

**THE HORACE MANN  
READERS;  
PRACTICE PRIMER**

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The Horace Mann Readers; Practice Primer by Melvin Hix & Walter L. Hervey

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**MELVIN HIX & WALTER L. HERVEY**

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PRACTICE PRIMER**



THE HORACE MANN READERS

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PRACTICE PRIMER

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## FOREWORD

THE Practice Primer is designed for use in connection with the Horace Mann Primer, though it may of course be used independently. One object in preparing it has been to satisfy a demand on the part of progressive teachers using the Horace Mann Readers, for additional reading matter and phonic work which should require a minimum of development and preparation.

Accordingly, the vocabulary throughout this book is practically the same as that of the Primer, while the sentences are different.

The lessons in the first half of the book, also, though differing to some extent in subject, correspond with those in the Primer. In the latter part of the Practice Primer the stories are new.

The teachers' own ingenuity will doubtless suggest the best ways of using this book. The best results will probably be secured if the lessons in the Practice Primer are used for sight reading or for review, in which case the several lessons should be read within a short period after the development of the corresponding lessons in the Primer. Such use of the book will be in accordance with the principle that *repetition of the old in new combinations is more economical than mere repetition.*

In this book, as in the other books of the Series, the pieces have been chosen on this principle, among others, that the three kinds of reading matter,—lessons on child activities, folk stories, and jingles,—may and should be used in con-

junction. The child lives in two worlds at once, — that of his own daily life, and that of the “Little Red Hen” and of “Two Little Blackbirds.” To begin with lessons on the child’s own activities is to base the reading work on the solid rock of genuine experience and self-expression; to include folk stories and jingles is to draw on the heritage of the race and to enlist one of the strongest interests of childhood.

As will be seen, a great point is made of phonic exercises. These are in accordance with the system used throughout the Series as explained in detail in *Daily Lesson Plans*. Several different kinds of exercises are used, including a great variety of Word Problems and the valuable Nonsense Alphabet. These provide varied practice in isolating and recombining elements, and varied repetition and drill in connection with constructive processes. Such exercises are believed to be invaluable. They give skill in recognizing and manipulating word elements, without which no one can ever become a good reader.

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The cross-references at the foot of the pages of the text, H. M. P. and D. L. P., refer to pages in the *Horace Mann Primer* and *Daily Lesson Plans, First Year*, respectively.



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Ray            baby            Good morning



Good morning, baby Ray.

Good morning, baby.

Good morning, baby Ray.

Ray.

baby Ray.

Good morning, baby Ray.