

**MCGUFFEY'S NATURAL
HISTORY READERS:
FAMILIAR ANIMALS
AND THEIR WILD KINDRED**

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McGuffey's Natural History Readers: Familiar Animals and Their Wild Kindred by John Monteith

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JOHN MONTEITH

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FAMILIAR ANIMALS

AND THEIR

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FOR THE THIRD READER GRADE

BY

JOHN MONTEITH, M.A.



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PREFACE.

MCGUFFEY'S NATURAL HISTORY READERS are intended to furnish supplementary reading within a field which is always fresh, interesting, and instructive to children.

By dispensing with lists of words for spelling, diacriticals, definitions, and paragraph numbers, and by developing a real and apparent unity in the subjects treated, they introduce the child at once into the form, style, and method of the literature of books.

By a natural link of association, they conduct the reader from the more familiar to the less familiar facts about animals, thus awakening his attention, stimulating his powers of observation, and leading him to discern, compare, and think for himself.

The publishers have spared no expense in presenting to the eye accurate pictures of the more prominent subjects of the text. With a single exception, the illustrations have been designed specially for this work.

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The Puma.

FAMILIAR ANIMALS.



Finette.

Hamlet.

Malda.

I. SIR WALTER SCOTT AND HIS DOGS.

WHEN Washington Irving visited Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford, he found him surrounded by dogs, which formed as much a part of his family as did his children.

In the morning, when they started for a ramble, the dogs would be on the alert to join them.

There was, first, a tall old staghound named Maida, that considered himself the particular friend of his master, walked by his side, and looked into his eyes. Then there was a black greyhound named Hamlet, that gamboled and cut capers with the wildest glee.

And there was a beautiful setter named Finette, with large, mild eyes, soft, silken hair, and long, curly ears. She was the favorite of the parlor. Then a venerable old greyhound, wagging his tail, came out to join the party as he saw them going by his quarters. He was cheered by Scott with a hearty, kind word, as an old friend and comrade.

In his walks, Scott would often stop to talk to one or another of his four-footed friends, as if they were in fact rational companions; and from being talked to, and treated in this way, they really seemed to acquire more intelligence than other dogs.

Scott's four-footed friends made a respectful part of the company at family meals. Old Maida took his seat gravely at his master's elbow, looking up wistfully into his eyes, while Finette, the pet spaniel, took her seat by Mrs. Scott. Besides the dogs in attendance, a large gray cat also took her seat near her master, and was presented, from time to time, with bits from the table.

Puss, it appears, was a great favorite both with master and mistress, and slept in their room at night. She was a sort of queen among the quadrupeds, sitting in Scott's arm-chair beside the door, as if to review her subjects as they passed, giving each dog a cuff on the ears as he went by. This clapper-clawing was always amiably taken. Perfect harmony prevailed between Puss and her subjects, and they would all sleep contentedly in the sunshine.

Scott once said that the only trouble about having a dog was, that he must die; but he said it was better to have dogs die in eight or nine years, than to go on loving them for twenty or thirty, and then have them die.

2. DOGS GREAT AND SMALL.

THERE was a great din and clatter, as if all the dogs in the country were together, when Mrs. Perry and her three children approached the Madison Square Garden to visit the dog-show.

"I'm afraid to go in, mamma," said little Ruth, "the dogs will surely bite when they bark so loud."

"I'm not afraid of them," blustered her brother Joel, as if he were very brave. "Don't be such a little coward, Ruth."