

**JOHN HEYWOOD'S
PARAGON READERS.
FIRST PARAGON READER**

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John Heywood's Paragon readers. First Paragon Reader by John Heywood

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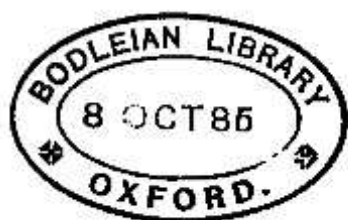
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DRANSGATE AND RIDGEFIELD, MANCHESTER;
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P R E F A C E.

THE special object of this Reader is to awaken the mental powers of the scholar, to teach him to observe the common facts of daily life, and at the same time it complies with the requirements of Standard I., as laid down in the Mundella Code.

The subjects chosen for the lessons are such as come under the daily notice of children, or refer to well-known facts in ordinary life. The language is easy and simple, with new words sparingly introduced to enlarge the child's vocabulary.

The meanings of a few of the principal words are given at the *head* of each lesson. The words arranged at the end of each lesson in columns for spelling, are divided into syllables and accentuated. The teacher is strongly recommended to let the children read them after him several times, and then one by one round the class. This will tend to improve the scholar's articulation.

Questions are given on the subject-matter of the lessons, which may serve as a model to young teachers, and as a test of the child's attention and knowledge of what he has read. No questions are given that can be answered with a simple "Yes" or "No." The teacher is advised not to confine himself to these questions; his endeavour should be, even at this early period, to encourage his pupils to give their answers in an expressive and brief sentence, thus paying particular attention not only to the correctness of the answer, but the *form* in which it is given. This may involve some trouble, but the teacher will be amply repaid for his pains by the increased mastery over words which will be insensibly gained by his pupils.

The poetry has been carefully selected, as being adapted to the tastes and understandings of children, and also as being suitable for repetition, as required by the Mundella Code.*

* The thanks of the Editor are due to the Editor of "Home Words" for permission to use Mrs. Prosser's fables, and some pieces of poetry; and also to the Publisher of the "Infants' Magazine" for permission to reprint some of the poetry contained in that Magazine.

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FIRST PARAGON READER.



WISHING AND WORKING.

idle, lazy
grains, small seeds

hard, firm; a **hard winter**, a very
cold winter

1. "Oh dear," said an idle young sparrow to a robin, who was picking up some grains of corn, that had fallen among a heap of straw, "I wish the ground was not so hard."
2. "So do I," said the robin, "but at this time of the year, you know, it is often hard."
3. "Yes, I suppose so, but I cannot find anything to eat. I do wish there were some berries on that large haw-thorn tree. It is not worth while going to look for them, for they are sure to be all gone."

4. "It is a hard winter," said the robin, "but for all that, I know that many of your friends and mine too, have got a good dinner from that tree for many days past."

5. "Yes, I know they did," said the sparrow in a sad tone, "but I cannot think where they found anything, as I do not see a single berry on it. I wish I knew where I could find some breakfast, for I am very hungry, and I see no chance of getting any."

6. "Nor do I," said the robin, "while you sit still and do nothing but wish. If you set about looking for something, I think you will stand a better chance. I have had a good meal, while you have been wishing for one. Try my plan, and I think you will find it is the best."

Pronounce and Spell:—

young	wish'-ing	fall'-en	haw'-thorn	hun'-gry
worth	work'-ing	a-mong'	din'-ner	noth'-ing
while	spar'-row	oft'-en	man'-y	look'-ing
chance	rob'in	sup-pose'	break'-fast	some'-thing
meal	pick'-ing	ber'-ries	get'-ting	bet'-ter

QUESTIONS.—What was the sparrow's first wish? What was the robin doing at the same time? What was the sparrow's second wish? Why did not the sparrow go to the hawthorn tree? What advice did the robin give to the sparrow?



SPRING.

crops, plants in field

weeds, small wild plants

buds, young leaves

oft'-en, many times

sow, plant

clear'-ed, carried away

1. Spring is a nice time of the year. When the cold winter is over, we feel the warmth of the sun. The days grow longer, and the birds begin to build their nests. In the fields are the young lambs playing by the side of their mothers.