

**GRADED POETRY;
SEVENTH YEAR**

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Graded Poetry; Seventh Year by Katherine D. Blake

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KATHERINE D. BLAKE

**GRADED POETRY;
SEVENTH YEAR**

GRADED POETRY

SEVENTH YEAR

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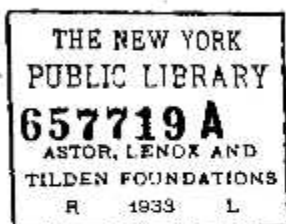


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INTRODUCTION

POETRY is the chosen language of childhood and youth. The baby repeats words again and again for the mere joy of their sound: the melody of nursery rhymes gives a delight which is quite independent of the meaning of the words. Not until youth approaches maturity is there an equal pleasure in the rounded periods of elegant prose. It is in childhood therefore that the young mind should be stored with poems whose rhythm will be a present delight and whose beautiful thoughts will not lose their charm in later years.

The selections for the lowest grades are addressed primarily to the feeling for verbal beauty, the recognition of which in the mind of the child is fundamental to the plan of this work. The editors have felt that the inclusion of critical notes in these little books intended for elementary school children would be not only superfluous, but, in the degree in which critical comment drew the child's attention from the text, subversive of the desired result. Nor are there any notes on methods. The best way to teach children to love a poem is to read it inspiringly to them. The French say: "The ear is the pathway to the heart." A poem should be so read that it will sing itself in the hearts of the listening children.

In the brief biographies appended to the later books the human element has been brought out. An effort has been made to call attention to the education of the poet and his equipment for his life work rather than to the literary qualities of his style.



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SEVENTH YEAR — FIRST HALF

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ENGLAND, 1564-1616

Good name in man and woman, dear my lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls:
Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something,
nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name 5
Robs me of that which not enriches him
And makes me poor indeed.

—“OTHELLO,” Act II, Sc. 2

When daisies pied and violets blue,
And lady-smocks all silver-white,
And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue 10
Do paint the meadows with delight.

—“LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST,” Act V, Sc. 2

This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,