

poor	crows	knock	rabbit	rustled
shone	burs	frozen	acorns	touched
oak	noise	dead	fences	chestnuts

### A DAY IN AUTUMN.

#### I.

1. One night in autumn, Jack Frost came. We did not hear him, for he never makes a noise; but in the morning we saw what he had done.

2. The grass in the meadows was white with frost. The flowers in the garden were frozen and dead.

3. It was all the work of Jack Frost. He had painted the sidewalks and the fences; but he had not touched the windows.

4. In a little while, the sun was up. It shone warm and bright on the fields and woods. Soon the frost was all gone. The grass was green again, but not so bright as before. The bees came buzzing by, to have a last look at the poor flowers.

5. The leaves rustled in the wind, and looked up at the sun. But they would never

be as pretty and green as they were before Jack Frost had touched them.

6. Some of them began at once to turn brown. Some were bright red, and some as yellow as gold. Others were blown from the tree by the wind, and went floating down to the ground.



To the woods they went.

7. "Did you ever see so fair a day?" said Grace. Robert said, "The nuts will fall to-day!" "Will they?" said all the children. "Then let us go to the woods!"



## II.

8. And so to the woods they went. Grace and Annie and little May carried baskets. Robert had a hatchet, and Frank carried a long stick.

9. There were many oak trees in the woods, and the acorns were falling fast. But the children did not care for them. Acorns are not very good to eat.

10. Under one tree a squirrel was busy finding the best acorns and taking them to his nest. "He is putting them away, to eat when cold winter comes," said Grace. "He may have all the acorns," said Frank, "if he will only leave the chestnuts for us."

## III.

11. The children walked a long way through the woods. They saw so many pretty things, that they almost forgot about the nuts. They saw a rabbit sitting on the ground among some tall grass. They saw some robins getting ready to fly away to the warm south. They saw two black crows

flying from tree to tree, and crying, "Caw, caw, caw!"

12. By and by they came to a chestnut tree, not far from the edge of the woods. But they could not find any chestnuts under it. Soon Frank was up among the branches. "Now give me my long stick," he said, "and I will knock the nuts down to you!"



The Crows.

13. Soon the chestnuts were falling fast to the ground, and the girls were busy enough putting them in the baskets. Some of the chestnuts were still in the burs; but Robert opened the burs with his little hatchet, and took them out.

14. Long before evening the children went home. Their baskets were full of ripe, brown chestnuts.



Chestnut Burs.



pigs	slowly	gather	harm
year	shade	covered	nothing
tiny	pieces	finger	thousands

## THE ACORN.

I.



White Oak.

1. Have you ever seen an acorn in its cup? There are as many kinds of acorns as there are kinds of oak trees.



Rock Chestnut Oak.

2. Acorns are very good food for squirrels and bears and pigs; but children do not like them well enough to eat many of them.

3. In the autumn, all the acorns are ripe; and, when the frost comes, they fall from the tree to the ground. What becomes of them then?



Swamp White Oak.

4. Some of them are carried away by the squirrels to their nests. Some are eaten by other animals. Some roll down the hillside into the brooks, and float far away. Some lie on the ground till they rot and fall to pieces.

II.

5. Now and then an acorn is covered with leaves, and is kept warm by them until spring comes.



Post Oak.

6. Then tiny roots grow from it, and run down into the soft ground. Tiny green leaves peep out above, and look up to the sun and the sky.



Bur Oak.

7. Soon no acorn can be seen there at all, but in its place there is a little oak tree no longer than your finger. If no harm comes to the little tree, it will grow larger and larger every year. But it will grow very slowly.



Black Scrub Oak.

8. After a long time it will be a tall oak, with hundreds of branches and thousands of leaves. The birds will build their nests in this great tree. The squirrels will gather its acorns, and play among its branches.

9. Children and grown-up people will sit in its shade, when the sun is hot; and everybody will say, "What a beautiful oak!"



Live Oak.





Scarlet Oak.

10. Do you know how many kinds of oaks there are? Find as many kinds of acorns as you can. Find as many kinds of oak leaves as you can.
- Which kind of oak tree grows the tallest?  
Which kind bears the largest acorns?  
Which kind has the smoothest bark?

Acorns grow on oak trees.

*Great oaks . . . . from acorns.*

*Chestnuts grow on . . . . . trees.*

*. . . . . grow on apple trees.*

An apple is larger than a chestnut.

*An acorn is smaller than . . . . .*

An acorn grows in an acorn cup.

*A chestnut . . . . in a chestnut . . . .*

What trees do we find in orchards?

*We find . . . . trees in orchards.*

What trees do we find in the woods?

hawk	queen	hurry	party
mouse	catch	worry	gray
king	merry	greedy	clover

### THE SONG OF THE LARK.

#### I.

1. There was once a gray pussy, who went down into the meadow and sat among the tall grass. She saw a merry lark flying above her, and she said, "Where are you going, pretty lark?"



2. The lark said, "I am going to the king to sing him a song this pleasant May morning."

3. The gray pussy said, "Oh, do not go there! Come to me, and I will let you see the pretty bell that hangs upon my neck."

4. But the lark said, "Oh, no, no, gray pussy! I saw you worry a little mouse one day, and you shall not worry me."

#### II.

5. Then the lark flew away till he came to the dark woods; and there he saw a gray, greedy hawk sitting in an old oak tree.



6. The gray, greedy hawk said, "Where are you going, my pretty little friend?" The lark said, "I am going to see the king.



I want to sing him a song this pleasant May morning."

7. The gray, greedy hawk said, "Do not be in a hurry. Come to me, and I will show you my nest and the three little baby hawks in it."

8. But the lark said, "Oh, no, no, gray, greedy hawk! I saw you catch a young robin one morning, and you shall not catch me."

III.

9. Then the lark flew away till he came to a high hill; and there he saw a sly fox sitting among some bushes.



10. The sly fox said, "Where are you going, my pretty lark?" The lark said, "I am going to the king to sing him a song this pleasant May morning."

11. The sly fox said, "Come here, little lark, and I will let you learn a new song that you have never heard."

12. The lark said, "Oh, no, no, sly fox! You killed the little chickens that had lost their mother, but you shall not kill me."

IV.

13. Then he flew, away and away, till he came to the garden of the king; and there he sat among the red clover blossoms; and sang his sweetest song.



So a robin redbreast sang with the lark.

14. The song pleased the king so much that he called to the queen, and said, "What shall we do for the merry lark that sings to us so sweetly this morning?"



15. The queen said, "I think we might have a little party for the lark and ask the robin to come and sing with him." So a robin red-breast came and sang with the lark. And the king and queen danced on the grass while the merry birds sang.

16. Then some ripe, red cherries were given to the birds, and they flew away together. "Come with me," said the robin. So the lark went with him till they came to a green tree in the thick woods.

17. "There," said the robin, "there is my mate, and there is our nest." Then the two robins showed him a snug, warm nest, and in it were four pretty, blue eggs.

18. "Now, come with me," said the lark. "I have something to show you, too." So the two birds flew away till they came to the middle of a field. "Here we are," said the lark. "Now do as I do."

19. He flew down to the ground, and the robin flew down beside him. And there, under red clover blossoms, was the lark's pretty nest, with five little baby larks in it.

might	trouble	shady	fluttered
straight	worm	easy	breakfast
behind	rough	mouth	scolding

### ROBIN'S FIRST WALK.

#### I.

1. It was a beautiful morning in summer. There was not a cloud in the blue sky. A soft south wind was stirring the leaves on the trees. The air was full of the songs of birds.



Sir Speckled Breast.

2. My friend Robert and I were walking along a shady road in the country. Now and then we stopped to gather some flowers, or to look at the blossoms on the vines and bushes by the roadside. Now and then we saw a squirrel running up a tree, or a beautiful bird flying among the branches.

3. "Look there! what is that?" cried Robert all at once. Some little creature



was hopping along in the road before us. We both ran to see what it was. But Robert came up with it first.

4. "Oh! it is a young robin just out of its nest!" And so it was. He was not old enough to fly. His wings were not long enough nor strong enough to be of much use to him. Hop! hop! hop! On he went. He did not seem to be much afraid of us.

## II.

5. Robert said, "We must not leave him here in the road. Some dog or rough boy will catch him, and kill him. Let us put him in the field, on the other side of the fence!"

6. But before we could put him in the field we must catch him. It was not so easy a thing to do as you would think. We ran after him. The bird was afraid now. He hopped, and jumped, and tried hard to fly. But at last Robert had him safe in his hands.

7. How the little creature fluttered and cried! "We are not going to harm you, Sir Speckled Breast! We are only going to

put you over the fence, where you will be safe among the bushes and the tall grass!" But still he cried and fluttered. He tried hard to jump from Robert's hands.



Still he cried and fluttered.

8. All at once we heard a sharp cry behind us. We looked back. There, on the other side of the road, was the mother robin. She was hopping first this way and then that, and she seemed to be in great trouble. In her mouth she had a long worm that she had found for the little fellow's breakfast.



9. Robert hurried to put Sir Speckled Breast through the fence. "There! be off with you! Don't come back into the road again!" The bird hopped away as fast as he could. Soon he would find a safe place among the leafy bushes or in the tall grass.

## iii.

10. Another sharp cry! We turned to see what it was. There was the father robin in a tree behind us. He was jumping from branch to branch, and scolding us with all his might. Then we saw the mother bird fly over the fence into the field. We saw her fly straight to the spot where Sir Speckled Breast was hiding:



11. I am sure that the little fellow was glad to see his mother again. He was glad, too, to get the worm which she brought for his breakfast.

12. Do you think that she scolded him for leaving the nest too soon? I think she was so glad to have him safe again that she could not say a word about it.



close	cricket	rushes
beside	thicket	flurry

## A SUMMER SHOWER.

1. "Hurry!" said the leaves;  
"Hurry, birds, hurry!  
See how the tall trees  
Are all in a flurry!"
2. "Come under, quick,  
Grasshopper, cricket!"  
Said the leafy vines  
Down in the thicket.
3. "Come here," said the rose  
To bee and spider;  
"Ant, here's a place!  
Fly, sit beside her!"



4. "Rest, butterfly,  
Here in the bushes,  
Close by the robin,  
While the rain rushes!"
5. "Why, there is the sun!  
And the birds are singing.  
Good-by, dear leaves,  
We'll all be winging."
6. "Bee," said the rose,  
"Thank you for calling!  
Come in again  
When the rain is falling."

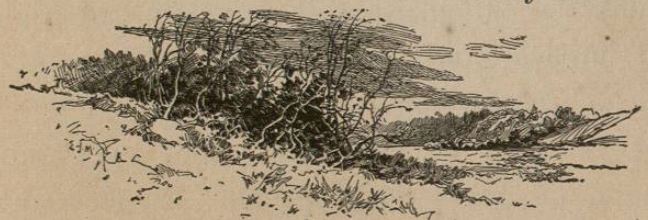
bride	heat	whiteness	drooping
cool	smells	crownèd	lifting
veins	burn	thirsty	clothing

## LITTLE WHITE LILY.

1. Little White Lily sat by a stone,  
Drooping and waiting till the sun shone.  
Little White Lily sunshine has fed;  
Little White Lily is lifting her head.

2. Little White Lily said: "It is good —  
Little White Lily's clothing and food."  
Little White Lily, dressed like a bride!  
Shining with whiteness, and crownèd  
beside!
3. Little White Lily, drooping with pain,  
Is waiting and waiting for the wet rain.  
Little White Lily is holding her cup;  
Rain is fast falling and filling it up.
4. Little White Lily said: "Good again,  
When I am thirsty, to have the nice rain.  
Now I am stronger, now I am cool;  
Heat cannot burn me, my veins are so full."
5. Little White Lily smells very sweet;  
On her head sunshine, rain at her feet.  
Thanks to the sunshine, thanks to the rain,  
Little White Lily is happy again.

— George MacDonald.

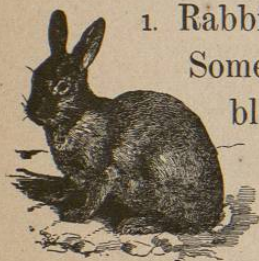




flat	broad	timid	danger
bark	shell	quiet	gnaws
table	holes	turtle	hares
draw	hollow	orchards	bushes

## RABBITS AND TURTLES.

## I.



A Gray Rabbit.

1. Rabbits are timid little creatures. Some rabbits are white, some are black, and some are gray.
2. The wild gray rabbit lives in the leafy woods or in old fields where there are many bushes. It is larger than a squirrel. It can jump and run very fast, but it cannot climb a tree as the squirrel can.
3. In the day time it hides itself in holes under logs or stones; or it sits very still in the hollow of some tree or in a quiet place among the tall grass. It comes out at night and hops around, playing with other rabbits and looking for something to eat.
4. It likes to eat clover and the young shoots of grass. Sometimes it goes into

gardens, and eats the plants that are growing there. Sometimes it goes into orchards, and gnaws the bark off of the young fruit trees.

5. It is not easy to tame a gray rabbit. But white rabbits are fine pets. Some kinds of rabbits are called hares.

## II.

6. A turtle does not look at all like a rabbit. Its back is broad and flat; its head is small; its neck is long; its legs are short and strong. It cannot run fast. When it is in danger it can draw its head and legs under its shell to keep them from harm.

7. Most turtles can live in the water as well as on land. Some of them live in the water almost all the time. They can swim much better than they can walk.



A Sea Turtle.

8. Some kinds of turtles grow to be very large — so large that their backs are as broad as a table. Some other kinds are always small, and do not grow to be broader than a man's hand.



won	rate	dinner	farther
wins	goal	moving	funny
race	judge	started	afternoon

## THE RACE.

## I.

1. One day a rabbit was hopping along a road. He overtook a turtle that was going the same way. "Good morning, friend Turtle," he said. "Where are you going this morning?" The turtle said, "I am going to the river where the water lilies grow."

2. "Well," said the rabbit, "I am afraid you will never get there. The river is two miles away, and at your rate of walking, you will grow old and die before you go so far."

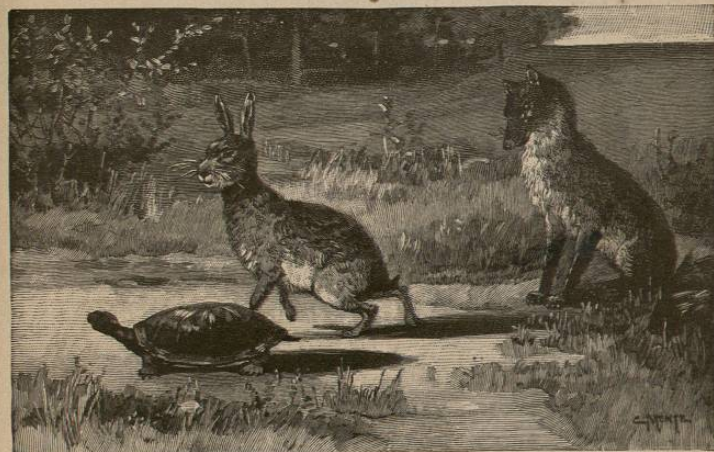
3. The turtle did not stop to talk. She said, "I know that the river is a long way off. But I will keep moving all the time."

## II.

4. The next morning, the rabbit saw the turtle again. She was only a little farther, but she kept moving all the time. "You

slow-moving creature!" said the rabbit. "I can go as far in a minute as you go in a day."

5. "I will run a race with you," said the turtle. The rabbit laughed. "That



"One, two, three!"

would be a funny race!" he said. "Why, I could be at the goal before you were well started."

6. "But I am not afraid to run with you," said the turtle. "To what place?" said the rabbit. The turtle said, "To the river where the water lilies grow. And our friend the fox shall be the judge."