

**SELECTIONS FROM THE
RIVERSIDE
LITERATURE SERIES FROM
FIFTH GRADE READING**

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LITERATURE SERIES FROM
FIFTH GRADE READING**



SEPTEMBER

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
Riverside Literature Series
FOR FIFTH GRADE READING



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PREFACE

THIS is the first volume of a unique series of readers for the grammar schools. As the purpose of this series is quite different from that of most readers, we ask the indulgence of those who may read this introductory note to explain the aims that have controlled the editors in making the series.

There has been a growing tendency during the past decade away from the brief, "scrappy" selections that have been offered to school children in school readers. Professor Huey, in his book, *The Psychology and Pedagogy of Reading*, says most aptly: "Care should be taken to give the children the very best [literature], and from the start. The tons of trash that are annually sold, on the theory that it does n't matter what the young child reads, are robbing the children of the chastening influence of real child classics; which after all he himself prefers even in the start, and which do much to lay in him the foundations of correct literary taste as well as of right ideals of life and conduct." With the aim of giving the children of the grammar grades in our elementary schools a carefully made selection from the best literature, the editors naturally turned to the Riverside Literature Series as the source of material. From this source, made up of over two hundred volumes, the selections that have been found by long experience to have the greatest value for each of the grammar grades were brought together, carefully edited, and arranged for oral reading in schools. There

will be found in these books a happy combination of traditional literature and selections from the more modern writers like Joel Chandler Harris, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, and Sarah Orne Jewett. School systems that use these books, either as basal readers or for supplementary use, may rest assured therefore that their pupils have the choicest examples of English literature for reading and study.

Care was taken by the editors to exclude selections which, although for some purposes worthy of a place in such a compilation, would not be read by the children of these grades with zest and keen enjoyment. Interest in what is read is of paramount importance in these early years when one's taste for reading is being determined.

It may well be claimed that in no other collection can so much of the very best literature be found available for use in the grades, at so reasonable a price, as is offered in this book and in similar readers for the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

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