

THE DRAMATIC FIRST READER

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The Dramatic First Reader by Ellen M. Cyr

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ELLEN M. CYR

**THE DRAMATIC
FIRST READER**

THE
DRAMATIC FIRST READER

BY
ELLEN M. CYR

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY
EDITH BROWNING BRAND



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TO
MY LITTLE
NIECES AND NEPHEW
HONORINE, HOWARD, AND DORIS





PREFACE



"Dainty airs and graces,
Fans and bouquets, too;
Tell me, little children,
What it is you do.

"Say the little children,
'We pretend to-day
We are men and women, —
Such a merry play!'"



It is through play that the little child develops and gives free scope to his imagination. Play is the way in which he expresses the life which is developing within him.

Through its exercise he stimulates his imagination, and lives many scenes outside his own experiences, developing ways and means to meet various occasions.

One of the first things a little child does is to impersonate the various animals and objects about him, thus placing himself in closer relationship and sympathy with the whole world.

Many teachers are awakening to these facts, and are taking advantage of this love of play. Their classes

are acting the fables, songs, and nature lessons, thus making them a part of their own experiences and cutting loose from the rote methods of fact absorption.

The Dramatic Reader is written in response to a demand for reading lessons to be carried out in this way.

The stories may be read as simple dialogues or actually played if the teachers so desire.

Children are so imaginative that their fancy supplies all lack of setting or costume, and the stimulation of their play will give them unconsciously the expression and life which is desired in their reading.

NOVEMBER, 1904.

ELLEN M. CYR.

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