

**THE GERMAN READER. A SELECTION  
OF READINGS IN GERMAN  
LITERATURE WITH EXPLANATORY  
NOTES AND A VOCABULARY IN  
THREE PARTS. FIRST PART**

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The German Reader. A Selection of Readings in German Literature with Explanatory Notes and a Vocabulary in Three Parts. First Part by Emil Otto

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**EMIL OTTO**

**THE GERMAN READER. A SELECTION  
OF READINGS IN GERMAN  
LITERATURE WITH EXPLANATORY  
NOTES AND A VOCABULARY IN  
THREE PARTS. FIRST PART**



# Deutsches Lesebuch.

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Eine  
**Sammlung deutscher Lesestücke**  
mit  
erklärenden Notizen und einem Wörterbuch.

**Zu drei Theilen.**

Von

**Dr. Emil Otto,**

Director der neueren Sprachen an der Universität Heidelberg,  
Verfasser der „Grammaire allemande“ und anderer Lehrbücher.

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**Erster Theil.**

Leichte Lesestücke für Anfänger und Elementarklassen.

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**Vierte Auflage.**  
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**Heidelberg.**  
Julius Groos, Verlag.  
1880.

# The German Reader.

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A Selection  
of  
**Readings in German literature**  
with  
explanatory Notes and a Vocabulary  
in three Parts

by

**Dr. Emil Otto,**

Professor of modern languages at the University of Heidelberg.  
Author of the „German Conversation-Grammar“ and other educational works.

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## First Part.

Containing: Anecdotes, fables, descriptions, fairy stories,  
parables, tales and easy poems.

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**Fourth edition.**

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## Preface.

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As soon as the pupils have acquired the elements of the German language, whatever may be the method of instruction employed — the first want felt is that of German Readings, appropriate to their age and the degree of development of their minds. This is the reason why in my German Grammar some »*Reading lessons*« are now and then inserted. But the nature of a grammar not allowing them to be numerous, it is necessary for the pupils to have at hand a *Reading-book* containing selections from German literature appropriate to the different classes and ages. Now, instead of putting all together in one volume, it seems to be more advantageous to divide it into three separate Parts.

This little volume, being the first Part, is destined for elementary classes, and contains a collection of little Readings appropriate to the youthful age. Their style is plain and easy, and the contents are within the reach of children who already possess the first elements of German, especially those who are prepared for the study of it by my *German Grammar*. As this language has been hitherto taught in England and America in higher classes only, the existing »*Reading-books*« or so-called »*Readers*«, being composed only for a more advanced age, present therefore too many difficulties to younger pupils. Hence it was a real want to compose a little *Reading-book* especially for »*younger children and lower classes*«, and I hope this little volume will meet the want.

Its contents are divided into seven chapters, viz: 1. anecdotes, 2. easy descriptions, 3. fables, 4. traits of

character, 5. little stories, 6. parables, fairy tales, moral tales, 7. easy poetry.

To facilitate their reading, all the pieces are accompanied with explanatory Notes, as it is well known that for those who are anxious to study, >one page well annotated is worth a whole volume without notes.<

A *Vocabulary* more or less complete is added at the end of the volume. For some words towards the end of the book the pupil will probably be obliged to have recourse to a dictionary.

There is another advantage adopted in the method of this book to which I beg to call the teachers' attention, as one which they have not met with hitherto in any other German Reading-book, viz: the addition of >Questions< to a great number of the Readings. For it is not enough for the pupil to learn to understand the German he reads; he should also learn how to make an immediate use of it by learning to speak; and surely nothing can be more useful or serviceable for this purpose than to hear easy questions asked in German on a subject which is already familiar to him by the previous reading of it, and to form from the matter already known to him, the fitting replies which the professor, if they are not quite right, will immediately correct, and which the pupil will repeat in the rectified form. It is impossible to conceive a more practical method of acquiring the art of *speaking German* than the above mentioned one by which the scholar exercises equally his ear and tongue, and which will in a short time enable him to express his thoughts fluently and correctly, in the foreign idiom.

May this little volume meet with as favourable a reception as my German Grammar!

HEIDELBERG, May 1871.

Dr. Emil Otto.



## Preface to the third edition.

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The favourable reception which the first two editions of this little book have met with, as shown by its adoption in many schools in England, has led the author to revise the present new edition carefully. The Notes have been considerably increased; the order now and then altered, so as to make the pupil proceed from the easier readings to those less easy, and several of them have been dropped as being not quite adapted to the purpose: so that this *Reading-book* may be begun at an early stage of study, and continued, along with the progressive study of the Grammar, until the pupil is prepared for more difficult reading.

Thus I trust that this little volume will also materially contribute towards promoting the study of German in English schools and private families.

HEIDELBERG, June 1875.

**Dr. Emil Otto.**

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## Preface to the fourth edition.

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In strict conformity with the views and intentions of both the author and the editor of this book, I have revised this new edition carefully; especial pains having been bestowed on the explanatory notes.

HEIDELBERG.

**Dr. Ferd. Worthmann**

*late Master of the Commercial Academy, Leipzig.*

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