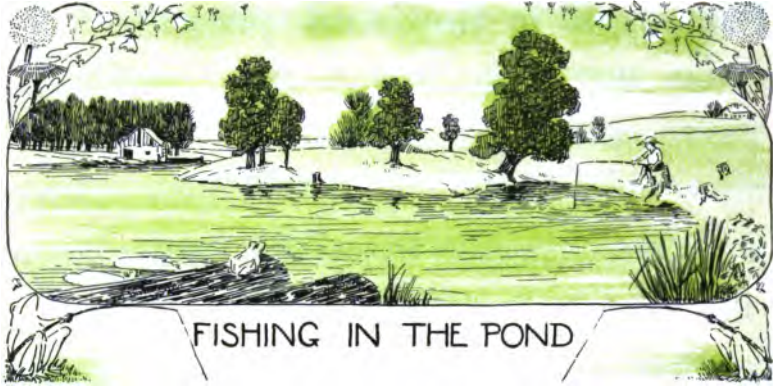
“Well, you are a kind willow,” said the fairy, “and I will give you what you wish. You shall have fur every spring, and all people shall love you. Good night, Pussy Willow.”

Next morning the little kitten awoke in her own little bed. And the willow found herself covered with little soft balls of fur. The willow has catkins every spring. And people love her and call her Pussy Willow.



Put words in the blank places.

1. A little _____ ran away.
2. The kitten became _____.
3. The _____ could not find the _____ home.
4. She sat _____ and began to _____.
5. The willow _____ kind to the _____.
6. A little _____ loved the _____ willow.
7. The _____ fairy took the _____ home.
8. People love the _____ and call her _____.



One day Rob wished to go fishing.
Rob's mother did not like to have
him go alone. But Rob begged to go.
"You may go for a little while," his
mother said at last; "but don't get on
the logs in the pond."

Rob promised. He took his pole
and ran all the way to the pond.

m ay w ay t ook h ook

He fished a long time, but caught nothing. He wanted to catch at least one fish. So he stayed and stayed.

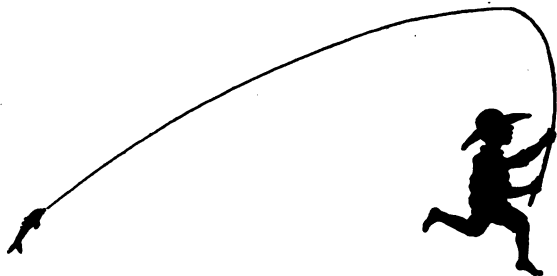
Then he tried another place. He thought that the fishes might be under the logs. So he threw his line out near them.

“There!” he said, “I have a bite now.”

He pulled up his line quickly. There was nothing on the hook. He threw it back again. Again there was a pull on the line. He pulled up the line once more.

This time the hook caught on one of the logs. Without thinking what he had promised his mother, Rob climbed out on the log to free his hook.

As he bent over, the log began to roll, and Rob fell into the pond.



Rob was sorry that he had not kept his promise. He thought of that the first thing when he fell into the water. He crawled out on to the bank and sat down for his clothes to dry.

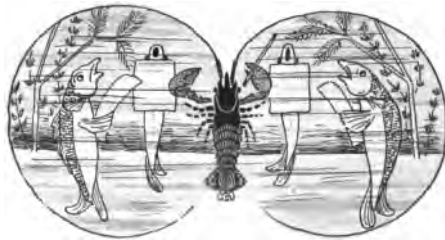
“I will fish while they are drying,” he said. “Maybe I can catch one yet.”

At last he did catch one fish, but it was not big enough to eat. Rob threw it back.

“What will Mamma say?” he thought, as he sat on the bank waiting. “My clothes are dry; but how they look! Well, I will go home and tell just how it happened. If Mamma had only been a boy, she would understand.”

Rob pulled up his line. There was a large fish on the hook. He took it and ran as fast as he could.

He went to his mother and told her everything. She understood, even if she were not a boy, and cooked the fish for Rob's supper.



Write a short story for each question.

1. What did Rob wish to do?
2. Why did Rob wait so long at the pond?
3. Where did Rob throw his line at last?
4. On what did the line catch?
5. What happened to Rob?
6. What kind of fish did Rob catch at last?
7. What did Rob tell his mother?
8. Did Rob's mother understand?

BOATS SAIL ON THE RIVERS

Boats sail on the rivers,
And ships sail on the seas;
But clouds that sail across the sky
Are prettier than these.

There are bridges on the rivers,
As pretty as you please;
But the bow that bridges heaven
And overtops the trees,
And builds a road from earth to sky,
Is prettier far than these.



A HAMMOCK SONG



Swing high, swing low,
Swing to and fro!
Up to the moon
Shall the baby go.

Up to the moon
So big and round,
Then shall the baby
Touch the ground.

Swing high, swing low,
Swing to and fro!
And steal the moon
For the baby-o!





THE GIANT MAIDEN

Once very, very long ago, there lived a race of giants. They were as tall as the hills. To them the world was very small.

When these giants went out to walk, they stepped from hill to hill. They never went down into the valleys.

The king of the giants was a great and a good man. He was good to his people and to his children. One of his children was a beautiful girl. Soon she would



be a woman. But she still loved playthings. Only her playthings were so very large.

One day the maiden went out for a walk. It was a beautiful day, and she walked a long way, even for a giant's daughter.

The maiden stepped over valley after valley, from hill to hill, till she was far from home. She had never gone so far.

At last, she stopped and looked down into the valley before her. There she saw a man plowing with horses. She had never seen anything like that.

How nice the little creature was!

And how nice the little creatures were that drew the plow! And the plow, she liked that, too.

“What beautiful playthings they would make!” she said; “I must have them.” So she picked up the man, the horses, and the plow, and put them into her apron. Then she went home as fast as she could.

“See what nice playthings I have found!” she called to her father, the king.



“My child,” said the king, “these are no playthings. You must take them back where you found them. You must never touch them again. This is a man, and he has a wife and a daughter. They will be very sad if he does not come back to them.”

“By and by,” he went on, “the world will be owned by little creatures like this man, and we shall be no more.”

The giant maiden was very sad. She did not want to give up her playthings. But she had a good heart, and she loved her father. She always did as he said. So she put the man, the plow, and the horses into her apron again, and took them back.

The man was very happy when the maiden set him down. He went to plowing at once.

The maiden looked on for a time. It made her glad to see the man happy. Then she was not sorry that she had brought them back.

walk	walk ing	walked
plow	plow ing	plowed
pick	pick ing	picked
call	call ing	called
touch	touch ing	touched
own	own ing	owned



Write a story for each of these questions:

1. How tall were the giants?
2. What did the king's daughter still love?
3. How far did the maiden walk?
4. What did the king's daughter see in the field?
5. What did the maiden do with the man?
6. What did the maiden say to her father?
7. Why was the king's daughter sad?

· Write stories in which you use some of these words:

<i>playthings</i>	<i>valley</i>	<i>ago</i>
<i>creatures</i>	<i>giants</i>	<i>people</i>
<i>horses</i>	<i>apron</i>	<i>hills</i>
<i>children</i>	<i>walk</i>	<i>happy</i>
<i>tall</i>	<i>great</i>	<i>plow</i>
<i>liked</i>	<i>stepped</i>	<i>king</i>
<i>maiden</i>	<i>touch</i>	<i>sad</i>
<i>wife</i>	<i>loved</i>	<i>glad</i>



THE LITTLE PLANT

In the heart of a seed
Buried deep, so deep,
A dear little plant
Lay fast asleep.

“Wake!” said the sunshine,
“And creep to the light.”
“Wake!” said the voice
Of the raindrops bright.

The little plant heard,
And it rose to see
What the wonderful
Outside world might be.





Sleep, baby, sleep!

Thy father watches his sheep;
Thy mother is shaking the dreamland tree,
And down comes a little dream on thee.

Sleep, baby, sleep!

Sleep, baby, sleep!
The large stars are the sheep;
The little stars are the lambs, I guess;
The gentle moon is the shepherdess.

Sleep, baby, sleep!



WHERE GO

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?

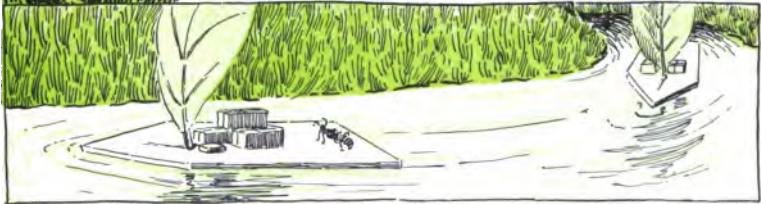


THE BOATS?



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.



THE SUN IS GONE DOWN

The sun is gone down,
And the moon's in the sky;
But the sun will come up,
And the moon be laid by.

The flower is asleep,
But it is not dead;
When the morning shines
It will lift its head.

When the winter comes
It will die — no, no;
It will only hide
From the frost and snow.

Sure is the summer,
Sure is the sun;
The night and the winter
Away they run.

EXERCISES FOR FAMILY BUILDING

1

ew — d ew
d, f, h, m,
bl, cl, cr, fl, sl.

3

ell — b ell
b, d, f, s, t, w,
dw, sm, sp, sw, sh.

5

ew, eet,
f, m,
gr, sl, str.

7

ow — b ow
b, l, m, r, s,
bl, cr, fl, gr, kn, sh, sl, sn.

2

ade — f ade
f, m, w,
bl, gr, sh, sp, tr.

4

eet — b eet
b, f, m,
fl, gr, sh, sl, str.

6

ade, ell,
w, f,
sh, sp.

8

eed — d eed
d, f, h, n, s, w,
bl, fr, gr, sp, st.

9

ain — g ain
g, l, m, p, r,
ch, dr, gr, st, sl, tr.

11

air — f air
f, h, p,
ch, st.

13

aw — c aw
c, j, l, p, r, s,
gn, cl, dr, fl, th.

15

ain, op,
l, m, p,
ch, dr, st, sl.

17

ow, eep,
cr ow, cr eep
cr, sl, sh, st.

10

ow, ew,
m,
bl, cr, fl, kn, sl.

12

air, ew,
f, h, p,
ch, st.

14

op — h op
h, l, m, p, t,
ch, dr, pr, st, sh, sl.

16

eep — d eep
d, k, p, w,
cr, sh, sl, st, sw.

18

op, eep,
p,
cr, sl, sh, st.

19

own — d own
d, g, t,
br, cl, cr, dr, fr.

21

uck, ain,
l,
pl, st, tr.

23

ow, ock,
l, m, r, s,
bl, cr, fl, kn, sh, st.

25

ank, ock,
l, r, s,
bl, cr, cl, fl, fr, sh.

27

ump — b ump
b, d, h, l, p, r,
cl, pl, sl, st, th.

20

uck — d uck
d, l, t,
cl, pl, st, tr.

22

ock — d ock
d, l, m, r, s,
bl, cr, cl, fl, fr, kn, sh, st.

24

ank — b ank
b, l, r, s, t,
bl, cr, dr, fr, sp, th.

26

ice — m ice
m, n, r,
pr, sp, sl, tw.

28

ump, ank,
b, l, r,
cl, pl, th.

29

each — b each

b, p, r, t,

bl, pr.

31

aw, ash,

c, l, r, s,

cl, fl.

33

oll,

p, r, t,

dr, kn, str.

35

irl — g irl

g, wh.

37

ad, b ad

b, h, l, m, p, s,

cl, gl.

30

ash — c ash

c, d, g, h, l, r, s,

cl, cr, fl, sm, spl, tr.

32

irt — d irt

d, g,

fl, sh, sk, squ.

34

awn — d awn

d, f, l, p, y,

dr

36

etch — f etch

f, sk, str, wr.

38

ife — f ife

f, l, w,

kn, str.

Add *ed.*

39

sail sailed

play milk

fill turn

kill wheel

toss call

40

hatch pray

saw leap

bake vow

play quench

41

jump quack

pick work

stain fear

belong rain

furnish water

Add *ing.*

42

sail sailing

play kill

hatch toss

rain turn

saw crow

spring turn

43

milk eat

plant play

will bring

water leap

grow fetch

44

cut buy

call burn

beat quench

steal drink

sweep jump

VOCABULARY

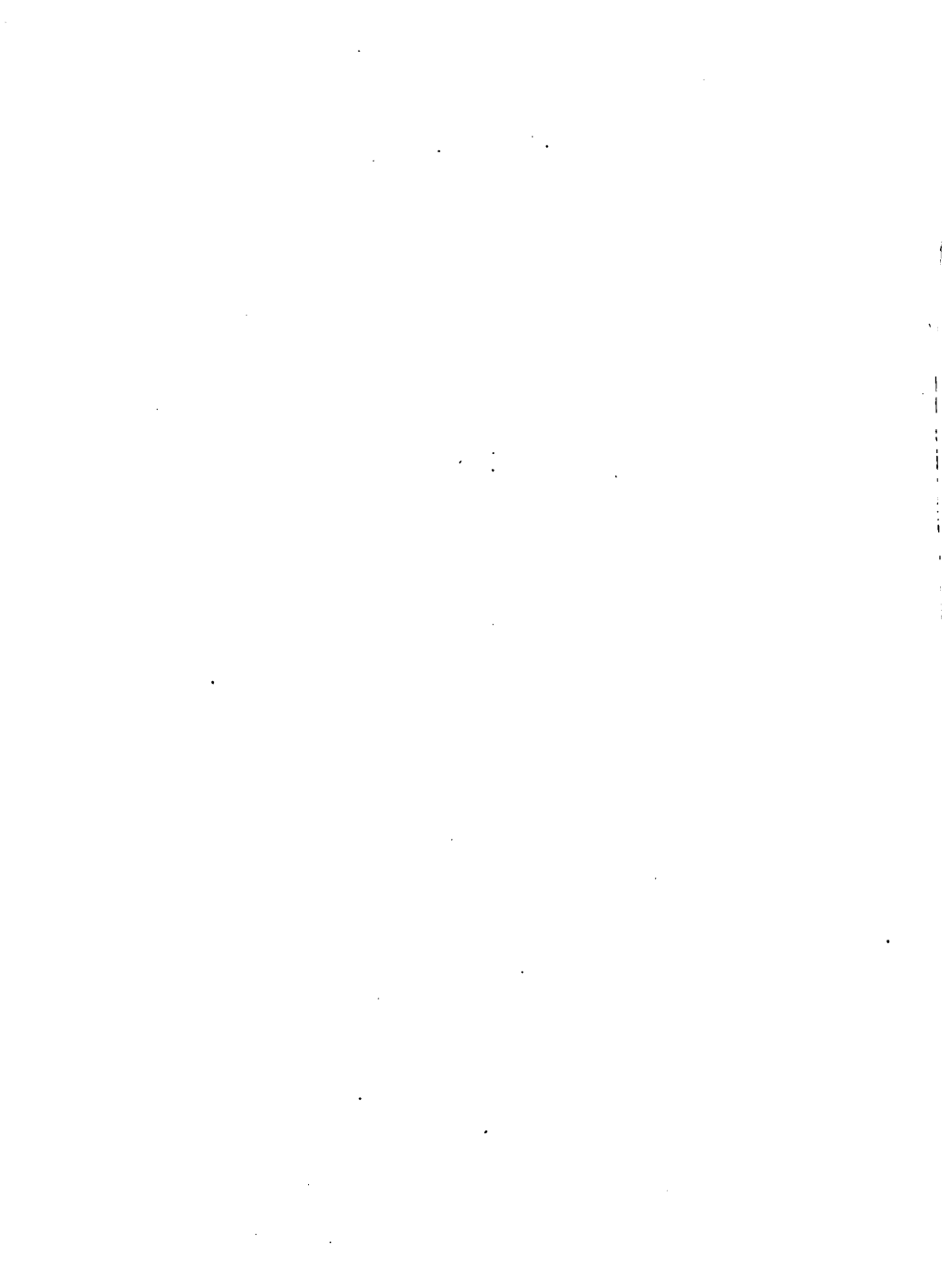
1	4	13	one
mouse	baker	moonlight	let
played	6	long	belt
off	guard	past	20
till	flour	midnight	another
go	9	14	have
bring	old	ox	fun
2	woman	drink	slide
first	sweeping	yonder	hill
leaped	sixpence	stack	dear
thus	market	handful	left
pray	buy	15	smooth
again	stile	jumped	track
hay	over	got	slid
3	10	19	never
I'll	farther	mice	23
any	met	how	beautiful
butcher	won't	felt	bush
meat	home	every	berries

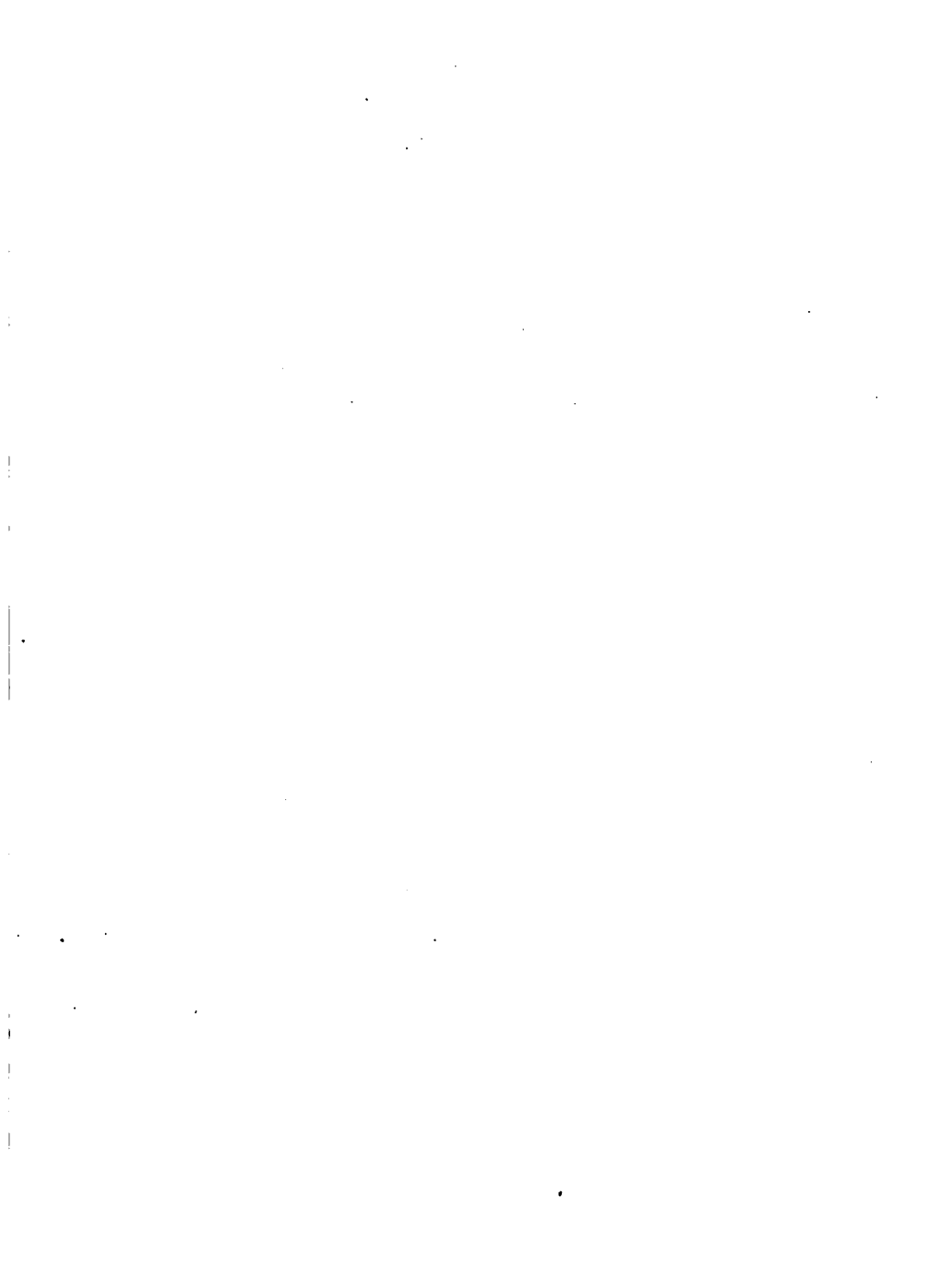
wanted	32	fond	two
pick	gnaw	cheer	three
unless	37	now	46
had	frog	merry	Jack
keep	a-wooing	din	Bunny
kid	whether	kittens	rabbit
indeed	opera	tumbling	sometimes
24	hat	40	told
harm	38	crown	stayed
27	hall	poor	sight
quench	loud	terrible	know
29	knock	fright	Mr.
ax	Mrs.	wished	garden
strike	yes	41	47
30	kind	brook,	knew
smith	sir	duck	business
grind	sitting	gobbled	climb
31	spin	him	shed
rope	39	there	almost
hang	dine	end	net

tangled	creature	humble	63
cry	begged	paid	only
48	mercy	61	like
heard	54	once	teach
soon	noble	ago	answered
free	small	wonder	isn't
trouble	after	learn	magpie
tells	think ing	robin	64
49	may	cannot	tired
box	55	wren	65
53	could	ask	flew
lion	him self	62	work
rest	roar	last	babies
under	fast	stepped	brought
great	near	roll	67
family	happened	just	story
very	tried	fairies	says
angry	quiet	appeared	showed
paw	56	frightened	please
about	friend	fly	68
			close

watch	these	75	78
mud	lined	while	bark
round	soft	hungry	stopped
cake	warm	more	replied
thrush	starling	silly	straight
pat	thought	been	quite
middle	71	word	still
next	lesson	since	79
twigs	73	77	enough
69	bear	Billy's	held
river	both	real	high
owl	should	Opossum	speak
oak	because	many	80
slender	74	people	matter
twined	growl	short	don't
out side	slapped	Jim	cowards
70	fight	coon	afraid
sparrow	fought	peach	tickling
feathers	neither	feast	truth
fine	nor	started	no body
moss			nose

against	always	91	race
ribs	right	least	tall
catch	86	might	world
breath	bend	threw	valleys
81	dreamed	line	children
touches	87	quickly	girl
seems	sighed	hook	98
lose	besides	92	daughter
danger	88	sorry	plowing
84	Pussy	crawled	horses
gray	bed	clothes	nice
bright	covered	dry	99
wandered	balls	yet	drew
find	catkins	93	apron
lost	90	mamma	100
85	Rob	large	wife
willows	fishing	cooked	sad
bent	alone	97	does
loved	pond	giant	happy
safe	promised	glad	
fur	pole		

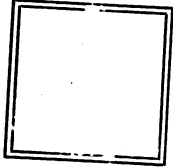




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