

READING MATERIAL FOR PUPILS OF THE FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADES

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It is coming to be commonly understood that the power to read silently with accuracy and speed is one of the most essential factors in the equipment of the child for his school work and a most important asset throughout his after-school life. In recognition of this fact, new phases of school work are being developed, and many school and class projects are being worked out in connection with silent reading. Naturally, one of the first problems to be considered is the selection of material to be used. While the teacher must necessarily, as a first step, present selections of her own, chosen for the range of the subject-matter and for real worth, the final test of the value of a book for children and its claim to a place in the classroom library rest with the pupils themselves.

With this thought in mind, pupils and teacher may profitably spend a period occasionally in the discussion of books read silently by individual members of the class. If this discussion is so conducted that pupils are led to relate a few of the interesting or amusing incidents in the stories they have enjoyed most, it proves one of the best means of stimulating a desire on the part of others to read the same stories. The majority of children appear to seek the stories recommended by members of their own group rather more eagerly than those recommended by older persons. For the teacher, such a period should be the best opportunity to discover the children's tastes and interests, and should be of value to her in becoming more intelligent in making selections for the school library, and more efficient in guiding the children in the use of the library.

For these oral discussions there may occasionally be substituted a very simple form of written report. A few examples of such reports written by fifth-grade pupils will indicate the variety of interests of a representative elementary-school group.

Pinocchio is the best book I have read this year. He was a very funny little chap. The best part was when he went through the woods to search for the Field of Wonder that the fox and the cat told him about. While he was walking through the woods he met two assassins, and while he was running away from them he came to a brook. He took a leap across the brook and landed safely. When the assassins came to take a leap they fell into the brook.

I liked *The Boy's Book of New Inventions* because it tells all about aeroplanes, lightning, electric lights, motion pictures, and the new things used in the war. The author is Harry E. Maule. I liked the motion-picture part best because I've always wanted to know about them.

Pioneers of the Mississippi Valley by McMurtry is a good story. The best story in it is about Daniel Boone. I liked him because he did clever things. He was brave, too. He built a fort called Boonesboro. In *Boy and Girl Heroes*, I liked Noal Duval because he was brave to escape from the Indians. No matter if he was lame, he could do something just the same.

I want to tell you that the best book I have read is *The Wonder Clock*. I like it because it is a fairy story and tells about the olden times. I wish I could have another story almost like that one.

An interesting reading project grew out of a discussion in which a fifth-grade boy said that he had enjoyed reading *Stories of Brave Dogs* by M. H. Carter. Several others expressed the same opinion concerning the book, and finally someone remarked that he wished there was another book of similar stories. The teacher inquired if there was any way of securing such a book, and immediately it was suggested that perhaps they could make a book of dog stories for themselves, as it had already been noted that the book under discussion was a collection of stories which had appeared from time to time in *St. Nicholas*.

Having decided upon this plan, the class considered the question of possible sources of material. Anything interesting concerning dogs was to be included. It was remembered that there were back numbers of *St. Nicholas* and *Youth's Companion* in the building, and groups of children were chosen by the class to examine these and select all material concerning dogs. Everyone agreed that illustrations make a book more enjoyable; this necessitated the collection of pictures as well as stories. Individual contributions

of both were made from the *Red Cross Magazine*, *National Geographic Magazine*, *Little Folks*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, and *Country Life*. As fast as stories and articles were collected, they were assigned to members of the class to be prepared for reading to the others. After the reading the class discussed the merits of the selections. Some were unanimously agreed upon as interesting and acceptable in every way; others were discarded for various reasons. Frequently the story was rejected because it was not told in an interesting way; occasionally the vocabulary was said to be so difficult that it was impossible to understand the content; oftentimes the criticism was that there was not enough about dogs in the article to warrant using it in such a book.

The pupils' own estimate of the value of their work was quite evident when its permanent form came up for discussion. One child's suggestion that it be like a loose-leaf notebook fastened with rings was firmly rejected, and there was a plea for a binding and cover like a *real* book. The art instructor was sent for and asked to assist in a real bookbinding project with its many difficult problems—determining the kinds of material to be used, the size of each part, and the color and design of the cover; planning the title-page; and the actual printing and binding.

The result of their efforts seemed so much worth while to those who participated in the project that they voted to add their volume to the permanent classroom library for the use of future classes.

The following lists of books are the result of an attempt during the past two years to discover the worth-while books that children of the fourth and fifth grades actually enjoy reading. Each list provides for the differences in taste and age found in the average group of forty or fifty children of the grades for which they are indicated. Only those books which children themselves have expressed pleasure in reading are included.

BOOKS SUITABLE FOR PUPILS OF GRADE IV

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll. Macmillan Co.

American History for Little Folks, Albert F. Blaisdell and Francis K. Ball. Little, Brown & Co.

Around the World with Children, Frank G. Carpenter. American Book Co.

The Belgian Twins, Lucy Fitch Perkins. Houghton Mifflin Co.

Betty in Canada, Etta B. McDonald and Julia Dalrymple. Little, Brown & Co.

Birch-Tree Fairy Book, Clifton Johnson. Little, Brown & Co.

Bird Book for Children, Thornton W. Burgess. Little, Brown & Co.

Book of Nature Myths, Florence Holbrook. Houghton Mifflin Co.

Boy and Girl Heroes, Florence V. Farmer. Macmillan Co.

Boy Who Knew What the Birds Said, Padraic Colum. Macmillan Co.

Burgess Animal Book, Thornton Burgess. Little, Brown & Co.

Captured Santa Claus, Thomas Nelson Page. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Celtic Fairy Tales, J. Jacobs (editor). G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Children's Book of Thanksgiving Stories, Asa Don Dickinson (editor). Doubleday, Page & Co.

Christmas Angel, Katherine Pyle. Little, Brown & Co.

Christmas Every Day, W. D. Howells. Harper & Bros.

Christmas in Legend and Story, Elva S. Smith and Alice I. Hazeltine. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co.

Classic Myths, Mary Catherine Judd. Rand McNally & Co.

Coming of the White Men, Mary H. Wade. W. A. Wilde.

Counterpane Fairy, Katherine Pyle. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Days and Deeds a Hundred Years Ago, Gertrude L. Stone and M. Grace Fickett. D. C. Heath & Co.

Donald in Scotland, Etta B. McDonald and Julia Dalrymple. Little, Brown & Co.

Donkey John of the Toy Valley, Margaret W. Moseley. A. C. McClurg & Co.

Dutch Twins, Lucy Fitch Perkins. Houghton Mifflin Co.

East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon, G. Thorne-Thomsen. Row, Peterson Co.

Elm Tree Fairy Book, Clifton Johnson. Little, Brown & Co.

English Fairy Tales, J. Jacobs (editor). G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Everyday Life in the Colonies, Gertrude L. Stone and M. Grace Fickett. D. C. Heath & Co.

Fables from Afar, Catherine T. Bryce. Newson & Co.

Fairy Tales of Eastern Europe, Jeremiah Curtin. McBride & Co.

Fairy Tales Every Child Should Know, Hamilton Mabie. Doubleday, Page & Co.

Farm Book, E. Boyd Smith. Houghton Mifflin Co.

Fifty Famous People, James Baldwin. American Book Co.

Firebrands, F. E. Martin and G. M. Davis. Little, Brown & Co.

Firelight Fairy Book, Henry Beson. Atlantic Monthly Press.

Folk-Lore from Foreign Lands, Catherine T. Bryce. Newson & Co.

Four Wonders, Elnora E. Shillig. Rand McNally & Co.

Garden behind the Moon, Howard Pyle. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Gerda in Sweden, Etta B. McDonald and Julia Dalrymple. Little, Brown & Co.

- Glimpses of the World*, Larkin Dunton. Silver, Burdett & Co.
- Hans, the Eskimo*, Christiana Scandlin. Silver, Burdett & Co.
- Hassan in Egypt*, Etta B. McDonald and Julia Dalrymple. Little, Brown & Co.
- Hide and Seek in Forest Land*, Robert W. Chambers. D. Appleton & Co.
- In Eastern Wonderlands*, Charlotte C. Gibson. Little, Brown & Co.
- In the Green Forest*, Katherine Pyle. Little, Brown & Co.
- In Those Days*, Ella B. Hallock. Macmillan Co.
- Irish Twins*, Lucy Fitch Perkins. Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Japanese Fairy Tales*, Teresa P. Williston. Rand McNally & Co.
- Japanese Twins*, Lucy Fitch Perkins. Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Joseph in Spain*, Etta B. McDonald and Julia Dalrymple. Little, Brown & Co.
- Just So Stories*, Rudyard Kipling. Doubleday, Page & Co.
- Land of Song, Book I*, K. H. Shute and L. Dunton. Silver, Burdett & Co.
- Legends of the Red Children*, Mara L. Pratt. American Book Co.
- Little Folk Lyrics*, Frank Dempster Sherman. Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Little Girl of Long Ago*, E. O. White. Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Little Lane Prince*, Mrs. D. M. Craik. D. C. Heath & Co.
- Little Mitchell*, Margaret W. Morley. A. C. McClurg & Co.
- Little Star Gazers*, Julia A. Schwartz. F. A. Stokes Co.
- Little White Fox*, Roy J. Snell. Little, Brown & Co.
- Lonesomest Doll*, Abbie Farwell Brown. Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Magic Casements*, Kate D. Wiggin and Nora A. Smith. Doubleday, Page & Co.
- Marta in Holland*, Etta B. McDonald and Julia Dalrymple. Little, Brown & Co.
- Mary of Plymouth*, James Otis. American Book Co.
- Men of Old Greece*, Jennie Hall. Little, Brown & Co.
- Mother West Wind's Animal Friends*, Thornton W. Burgess. Little, Brown & Co.
- Mother West Wind's "Why" Stories*, Thornton W. Burgess. Little, Brown & Co.
- Myths of the Red Children*, Gilbert W. Wilson. Ginn & Co.
- Nancy in the Woods*, Marion Bryce. John Lane Co.
- Oak Tree Fairy Book*, Clifton Johnson. Little, Brown & Co.
- Old Crow Stories*, K. B. Judson. Little, Brown & Co.
- Old Stories of the East*, James Baldwin. American Book Co.
- Our Australian Cousin*, Mary F. Nixon-Roulet. Page Co.
- Our Norwegian Cousin*, Mary H. Wade. Page Co.
- Paz and Pello*, A. F. Mitchell. World Book Co.
- Peter Pan*, Frederick Orville Perkins (editor). Silver, Burdett & Co.
- Pig Brother*, Laura E. Richards. Little, Brown & Co.
- Play Day Stories*, Sarah Orne Jewett. Houghton Mifflin Co.

- Posy Ring*, Kate D. Wiggin and Nora A. Smith. Doubleday, Page & Co.
Primary History, William H. Mace. Rand McNally & Co.
Sand Man, His Farm Stories, William J. Hopkins. Page Co.
Sand Man, His Sea Stories, William J. Hopkins. Page Co.
Scotch Twins, Lucy Fitch Perkins. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Seven Little Sisters, Jane Andrews. Ginn & Co.
Seven Peas in the Pod, Margery Bailey. Little, Brown & Co.
Snow Baby, Mrs. J. D. Peary. F. A. Stokes Co.
Songs of Tree-Top and Meadow, McMurray and Cook. Public School Publishing Co.
Star Jewels, Abbie Farwell Brown. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Stories of American Discoverers for Little Americans, Rose Lucia. American Book Co.
Stories of Norse Heroes, E. M. Wilmot-Buxton. T. Y. Crowell Co.
Stories of the Pilgrims for Children, Roland G. Usher. Macmillan Co.
Sunshine Lands of Europe, Lenore Mulets. World Book Co.
Tales of the Red Children, A. F. Brown and J. M. Bell. D. Appleton & Co.
Through the Looking Glass, Lewis Carroll. Macmillan Co.
Twilight Land, Howard Pyle. Harper & Bros.
Umè San in Japan, Etta B. McDonald and Julia Dalrymple. Little, Brown & Co.
Viking Tales, Jennie Hall. Rand McNally & Co.
Wigwam Evenings, C. A. and E. G. Eastman. Little, Brown & Co.
Wonder Oak, Bertha Currier Porter. Eaton and Mains.
Wonders of the Jungle, Books I and II, Prince Ghosh. D. C. Heath & Co.
Wonderful Adventures of Nils, Selma Lagerlöf. Doubleday, Page & Co.

BOOKS SUITABLE FOR PUPILS OF GRADE V

- Adrift on an Ice-Pan*, W. T. Grenfell. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy, Padraic Colum. Macmillan Co.
Africa, Frank G. Carpenter. American Book Co.
American Hero Stories, Eva March Tappan. Houghton Mifflin Co.
American History, Edward Eggleston. American Book Co.
American Leaders, Book I, Walter Lefferts. J. B. Lippincott Co.
American Leaders, Book II, Walter Lefferts. J. B. Lippincott Co.
American Leaders and Heroes, Wilbur F. Gordy. Charles Scribner's Sons.
Arabian Nights, F. J. Olcott. Henry Holt & Co.
Arabian Nights, Kate D. Wiggin and Nora A. Smith. Doubleday, Page & Co.
Arkansaw Bear, Albert Bigelow Paine. Henry Artemus Co.
Asia, Frank G. Carpenter. American Book Co.
Beautiful Joe, Marshall Saunders. Griffith & Rowland.
Bird Book for Children, T. W. Burgess. Little, Brown & Co.

- Black Beauty*, Anna Sewell. G. W. Jacobs & Co.
- Blue Fairy Book*, Andrew Lang. Longmans, Green & Co.
- Boy Captive in Canada*, Mary P. W. Smith. Little, Brown & Co.
- Boys and Girls of Many Lands*, Inez McFee. T. Y. Crowell Co.
- Burgess Animal Book*, Thornton Burgess. Little, Brown & Co.
- Captains Courageous*, Rudyard Kipling. Century Co.
- Carrots*, Mary L. S. Molesworth. Macmillan Co.
- Child's Book of American Biography*, Mary S. Stimpson. Little, Brown & Co.
- Child Life*, J. G. Whittier. Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Children's Bluebird*, Mme. Maurice Maeterlinck (edited by Frederick O. Perkins). Silver, Burdett & Co.
- Children's Book of Patriotic Stories*, H. W. and A. D. Dickinson. Doubleday, Page & Co.
- Children in History (Early Times)*, Mary S. Hancock. Little, Brown & Co.
- Child's Harvest of Verse*, Mary W. Tileston. Little, Brown & Co.
- Christmas Tree Land*, Mary L. S. Molesworth. Macmillan Co.
- The City That Never Was Reached*, Jay T. Stocking. Pilgrim Press.
- Continents and Their People (Africa)*, J. F. and A. H. Chamberlain. Macmillan Co.
- Continents and Their People (Europe)*, J. F. and A. H. Chamberlain. Macmillan Co.
- Continents and Their People (North America)*, J. F. and A. H. Chamberlain. Macmillan Co.
- Continents and Their People (South America)*, J. F. and A. H. Chamberlain. Macmillan Co.
- Cruise of the Cachalot*, F. T. Bullen. Grosset & Dunlap.
- Cuckoo Clock*, Mary L. S. Molesworth. J. B. Lippincott & Co.
- Days and Deeds a Hundred Years Ago*, Gertrude L. Stone and M. Grace Fickett. D. C. Heath & Co.
- A Dog of Flanders*, Louise de la Ramée (Ouida). J. B. Lippincott & Co.
- Europe*, Frank G. Carpenter. American Book Co.
- Everyday Life in the Colonies*, Gertrude L. Stone and M. Grace Fickett. D. C. Heath & Co.
- Fairy Tales of the Far North*, P. C. Asbjornsen. A. L. Burt Co.
- Famous Men of Modern Times*, John H. Haaren and A. B. Poland. American Book Co.
- Fanciful Tales*, F. R. Stockton. Charles Scribner's Sons.
- Favorite Greek Myths*, Lillian S. Hyde. D. C. Heath & Co.
- Firebrands*, F. E. Martin and G. M. Davis. Little, Brown & Co.
- Fire-Tree Fairy Book*, Clifton Johnson. Little, Brown & Co.
- Founders of Our Country*, Fanny E. Coe. American Book Co.
- French Twins*, Lucy Fitch Perkins. Houghton Mifflin Co.
- Fresh Posies*, Abbie Farwell Brown. Houghton Mifflin Co.

- Five Little Peppers*, Margaret Sidney. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co.
Gabriel and the Hour Book, Evaleen Stein. Page Co.
Green Fairy Book, Andrew Lang. Longmans, Green & Co.
Guld, the Cavern King, Mary L. B. Branch. Sherman, French & Co.
Heimatlos, Johanna Spyri. Ginn & Co.
Hero Tales of the Far North, Jacob Riis. Macmillan Co.
Heroes of Iceland, Allen French. Little, Brown & Co.
Heroes of Today, Mary R. Parkman. Century Co.
Heroic Deeds of American Sailors, A. F. Blaisdell and F. K. Ball. Little, Brown & Co.
How the World Is Clothed, F. G. Carpenter. American Book Co.
How the World Is Fed, F. G. Carpenter. American Book Co.
How the World Is Housed, F. G. Carpenter. American Book Co.
I Am an American, S. C. Bryant. Houghton Mifflin Co.
In Those Days, Ella B. Hallock. Macmillan Co.
Indian Legends Retold, Elaine Goodale Eastman. Little, Brown & Co.
Jack, the Fire Dog, Lily F. Wesselhoef, Little, Brown & Co.
Jolly Good Times on a Farm, Mary P. W. Smith. Little, Brown & Co.
Jolly Good Times at Hackmatack, Mary P. W. Smith. Little, Brown & Co.
Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling. Century Co.
Laddie, the House Dog, Lily F. Wesselhoef. Little, Brown & Co.
Land of Song, Book II, Katherine Larkin, K. H. Shute and L. Dunton. Silver, Burdett & Co.
Leaders to Liberty, Mary H. Wade. Little, Brown & Co.
The Life Savers, J. O. Kaler. E. P. Dutton & Co.
Lisbeth Longfrock, Hans Aanrud. Ginn & Co.
Little Book of the Flag, Eva March Tappan. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Little Boy Lost, W. H. Hudson. Alfred Knopf.
Little Folk Lyrics, Frank Dempster Sherman. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Little Lord Fauntleroy, Frances Hodgson Burnett. Charles Scribner's Sons.
Little Maid of Bunker Hill, Alice Turner Curtis. Penn Publishing Co.
Little Maid of Massachusetts Colony, Alice Turner Curtis. Penn Publishing Co.
Little Maid of Narragansett Bay, Alice Turner Curtis. Penn Publishing Co.
Little Maid of Old Philadelphia, Alice Turner Curtis. Penn Publishing Co.
Little Maid of Provincetown, Alice Turner Curtis. Penn Publishing Co.
Little Princess, F. H. Burnett. Charles Scribner's Sons.
Little Red Doe, C. J. Hawkins. Little, Brown & Co.
Magic Forest, Stewart Edward White. Macmillan Co.
Makers of the Nation, Fanny E. Coe. American Book Co.
Mexican Twins, Lucy Fitch Perkins. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Moni, the Goat Boy, Johanna Spyri. Ginn & Co.
Moufflon, Louise de la Ramée (Ouida). J. B. Lippincott & Co.
North America, Frank G. Carpenter. American Book Co.

- Old Greek Stories*, J. Preston Peabody. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Old Northwest, James Baldwin. American Book Co.
Our Brazilian Cousin, Mary F. Nixon-Roulet. Page Co.
Our Mexican Cousin, Edward C. Butler. Page Co.
Pinocchio under the Sea, John W. Davis (editor). Macmillan Co.
Pioneers of America, A. F. Blaisdell and F. K. Ball. Little, Brown & Co.
Pioneer Life, Florence Bass. D. C. Heath & Co.
Pioneers of the Mississippi Valley, Charles A. McMurry. Macmillan Co.
Poems Every Child Should Know, Mary E. Burt. Doubleday, Page & Co.
Posy Ring, Kate D. Wiggin and Nora A. Smith. Doubleday, Page & Co.
Quest of the Fish-Dog Skin, J. W. Schultz. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Robin Hood, His Book, Eva March Tappan. Little, Brown & Co.
Sinopah, the Indian Boy, James Willard Schultz. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Smoky Day's Wigwam Evenings, C. A. and E. G. Eastman. Little, Brown & Co.
Songs of Sixpence, Abbie Farwell Brown. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Songs of Tree-Top and Meadow, McMurray and Cook. Public School Publishing Co.
Stars and Their Stories, Alice M. Griffith. Henry Holt & Co.
Stories of Brave Dogs, M. H. Carter. Century Co.
Stories of Old Deerfield, Mary P. W. Smith. Little, Brown & Co.
Stories of Patriotism, Norma Helen Deming and Katherine Isabel Bemis. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Story of American History, Albert F. Blaisdell and F. K. Ball. Ginn & Co.
Story of Dr. Doolittle, Hugh Lofting. A. F. Stokes Co.
Story of Rolf, Allen French. Little, Brown & Co.
Story Telling Poems, F. J. Olcott. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Story of a Thousand Year Pine, Enos A. Mills. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Top of the Continent, Thomas Sterling Yard. Charles Scribner's Sons.
True Story of Benjamin Franklin, E. S. Brooks. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co.
True Story of Lincoln, E. S. Brooks. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co.
Twin Travelers in South America, Mary Wade. F. A. Stokes Co.
Two American Boys in Hawaii, G. Waldo Browne. Dana Estes Co.
Two Little Confederates, Thomas Nelson Page. Charles Scribner's Sons.
Wild Animals I Have Known, Ernest Seton-Thompson. Charles Scribner's Sons.
Wilderness Babies, Julia Schwartz. Little, Brown & Co.
Wonder Book, Nathaniel Hawthorne. Houghton Mifflin Co.
Wonder Clock, Howard Pyle. Harper & Bros.
Wonderful Chair and the Tales It Told, Frances Browne. D. C. Heath & Co.
Wonders of the Jungle, Books I and II, Prince Ghosh. D. C. Heath & Co.
Why the Chimes Rang, Raymond Macdonald Alden. Bobbs-Merrill Co.