LIPPINCOTT'S SCHOOL TEXT SERIES. THE CHILD'S OWN ENGLISH BOOK: AN ELEMENTARY ENGLISH GRAMMAR. BOOK ONE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649454389

Lippincott's School Text Series. The Child's Own English Book: An Elementary English Grammar. Book One by Alice E. Ball

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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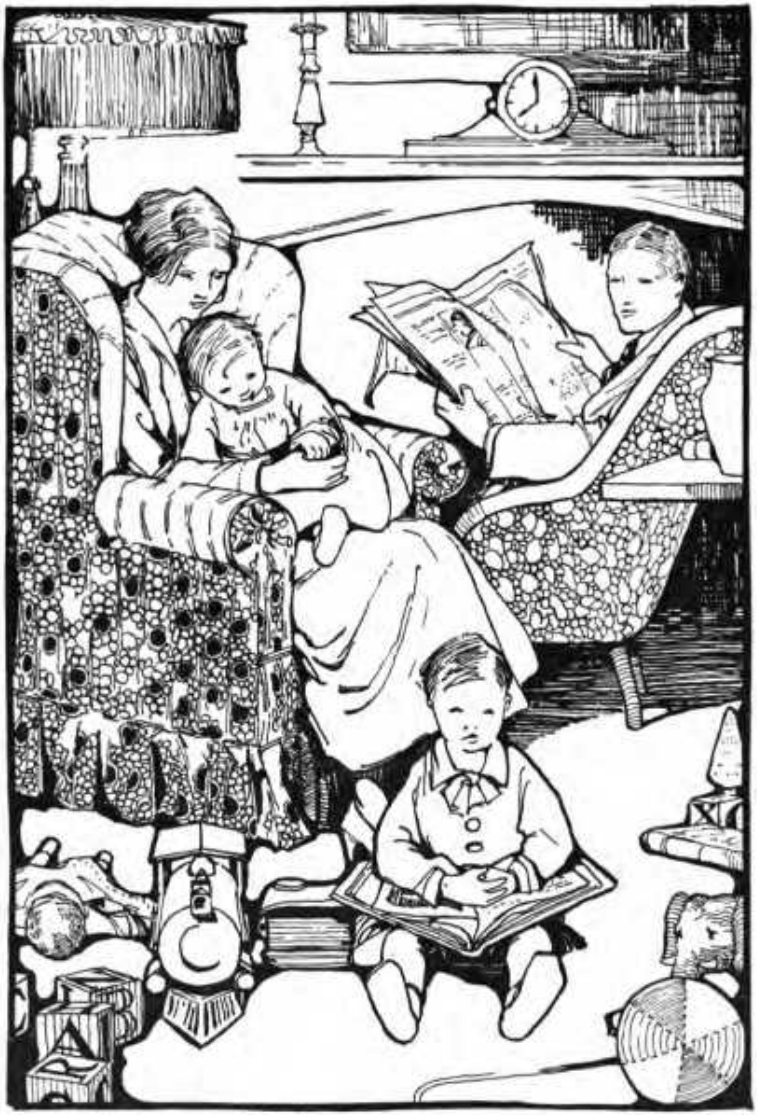

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EDITED BY WILLIAM F. RUSSELL, PH.D.
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AN ELEMENTARY ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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BOOK ONE

PHILADELPHIA AND LONDON
J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

PRINTED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
AT THE WASHINGTON SQUARE PRESS
PHILADELPHIA, U. S. A.

PREFACE

Our semi-grammarless age—a period of conflicting opinions regarding the teaching of English in lower schools—has resulted in confusion of mind to many pupils, and in discouragement to many upper-class teachers.

Because of the writer's firm conviction that the difficulties with the subject in disrepute are largely owing to wrong methods of presentation, an attempt is now made to approach it from a new angle. Two of the strongest factors in child-growth—love of play and a strong dramatic instinct—are used to assist in bringing life to what has usually seemed a "dead language," or, at best, a cordially disliked subject.

The query of the anti-grammar group is always, "Of what use to a fifth- or sixth-grade child is knowledge of a noun?" The pro-grammar adherents agree that unless such knowledge is made a part of the child's experience in a vital, organic way, it is futile; but they believe that, as preparation for more advanced, critical study in later years, it is as essential to know early the fundamental structure of the English tongue, as it is to know geographical nomenclature, or the simple elements of arithmetic.

The use of games in teaching spelling and correct habits of oral speech has been proved of value; it is the purpose of this book to apply similar methods to