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SECOND READER

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The Larks and the Farmer

1. A lark once had her nest in a wheat field. Every day she flew off to find food for her young ones.

2. One day when she was away the farmer came into the field.

3. "This wheat is ripe," he said. "I will get my friends to help me cut it."

4. When the lark came home, her young ones chirped, "O mother, we must fly away at once. The farmer has gone for his friends. They are to help him cut his wheat."

5. "Oh," said their mother, "then we can stay here a little longer."

6. After a time the farmer came again.

"My friends have not come," he said. "It will be better not to wait for them. I will go to my cousins and get them to help me,"

7. That night, the little larks said, "O mother, the farmer has gone to get his cousins to help him. Must we go now?"

s. "Oh, no," said the mother. "We can still stay a little longer."

9. In a day or two the farmer came back.

"My cousins have not come," he said.

"This work should be done at once. I see I might as well do it myself. In the morning I will come and cut this wheat."

10. That night the young larks said, "O mother, the farmer says he will cut the wheat himself. Should we not go?"

"Yes, my children," said the mother lark.
"Now we must fly away at once. The wheat is sure to be cut. The farmer is to do it himself."





The Good Soldier

1. The soldier was made of wood. He had a red coat and a black hat.

2. He stood still and held up his gun. He never took his eyes away from Frank's toy kitten.

3. The kitten sat on a little box. When any one pressed the box, there was a squeak.

4. You might think it was the kitten that squeaked. Maybe the little soldier could tell if it was the kitten, but he did not.

5. Frank had set the soldier to watch the kitten. As long as the soldier held up his gun and kept his eyes on her, she did not try to run away.

6. But if he had put down his gun, who knows what she would have done?

7. "What a good little soldier!" said Frank. "I can run out and play now, for he will watch my kitten."

8. "Yes," said Frank's mother; "he will watch better than a little boy I know. The little boy was to watch the baby. But he went off to play with his ball, and let the baby burn its hand."

9. The little soldier still stood there, and did not say a word. He kept on looking at the kitten. His coat looked as red as ever, but Frank's face was redder. Frank was thinking of the baby's hand.

cantar			
sing	sang	sung	song
ring king	rang	rung	long
King	hang	hung	gong



In the barn she used to frolic.

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Little Kitty

- 1. Once there was a little kitty,
 White as the snow;
 In the barn she used to frolic,
 Long time ago.
- 2. In the barn a little mousie

 Ran to and fro;

 For she heard the kitty coming,

 Long time ago.

- 3. Two black eyes had little kitty,
 Black as a crow;
 And they spied the little mousie,
 Long time ago.
- 4. Nine pearl teeth had little kitty,
 All in a row;
 And they bit the little mousie,
 Long time ago.
- 5. When the teeth bit little mousie,
 Little mouse cried, "Oh!"
 But she got away from kitty,
 Long time ago.

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Copy and memorize:

Do your best, your very best, And do it every day; Little boys and little girls, That is the wisest way. prit estidler my ja torde purta pēo'ple stâirs crumb lāte dōor tarpurs meet al'ways hill few

A Bird's Story

I

1. Would you like to hear me tell a story? I will tell you where I live, what I do, and what I see.

2. My little round house is up in a tree. It has no doors, no upstairs, and no downstairs.

3. "Oh, oh!" I hear you say. "We think your house must be all upstairs, for it is a long way up in the tree."

4. But you see I do not go up any stairs to get to my house. I fly into it when I have been out.

5. I always go home early. I never sit up late at night. That is not good for me any more than it is good for boys and girls.

П

6. I go out very early in Birds asleep the morning to look for something to eat.

That is the best time to find worms which I like very much.



7. Now and then I find a few crumbs which some kind little boy or girl has put out for me.

A robin catching a worm

8. As I fly about, I see all kinds of things and people.

9. I see horses, cows, sheep, dogs, and rabbits in the fields. I see people going to work, and children going to school.

10. You like to go out for a walk, but I go out for a fly. How queer it would be if you were

it would be if you were to fly home from school!

11. I should not like to meet you up in the air. But I know I shall not, for you have no wings.



People going to work

12. I can fly over the houses, over the trees, and over the hills and far away.

13. I cannot stay to tell you any more now. I must fly home to my nest.

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The Ant and the Grasshopper

T

1. An ant and a grasshopper both lived in a field. In summer the ant worked to lay up food for winter. The grasshopper played all day long.

2. "Why do you work so hard, friend Ant?" he asked. "I dance and sing all day. Come and play with me. It is very pleasant."

3. "Yes," said the ant, "but if I play in summer, what shall I do for food in winter?"

4. "Oh, it is not winter yet," said the grasshopper, and off he went to play.

II

5. But at last winter came. The ant could not work, and the grasshopper could not play. But the ant had her house full of food.

6. The poor grasshopper was both cold and hungry. So he went to the ant to ask for food.

He knocked at the door.

7. "Who is there?" called the ant.

"Your friend, the grasshopper. I have come to ask for something to eat."

s. "I have no food to give you. You sang all through the summer when I was at work. Now you may go and dance."

9. She was a wise ant and what she said was true.

10. Lazy people should not expect others to work for them. They should work for themselves.

Write answers to these questions:

What did the ant do in summer?
What was the grasshopper doing then?
What did the grasshopper do in winter?
What did he say to the ant?
What did the ant say to him?

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The New Moon

Dear mother, how pretty
 The moon looks to-night!

 She was never so pretty before;
 Her two little horns
 Are so sharp and so bright,
 I hope she'll not grow any more.

2. If I were up there,
With you and my friends,
I'd rock in it nicely, you'd see;
I'd sit in the middle
And hold by both ends;
Oh, what a bright cradle 't would be!

3. And there we would stay
In the beautiful skies,
And through the bright clouds we would roam;
We would see the sun set,
And see the sun rise,
And on the next rainbow come home.

ELIZA LEE FOLLEN

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Chicken-little

I

1. One day Chicken-little went to the woods, where she had no right to be. As she was scratching about, an acorn fell upon her head.

2. "Oh, dear," she said, "the sky is falling! I must run and tell the king."

3. So off she ran as fast as she could. Soon she met Hen-len.

4. "Hen-len, Hen-len!" she Chicken-little and Hen-len cried. "The sky is falling. I saw it; I heard it; and part of it fell on my poor head. Let us go and tell the king."



5. So Hen-len ran with her. Then they met Cock-lock.

6. "O Cock-lock," said Hen-len,
"run with us! The sky is falling."
7. "Why! How do you know?"

asked Cock-lock.

s. "Chicken-little told me. She saw it; she heard it; and part of it fell on her poor head."

II

9. Then all three ran as fast as they could. On the way they met Duck-luck.

10. "Where are you going in such great haste?" she asked.

11. "O Duck-luck, run with us! The sky is falling," Cock-lock said.

"Who told you so?" asked Duck-

Duck-luck

12. "Hen-len told me. She had the news from Chicken-little. Chicken-little saw it and heard it, and part of it fell on her poor head."

13. So Duck-luck ran with them. Soon they met Drake-lake.



14. "O Drake-lake," said Duck-luck, "have you not heard that the sky is falling?"

"No, no!" cried Drakelake. "Who said so?"

"and Hen-len told him. Hen-len had it from Chicken-little; she saw it and heard it, and part of it fell on her poor head."

Ш



16. And so all four ran as if for their lives. Then they met Gooseloose.

17. "Come, Goose-loose," cried Drake-lake, "run with us to the king. The sky is falling."

18. "How do you know?" asked Goose-loose.

"Duck-luck told me."

"And how did Duck-luck know?"

19. "Cock-lock told her. He heard it from Hen-len, who had it from Chicken-little. Chicken-little saw it and heard it, and part of it fell on her poor head."





Tarkey-lurkey

20. They ran on till they met Gander-lander. When they told him their story, he ran with them. Then they met Turkey-lurkey. He too ran with them. So they all ran and ran.

21. At last they met Fox-lox.

"Where are you going, my pretty maids?"

said he, "and why are you running so fast?"

once. "The sky is falling, and we are going to tell the king."

23. "That is great news," said Fox-lox.
"Come with me and I will

show you the way."

24. So they all went with him. But he only took them into his den. Then he and his little ones ate up poor Chicken-little, Hen-len, Cock-lock, Duck-luck, Drake-lake, Goose-loose, Gander-lander, and Turkey-lurkey. So they never saw the king to tell him that, the sky was falling.



They all went with him.

Chicken-little Duck-luck Hen-len Drake-lake Cock-lock Goose-loose

Gander-lander Turkey-lurkey Fox-lox



The Robins

- One day the sun was warm and bright,
 No cloud was in the sky;
 Cock Robin said, "My little dears,
 It's time for you to fly."
 And every little robin said,
 "I'll try, I'll try."
- 2. I know a child, and who she is I'll tell you by and by; When mother says, "Do this, or that," She says, "What for?" and "Why?" She'd be a better child by far If she would say, "I'll try."

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The Voice in the Wood

- 1. Albert was at play all by himself in a field near a wood. He was so happy that he called out, "Hurrah! hurrah!"
- 2. A voice from the wood said, "Hurrah! hurrah!"
- 3. Albert thought the voice came from some boy in the wood. He looked all about, but could not see any one. Then he called out, "Who are you?"
- 4. "Who are you?" said the voice.
 - "Hurrah! hurrah!"
 - 5. "What is your name?" called Albert.
- "What is your name?" came back from the wood.
- 6. Albert was getting angry. So he called out at the top of his voice, "You are a goose."

Back came the voice, "You are a goose,"

7. At this Albert was very angry. He looked everywhere; no one was to be seen.

П

8. So he went home and told his father that some one in the wood had called him names. "Did he speak first?" asked his father.

9. "No," said Albert. "I was just calling out 'Hurrah!' and he began to say 'Hurrah!' too. I could not see him, so I asked 'Who are you?' Then he called out 'Who are you?' And everything I said he said after me."

10. "There was only one boy there, Albert," said his father, "and that was yourself.

"What you heard to-day was the echo of your voice. If you had used kind and gentle words, you would have heard kind and gentle words from the echo.

11. "This was the echo from the wood, Albert. But you will often hear an echo from your playmates. They will speak to you as you do to them. Try always to speak to them as you wish them to speak to you."

lēaf mouth brēathe branch shěll ő'pen drěss blă \underline{n} 'kět wrăpped weâr clōse brēeze brôught Jăck Fröst

The Story of a Leaf

I

1. I am a leaf. My home is in a great tree. All winter I was wrapped close and warm in a blanket. I was in a little brown cradle rocked by the breeze.

2. Would you like to see a leaf cradle?

Next autumn break off a branch of a tree, and see if you cannot find a leaf bud.

3. Break it open and you will see in it some soft white down. That is by

the blanket. The little leaf is wrapped warm and close in it. The brown shell that you break is the cradle.

4. I was rocked all winter in my cradle on the bough. Then spring came with its warm sunshine and soft rains.

5. I threw off my blanket, got up out of

my cradle, and put on my pretty green dress. I was no longer a baby leaf.

п

6. Then I wanted food. How do you think I got it?

7. The roots of the tree found some for me. The stems and branches and boughs brought it up to me. Some of my food I get for myself from the air.



8. I have many mouths. They are so little that you cannot see them. But I could not do without them. Could you do without your one big mouth?

Breathing pores of a leaf 9. I take in food through my little mouths, and I breathe through them, too. Like you, I must breathe as well as eat if I am to live and grow.

10. I had on my pretty green dress all summer. Now it is autumn, and Jack Frost has dressed me in other colors. I shall not wear these colors very long.

11. I must go down to the ground and

put on my brown winter dress. My work up here will be ended, but I shall have work to do down there.

12. Did you think that all I had to do was to dance in the wind and play in the sunshine? I work all the year round. See if you can find out some of the work that I do.

Copy these sentences and fill in the missing words:

In — the leaf is in the little leaf cradle.

In —— the warm sunshine and rain make the leaf grow.

In — the leaf wears a green dress.

In — the leaf is dressed in yellow.

Copy the words at the head of this lesson.

Use these words in sentences:

leaf	blanket	dress	mouth
bring	bringing		brought
think	thin	thinking	
buy	buy	buying	

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The Wind and the Leaves

"Come, little leaves," said the wind one day,
 "Come o'er the meadows with me, and play;

Put on your dresses of red and gold,— Summer is gone, and the days grow cold."

 Soon as the leaves heard the wind's loud call,

Down they came fluttering, one and all; Over the brown fields they danced and flew, Singing the soft little songs they knew.

3. Dancing and flying the little leaves went; Winter had called them, and they were content.

Soon fast asleep in their earthy beds, The snow laid a coverlet over their heads.



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The Little Pine Tree

T

1. There was once a pretty little pine tree in the forest. It had needles that were green all the year round. But it was not content with these.

2. "I do not like needles," said the little tree. "They are not even so pretty as leaves.

3. "I should like to be the most beautiful tree in the forest. I should like to have leaves of shining gold."

4. The next morning when the little tree awoke, it no longer had needles. It had leaves of gold, which shone in the sunlight. How happy it was!

5. "No other tree is so fine as I am," it said, and that was quite true.

П

6. But after a while a man walking through the forest saw the leaves of gold.