

**DRAMATIC READER  
FOR GRAMMAR  
GRADES**

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Dramatic reader for grammar grades by Marietta Knight

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**MARIETTA KNIGHT**

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# DRAMATIC READER

FOR GRAMMAR GRADES

BY

MARIETTA KNIGHT



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AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

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ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL, LONDON.

KNIGHT'S DRAMATIC READER.

W. P. I

## PREFACE

AN experience of ten years in helping boys and girls to present scenes from small plays has given me convincing evidence that the dramatic instinct is strong in children, and an experience of more than ten years of teaching has made it clear that the ordinary school material and school work do little to satisfy and develop that instinct. Then, too, every teacher knows how rare is the child who reads with natural intonation and emphasis. As soon as he begins to read he begins to be artificial. But this artificiality is always less evident when children lose themselves in pretending to be some one else. Then they show spontaneity, natural tones, and expression, and then there are few in the little school audience whose wits have gone woolgathering.

I hope that this book will help both to satisfy the child's appetite and develop better oral reading.

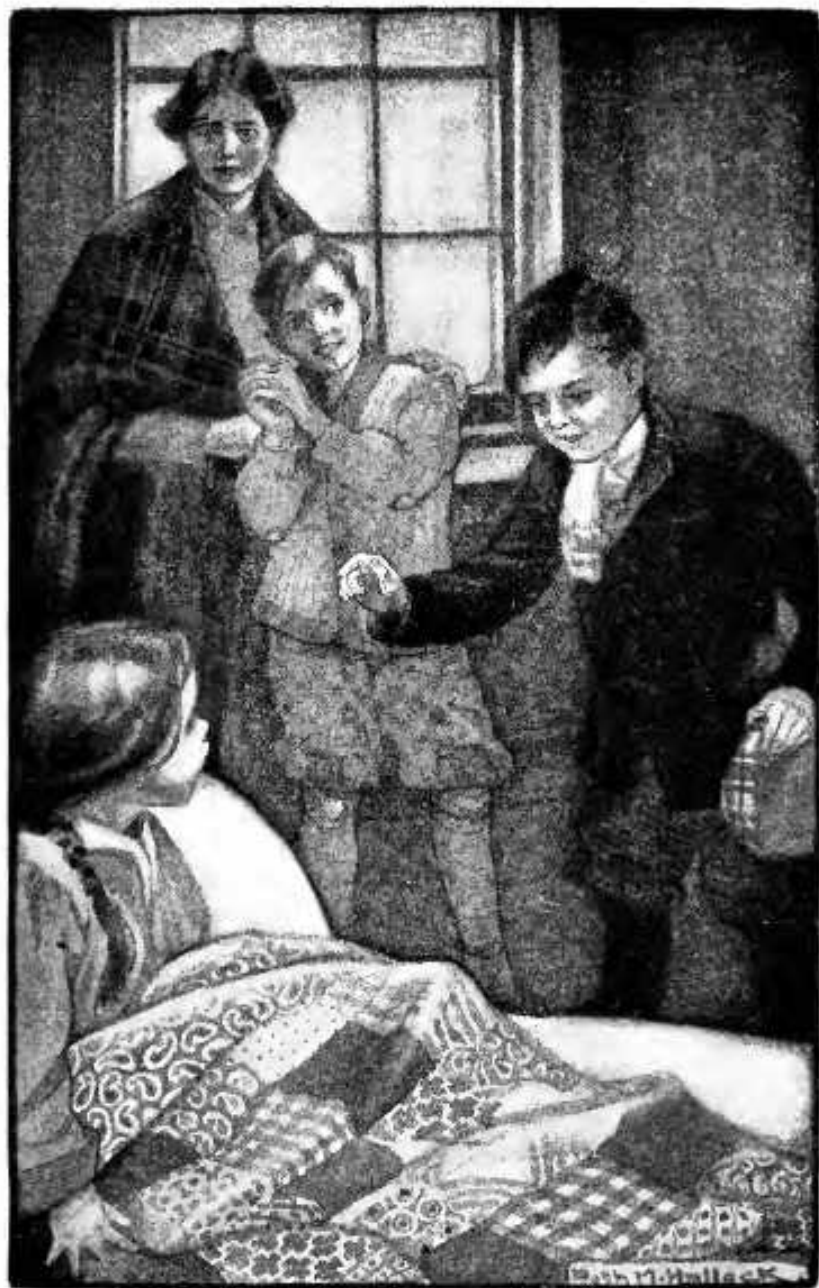
These dialogues are not "plays"; they are not intended for action, but for reading. In the adaptation of narrative material, the process has been mainly that of elimination, the purpose having been to alter the original material as little as possible.

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
MRS. BANGS'S PIES: A THANKSGIVING STORY . . . . .	7
HOW THE LITTLE SMITHS GOT THEIR FOURTH-OF-JULY MONEY	17
SO-SO . . . . .	25
ALICE IN WONDERLAND . . . . .	31
A MAD TEA PARTY . . . . .	37
DIAMOND AND THE NORTH WIND . . . . .	45
MAGGIE TULLIVER'S VISIT TO THE GYPSIES . . . . .	63
SCENES FROM "A LITTLE MAID OF CONCORD TOWN" . . . . .	69
THE DESTRUCTION OF TREASURE VALLEY . . . . .	85
LITTLE COSETTE AND "FATHER CHRISTMAS" . . . . .	93
SCENES FROM "JOHN HALIFAX, GENTLEMAN" . . . . .	103
THE MIRACULOUS PITCHER . . . . .	115
PANDORA'S BOX . . . . .	125
THE POMEGRANATE SEEDS . . . . .	131
JEAN VALJEAN AND THE BISHOP . . . . .	147
EBENEZER SCROOGE'S CHRISTMAS . . . . .	159 ✓
GILES COREY OF THE SALEM FARMS . . . . .	181
THE GOLD-BUG . . . . .	195
A SCENE AT KENILWORTH CASTLE . . . . .	215
SCENES FROM "WILLIAM TELL" . . . . .	227
SCENES FROM "JULIUS CÆSAR" . . . . .	249



(6)

TOMMY INVITES THE BARRERS TO DINNER

## DRAMATIC READER

### MRS. BANGS'S PIES: A THANKSGIVING STORY

#### SCENE I

*Characters* { Mrs. Bangs  
Tommy Bangs  
Moses Bangs

*Mrs. Bangs.* Twenty-three pies! and only two boys to eat them! That never'll do!

*Tommy.* I know who'd come, mother, if you asked him. He'd be awfully glad!

*Mrs. Bangs.* Who? Twenty-one, twenty-two—yes, that quince tart over in the corner makes just twenty-three. It's a mite burned on the edge, to be sure, but, then, it counts; and boys won't mind so long's it's a pie. Who is it, Tommy, we'd better ask to Thanksgiving?

*Tommy.* Jed Barker. Oh, my, isn't that a monster! I never saw such raisins.

*Mrs. Bangs.* Jed Barker! Why, 'twas only yesterday that you wouldn't speak to him; and now you want him to come to Thanksgiving.