

**THE CLASS AND
STANDARD
SERIES OF READING
BOOKS. BOOK IV.**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649550326

The Class and Standard Series of Reading Books. Book IV. by Charles Bilton

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CHARLES BILTON

**THE CLASS AND
STANDARD
SERIES OF READING
BOOKS. BOOK IV.**

THE CLASS AND STANDARD SERIES
OF
READING BOOKS

ADAPTED TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE REVISED CODE.

BY
CHARLES BILTON, B.A.

BOOK IV.
(STANDARD IV.)

BOYS' EDITION.

LONDON:
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
1870.

STANDARD IV.

Requirements of the Revised Code.

Reading.—A short paragraph from a more advanced reading-book used in the school.

Writing.—A sentence slowly dictated once, by a few words at a time, from the same book, but not from the paragraph read.

Arithmetic.—A sum in compound rules (money).

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Revised Editions of the following may be had:—

THE INFANT PRIMER for School and Home use in Teaching Reading, price THREEPENCE, sewed, or FOURPENCE, cloth; comprising short *Easy Lessons*, exemplifying *Monosyllabic Words* in common use classified according to sound.

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PREFACE.

THIS BOOK—a step in advance of the Third—is intended to supply the scholars with a more extended course of reading, which shall introduce them gradually to the higher forms of the language, and at the same time enrich their minds with useful knowledge. The lessons are therefore progressively arranged according to difficulty of expression and thought; while the information contained in them is imparted in a manner calculated to interest the young readers. The poetical extracts in this volume will be found to be of a higher class than the simple verses in the earlier books of the series.

It will be found an excellent help in teaching *good* reading to accustom the children to learn by heart short portions of both prose and poetry. One of Her Majesty's inspectors, speaking of the schools in his district, distinguished for the fluent and expressive reading of the scholars, even in the lower standard, says: 'In these schools, in addition to the reading lesson, the children are in the habit of committing to memory extracts from the reading books, which are repeated to the teacher, and errors in pronunciation, expression, &c. pointed out and corrected. In this way, the reading is improved, the taste cultivated, and the mind stored with much that often gives point to conversation, and always assists the young composer in acquiring an easy and natural style of writing.' It will be acknowledged by everyone that such results are worth striving to obtain.

The Editor's best thanks are due to those authors and publishers who have so kindly permitted him to use extracts from copyright works.

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READING BOOK

N^o. IV.

PART FIRST.



THE SEAL.

THE seal is a curious animal. It is not a fish, though it swims better than it walks. Indeed it cannot walk, because it has no legs. With its two forepaws, called flip-

pers, it gets along on the ice. It is quite at home both on land and in water. It cannot keep its head under water more than fifteen or twenty minutes, before it comes up to take breath in the air, for it breathes as we do, by lungs, and not as fish do, by gills. It is covered with long shiny hair, and under that, next the skin, is a coat of soft woolly fur, which must be very warm, for seals live in the frozen north, amidst icebergs and snow.

The seal has a face something like that of a dog, with a large, bright, knowing eye. It is easily tamed and very affectionate, and can be taught many funny things, as shaking hands, and bowing, and kissing in a most diverting manner.

The Esquimaux, those little people who live where the seals live, build igloes. What are they? Houses of snow. The seals do just the same: Perhaps the Esquimaux took pattern from the seals.

In April Mrs. Seal scratches a hole through the ice, and scoops out a little home in the snow. It is round overhead, and has steps down into the water. Here the little seals are born, one or two at a time; they are white. Here they are nursed by their mother, and left every now and then while she dives down into the water to catch a fish for supper.

While she is gone, something often happens to her babies. A hungry bear bursts into her house and eats a baby up; or a seal dog smells it, and runs to tell its master, and the master comes and puts his long spear through the snow roof and captures it; and mother seal returns home to find her little one gone, and she is heard to cry aloud. But then the poor Esquimaux who killed it is very hungry, and his wife is hungry; and Koodloo and Puto, their little children, are hungry too.

The father carries it home, and the little family have a feast. Mother makes a little coat for Puto out of the skin. Under its skin is a blanket of blubber.

Blubber is oil. The people trim their lamp with blubber, and boil the pot over it, for there are no fire-places in an Esquimaux snow house. All the cooking is done in a kettle over a lamp. Slices of seal meat are eaten raw with a good relish, but some are put into a pot for a soup, while the children and dog suck the bones. Thread is made of the sinews; and the eyes, why, Puto and Koodloo have them for playthings.

So the seals, after they have made the most of their lives, basking on the rocks, or frisking about with the fishes in the water, seeing and enjoying all that this beautiful and curious world has for them to enjoy—the seals, I say, then help to warm and feed and dress the poor people who live near them, besides giving work to a great many fishermen: so we see that the seal was not created in vain.

THE WASP AND THE BEE.

A FABLE.

A WASP met a bee, and said to him: 'Pray, can you tell me what is the reason that men are so ill-natured to me, while they are so fond of you? We are both very much alike, only that the broad golden rings about my body make me much handsomer than you are: we are both winged insects, we both love honey, and we both sting people when we are angry, yet men always hate me and try to kill me, though I am much more familiar with them than you are, and pay them visits in their houses, and at their tea-tables, and at all their meals; while you