

**COMMUNITY ENGLISH, A
BOOK OF UNDERTAKINGS
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS**

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Community English, a book of undertakings for boys and girls by Mildred Buchanan Flagg

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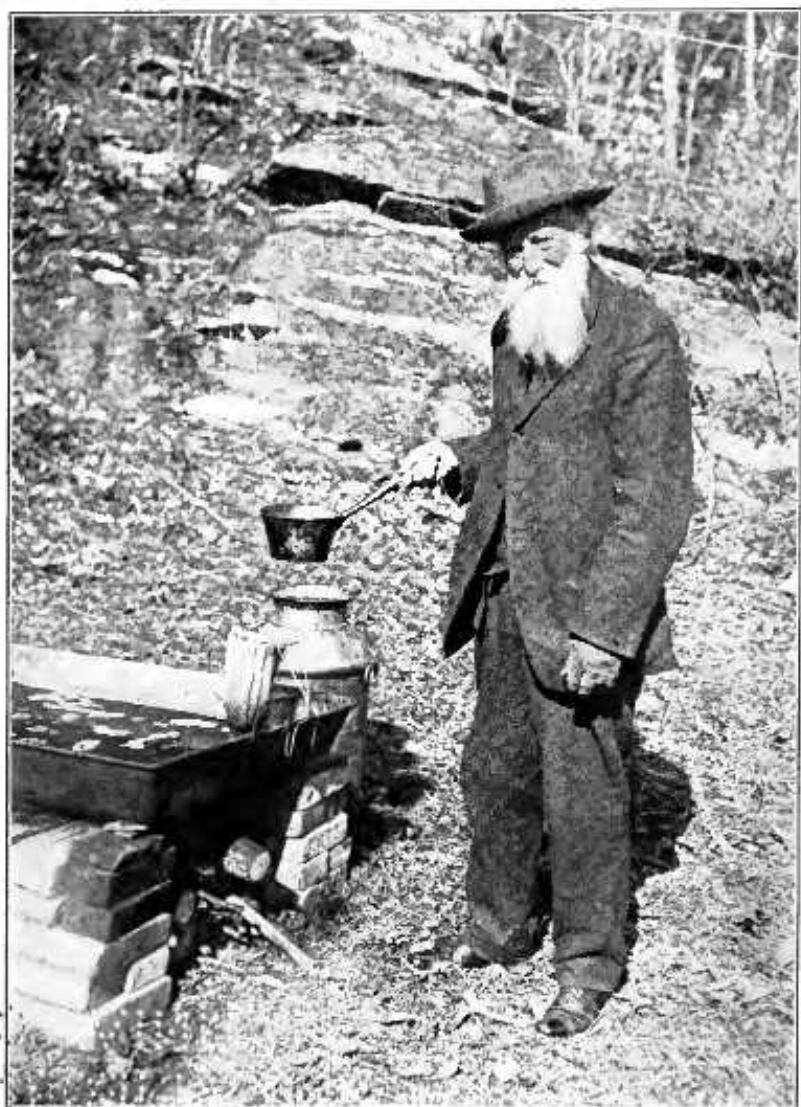


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JOHN BURROUGHS. AUTHOR AND NATURALIST
Making maple sugar on his eighty-third birthday

COMMUNITY ENGLISH

A BOOK OF UNDERTAKINGS
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

MILDRED BUCHANAN FLAGG

New York

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1922

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UNIV. OF
GEORGETOWN

TO
JOHN D. BIGELOW
TEACHER AND
FRIEND

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PREFACE

THIS book aims to be of positive, practical value

1. In helping the pupil to develop within himself the power to understand, use correctly, and appreciate the mother tongue.

2. In contributing, through individual and group investigations and reports of community activities, to the making of sturdy, competent American citizens.

3. In giving the pupil a feeling of self-reliance based upon the knowledge that he has done his own research work and thought questions through for himself.

4. In providing group exercises in which the pupil becomes a critic of his own work and that of his classmates.

5. In drawing little distinction between school and out-of-school activities.

6. In suggesting a sufficient number of purposeful activities to interest every pupil in the class.

7. In making it unnecessary for the teacher to make such a statement as, "It may not appear useful to you now, but it will be extremely valuable to you in after life."

8. In helping the pupil to form proper mental habits by uninterrupted attention to one undertaking at a time.

9. In giving the pupil a more intimate acquaintance with his environment.

10. In providing an incentive for good English outside the schoolroom.

This book is designed for use in the grammar grades and in junior high schools. Each Undertaking is a complete unit in itself and is in the highest possible degree independent of the other Undertakings. In each unit the first activity, in one of its several forms, should be worked out by each pupil. Additional similar projects may be undertaken if interest warrants and time permits.

The method of this book needs little comment or explanation. The book has been written for the pupils and the Undertakings have been presented in simple, concise fashion. The subject matter is organized in nineteen comprehensive units which provide a far greater amount of suggested material than any one teacher or class can possibly use. This freedom of choice affords a variety of work which would otherwise be impossible.

Furthermore, local conditions and experience are emphasized to such an extent that the problem of *what to say* proves no longer troublesome, and undivided attention may be given to *how to say it*. Home industries, home government, public utilities, and local history form the means by which the work of the English class is almost automatically correlated with that in other subjects. Introductory talks and questions serve as guides to the pupil. The play spirit, so large a part of the home and outdoor life of the pupil, is made a salient feature of the classroom activity. Hence there is no lost energy and no mind-wandering. Indeed, in almost every Undertaking the pupil loses sight of the fact that he is gaining knowledge, because of his interest in the results.

The paragraph has been made the subject of special study; and letter-writing, the making of reports, memory

training, the use of reference books, telephone conversations, verse-making, dramatization, and the study of literary masterpieces have received much attention. Provision has been made for only enough technical grammar to furnish a touchstone by which the pupil is able to understand what he reads and to correct his own faulty habits of speech.

This book is the direct outcome of five years of experience in the teaching and supervision of English by the project method. Each of the Undertakings has been tested many times in various English classes.

M. B. F.

