

**DICTIONARY DAY BY  
DAY: A MODERN  
SPELLER; SIXTH YEAR**

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Dictation Day by Day: A Modern Speller; Sixth Year by Kate Van Wagenen

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**KATE VAN WAGENEN**

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# DICTATION DAY BY DAY

## A MODERN SPELLER

Sixth Year

BY

KATE VAN WAGENEN

PRINCIPAL PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 2, BOROUGH OF THE BRONX  
NEW YORK CITY

**Sample Copy.**

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## PREFACE

DICTATION DAY BY DAY is published with the hope that it may appeal to the teacher of the average child. A careful supervision of the work of little children has led the writer to believe that too much is often attempted during the first few years of a child's life. In the large cities, the standard cannot be what a few children, under exceptional circumstances, are able to accomplish, but what the child of ordinary capacity is able to master. Therefore the first principle of these books is absolute *Simplicity*. A second principle that finds expression here is *Repetition*. All small, troublesome words—the bane of composition work—are repeated again and again, in every grade of the series.

In these books, the unnatural arrangement of columns of words is reduced to a minimum. The old-fashioned method of teaching children to read by compelling them to learn lists of words is happily abolished, and the day is not far distant when a similar method of teaching spelling will also be relegated to the "Land of Forgotten Things."



The number of new words in this book is less than in the other books of the series, owing to the fact that teachers of Sixth Year children are obliged to drill most thoroughly on proper names used in the history and geography of their respective grades.

The short selection from "Essays in Application" by Henry van Dyke, and the stanza by Eugene Field from "A Valentine" are used by the kind permission of Charles Scribner's Sons, the authorized publishers of the works of these authors.

The author also feels greatly indebted to those principals who have submitted hundreds of children's letters, on which the models in these books have been based.

## SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS

THE exercises in these books have been carefully graded, and the only new words in any paragraph are those that are underlined. Some of the words in the margin are review words, introduced to call attention to the formation of plurals. Where proper names have not been underlined, it is expected that the teacher will put them on the blackboard, and allow them to remain during the writing of the lesson.

The spelling exercises in these books were used for several terms in manuscript form. The teachers put the lessons on the blackboard, and the children copied them for home study. It was found, however, that this method wasted an infinite amount of time,—a fault that in our crowded curriculum seems almost a crime. A far weightier objection to this method was the fact that in classes even of careful teachers, many children made mistakes in copying the exercises from the blackboard. They therefore studied them incorrectly, so that the teacher, besides dealing with legitimate difficulties, bore the added burden of eradicating errors that were firmly

Here once the embattled  
farmers stood,                   em bat'tled  
And fired the shot heard  
round the world.

— R. W. EMERSON.

## 14

Hail, Columbia ! happy land !  
Hail, ye heroes, heav'n-born  
band !

Who fought and bled in Free-                   hail  
dom's cause,                   Co lum'bi a  
And when the storm of war                   { he'ro  
was gone,                   { he'roes  
Enjoyed the peace your valor                   val'or  
won.                   boast  
Let independence be our  
boast,

Ever mindful what it cost.

— JOSEPH HOPKINSON.

## 15

A traveler said that he  
could not attempt a descrip-  
tion of the services in the                   de scrip'tion  
great cathedral at Rome.                   ca the'dral  
He closed with these words:                   im pres'sion  
"That which made the deep-  
est impression upon me was                   rev'er ent  
the reverent attitude of an                   at'ti tude  
audience of sixty thousand                   au'di ence  
souls."