

**THE BEACON
THIRD READER**

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The Beacon Third Reader by James H. Fassett

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JAMES H. FASSETT

**THE BEACON
THIRD READER**

THE
BEACON THIRD READER

BY

JAMES H. FASSETT

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

BY

CHARLES COPELAND

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PREFACE

The author has endeavored in this series to present some well-beloved stories as they have been handed down through generations of story-telling people for the delight of their little ones. That these stories have been told again and again is no disadvantage, but is one of their chief charms. Indeed, the fact that they have been retold is proof that they were worth telling in the first place.

Children at this age are naturally dramatic. They yearn for tales that possess some plot or clever turning point. They are not satisfied with, and even turn in disgust from, stories of the strictly narrative or "informational" kind. They crave stirring scenes with animated conversations, while the stories in which animals possess the attributes of man particularly appeal to them, possibly because of man's close association with animals during the ages of his development.

There are many classic stories full of dramatic incidents and vividly interesting to the child; but the difficulty in using them arises from the fact that they are written in a form suited to older readers and that they seldom have been adapted, so far as vocabulary or style is concerned,

to the reading power of children. Moreover, it is unfortunate that when the attempt has been made in the past to simplify these old stories, they have frequently been so mutilated that much of their real flavor has been lost.

In this reader the aim has been to retain, as far as possible, every dramatic part of the original and to modify the scenes and incidents only so much as was absolutely necessary to bring them within the reading ability of the average child in his third year of school.

It has therefore been the hope of the author that in collecting and adapting the folklore tales, the old legends and stories, whose origin is hidden among the mists of the ages, he not only is giving the child such literary food as his nature craves but is offering an easy road to the mastery of reading.

The last sixteen pages of the Third Reader are devoted to phonetic tables. These tables serve to keep fresh in the minds of the children the phonic principles already developed, and in addition smooth the way toward the mastery of three-syllable words. They should be used for rapid drill at least once a week during the third school year.

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ROBERT LOUISE STEVENSON



WILLIAM TELL

Many years ago, high up among the steep mountains of a far-off land, lived a man named William Tell.

Tell was a brave man and a great hunter, and he was the best shot with the crossbow in all the land.

At that time his country was ruled by a wicked man named Gessler.

Gessler liked to show his power and made many harsh laws which the people had to obey.

He even placed his hat on a tall pole and ordered that every one who passed should bow to the hat.

Now these brave people hated the thought of bowing to a hat, and not one of them would walk by the place where the pole was set up. Thus no one ever bowed to the hat, because no one ever passed it.

It happened that William Tell, who lived among the high mountains, had not heard about this strange law of bowing to the ruler's hat.

One morning he came into the village, leading his little son by the hand. He was walking straight past the hat, when the soldier who was always on guard shouted, "Halt! Why do you not bow before the hat of your master?"

"Why should I bow before a hat?" asked Tell.

"That hat belongs to Gessler, your ruler. He orders you to bow before it."