

**GRADED POETRY
READERS.
FOURTH YEAR**

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Graded Poetry Readers. Fourth Year by Katherine D. Blake & Georgia Alexander

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KATHERINE D. BLAKE & GEORGIA ALEXANDER

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FOURTH YEAR

EDITED BY

KATHERINE D. BLAKE

PRINCIPAL GIRLS' DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 6,
NEW YORK CITY

AND

GEORGIA ALEXANDER

SUPERVISING PRINCIPAL, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



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INTRODUCTION

POETRY is the chosen language of childhood and youth. The baby repeats words again and again for the mere joy of their sound: the melody of nursery rhymes gives a delight which is quite independent of the meaning of the words. Not until youth approaches maturity is there an equal pleasure in the rounded periods of elegant prose. It is in childhood therefore that the young mind should be stored with poems whose rhythm will be a present delight and whose beautiful thoughts will not lose their charm in later years.

The selections for the lowest grades are addressed primarily to the feeling for verbal beauty, the recognition of which in the mind of the child is fundamental to the plan of this work. The editors have felt that the inclusion of critical notes in these little books intended for elementary school children would be not only superfluous, but, in the degree in which critical comment drew the child's attention from the text, subversive of the desired result. Nor are there any notes on methods. The best way to teach children to love a poem is to read it inspiringly to them. The French say: "The ear is the pathway to the heart." A poem should be so read that it will sing itself in the hearts of the listening children.

In the brief biographies appended to the later books the human element has been brought out. An effort has been made to call attention to the education of the poet and his equipment for his life work rather than to the literary qualities of his style.

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FOURTH YEAR — FIRST HALF

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ENGLAND, 1564-1616

Ariel's Song

Come unto these yellow sands,
And then take hands, —
Curtsied when you have and kiss'd ;
(The wild waves whist) —
Foot it featly here and there ; 5
And, sweet sprites, the burden bear.
Hark, hark !
Bough wough,
The watchdog's bark,
Bough wough, 10
Hark, hark, I hear
The strain of strutting chanticleer,
Cry, cock-a-doodle-doo.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

SCOTLAND, 1850-1894

From a Railway Carriage

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
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