

GRADED MEMORY SELECTIONS

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Graded Memory Selections by S. D. Waterman & J. W. McClymonds & C. C. Hughes

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S. D. WATERMAN & J. W. MCCLYMONDS & C. C. HUGHES

GRADED MEMORY SELECTIONS

GRADED

Memory Selections

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1

PREFACE.

It is unfortunately true that the terms education and culture are not synonymous. Too often we find that the children in our public schools, while possessed of the one, are signally lacking in the other. This is a state of things that cannot be remedied by teaching mere facts. The Greeks, many years ago, found the true method of imparting the latter grace and we shall probably not be able to discover a better one to-day. Their youths learned Homer and the other great poets as a part of their daily tasks, and by thus constantly dwelling upon and storing in their minds the noblest and most beautifully expressed thought in their literature, their own mental life became at once refined and strong.

The basis of all culture lies in a pure and elevated moral nature, and so noted an authority as President Eliot, of Harvard University, has said that the short memory gems which he learned as a boy in school, have done him more good in the hour of temptation than all the sermons he ever heard preached. A fine thought or beautiful image, once stored in the mind, even if at first it is received indifferently and with little understanding, is bound to recur again and again, and its companionship will have a sure, if unconscious, influence. The mind that has been filled in youth with many such thoughts and images will surely bear fruit in fine and gracious actions.

To the teachers who are persuaded of this truth, the present collection of poems has much to recommend it.

The selections have been chosen both for their moral influence and for their permanent value as literature. They have been carefully graded to suit the needs of every class from the primary to the high school. Either the whole poem or a sufficiently long quotation has been inserted to give the child a complete mental picture.

The teacher will thus escape the difficulty of choosing among a too great abundance of riches, or the still greater one of finding for herself, with few resources, what serves her purpose. This volume has a further advantage over other books of selections. It is so moderate in price that it will be possible to place it in the hands of the children themselves.

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S. D. WATERMAN.

CONTENTS.

FIRST GRADE.		PAGE
The Baby	<i>George Macdonald</i>	7
✓ The Little Plant	<i>Anon.</i>	8
Sleep, Baby, Sleep	<i>E. Prentiss</i>	9
One, Two, Three	<i>Margaret Johnson</i>	9
Three Little Bugs in a Basket	<i>Alice Cary</i>	10
Whenever a Little Child is Born	<i>Agnes L. Carter</i>	11
✓ Sweet and Low	<i>Alfred Tennyson</i>	12
The Ferry for Shadowtown	<i>Anon.</i>	13
✓ My Shadow	<i>E. L. Stevenson</i>	14
Quite Like a Stocking	<i>Anon.</i>	15
The Owl and the Pussy-Cat	<i>Edward Lear</i>	16
Forget-me-not	<i>Anon.</i>	17
Who Stole the Bird's Nest?	<i>Anon.</i>	18
Two Little Hands	<i>Anon.</i>	20
✓ The Dandelion	<i>Anon.</i>	21
✓ A Million Little Diamonds	<i>M. Butts</i>	21
Daisy Nurses	<i>Anon.</i>	22
✓ At Little Virgil's Window	<i>Edwin Markham</i>	23
Dandelions	<i>Anon.</i>	23
Memory Gems	<i>Selected</i>	24
SECOND GRADE.		
✓ Seven Times One	<i>Jean Ingelow</i>	25
Christmas Eve	<i>Anon.</i>	26
Morning Song	<i>Alfred Tennyson</i>	27
✓ Suppose, My Little Lady	<i>Phæbe Cary</i>	28
The Day's Eye	<i>Anon.</i>	29
The Night Wind	<i>Eugene Field</i>	30
The Blue-bird's Song	<i>Anon.</i>	31

Suppos.	<i>Anon.</i>	32
Autumn Leaves	<i>Anon.</i>	33
If I Were a Sunbeam	<i>Lucy Larcom</i>	34
Meadow Talk	<i>Caroline Leslie</i>	35
The Old Love	<i>Charles Kingsley</i>	36
✓ Bed in Summer	<i>R. L. Stevenson</i>	36
✓ Three Companions	<i>Dinah M. Craik</i>	37
✓ The Wind	<i>R. L. Stevenson</i>	38
The Minuet	<i>Mary Mapes Dodge</i>	39
Wynken, Blynken and Nod	<i>Eugene Field</i>	40
Pretty Is That Pretty Does	<i>Alice Cary</i>	42
Lullaby	<i>J. G. Holland</i>	43

THIRD GRADE.

Discontent	<i>Sarah O. Jewett</i>	45
✓ Our Flag	<i>Anon.</i>	46
✓ Song from "Pippa Passes"	<i>Robert Browning</i>	47
Little Brown Hands	<i>M. H. Krout</i>	48
Winter and Summer	<i>Anon.</i>	49
✓ The Brook	<i>Alfred Tennyson</i>	50
The Wonderful World	<i>W. B. Rands</i>	52
† Don't Give Up	<i>Phæbe Cary</i>	53
We Are Seven	<i>Wordsworth</i>	54
The Land of Counterpane	<i>R. L. Stevenson</i>	57
✓ The Brown Thrush	<i>Lucy Larcom</i>	58
The Silver Boat	<i>Anon.</i>	59
The Dandelion	<i>Anon.</i>	60
Afternoon in February	<i>Longfellow</i>	61
Nikolina	<i>Celia Thaxter</i>	62
Lost	<i>Celia Thaxter</i>	63
Robin or I?	<i>Sarah E. Sprague</i>	65

FOURTH GRADE.

Psalm XXIII.	<i>Bible</i>	67
✓ The Mountain and the Squirrel	<i>Ralph W. Emerson</i>	68

✓ Abou Ben Adhem	<i>Leigh Hunt</i>	69
Bugle Song	<i>Alfred Tennyson</i>	70
✓ Little Boy Blue	<i>Eugene Field</i>	71
Pittypat and Tippytoe	<i>Eugene Field</i>	72
Red Riding Hood	<i>Whittier</i>	75
✓ The Sandpiper and I	<i>Celia Thaxter</i>	77
In School Days	<i>Whittier</i>	78
Take Care	<i>Alice Cary</i>	80
A Life Lesson	<i>James W. Riley</i>	82

FIFTH GRADE.

The Village Blacksmith	<i>Longfellow</i>	83
Love of Country	<i>Scott</i>	85
The Daffodils	<i>Wordsworth</i>	86
A Child's Thought of God	<i>Mrs. Browning</i>	87
From My Arm-chair	<i>Longfellow</i>	88
A Song of Easter	<i>Celia Thaxter</i>	90
The Joy of the Hills	<i>Edwin Markham</i>	92
In Blossom Time	<i>Ina Coolbrith</i>	93
The Stars and the Flowers	<i>Longfellow</i>	95
Meadow Larks	<i>Ina Coolbrith</i>	98
The Arrow and the Song	<i>Longfellow</i>	99
The Fiftieth Birthday of Agassiz	<i>Longfellow</i>	100

SIXTH GRADE.

Break, Break, Break	<i>Alfred Tennyson</i>	103
Columbus—Westward	<i>Joaquin Miller</i>	104
The Day is Done	<i>Longfellow</i>	106
The Landing of the Pilgrims	<i>Mrs. Hemans</i>	108
He Prayeth Best	<i>Coleridge</i>	109
Each and All	<i>Emerson</i>	110
Paul Revere's Ride	<i>Longfellow</i>	112
Battle Hymn of the Republic	<i>Julia Ward Howe</i>	116
The Barefoot Boy	<i>Whittier</i>	118
Lincoln, the Great Commoner	<i>Edwin Markham</i>	123

Opportunity	<i>Edward R. Sill</i>	122
A Song	<i>James W. Riley</i>	123
To a Friend	<i>Halleck</i>	124

SEVENTH GRADE.

Psalm CXXI.	<i>Bib'e</i>	125
Rain in Summer	<i>Longfellow</i>	126
A Psalm of Life	<i>Longfellow</i>	130
Hymn on the Fight at Concord	<i>R. W. Emerson</i>	131
To a Water-fowl	<i>William C. Bryant</i>	132
The Heritage	<i>James R. Lowell</i>	134
Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard	<i>Thomas Gray</i>	136
Gradatim	<i>J. G. Holland</i>	143
God Save the Flag	<i>O. W. Holmes</i>	145
Life	<i>Edward R. Sill</i>	146

EIGHTH GRADE.

Hymn to the Night	<i>Longfellow</i>	147
The Builders	<i>Longfellow</i>	148
Polonius' Advice to Laertes	<i>Shakespeare</i>	150
Thanatopsis	<i>W. C. Bryant</i>	151
The American Flag	<i>Jos. R. Drake</i>	155
Speech at the Dedication of the National Cemetery at Get- tysburg	<i>Abraham Lincoln</i>	157
To a Skylark	<i>Shelley</i>	159
The Launching of the Ship	<i>Longfellow</i>	164
Recessional	<i>Rudyard Kipling</i>	166
The Ladder of St. Augustine	<i>Longfellow</i>	168
The Chambered Nautilus	<i>O. W. Holmes</i>	170

Brief Memory Gems and Proverbs	173
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