

**THIRTY MORE
FAMOUS
STORIES RETOLD**

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Thirty More Famous Stories Retold by James Baldwin

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JAMES BALDWIN

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FAMOUS
STORIES RETOLD**

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ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL, LONDON.

THIRTY MONS.

W. P. I.

To
"THE LITTLEST TEACHER OF THEM ALL"
AND HIS FRIENDS,
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED
WITH THE SINCERE REGARDS OF
THE AUTHOR

[From Bulletin of the New York Public Library]

And last comes the fittest teacher of them all. By standing up very straight he could look across the top of my desk and his eyes met mine unwaveringly, as I accused him of having kept Baldwin's "Fifty Famous Stories" from August till December. He explained, and I considered the matter settled. Five minutes later I looked up to find him still there—"Little boy, what *do* you want?"

"Please, ma'am, that book."

This was too much—"You've had it three months; why don't you take some other?"

"Because that's the only one she likes. I've tried another; she won't even look at it."

"She? who is *she*?"

"The one I teach."

I thought he was getting mixed. "The book you *learn* from, little boy?"

"No, ma'am, the girl I teach."

"How old is she?"

He eyed me critically. "'Bout as big as you are."

Then he told me all about her. She was the daughter of the Italian shoemaker; her father wasn't very kind to her, she knew no English, and had no friends; he taught her in the evenings. "But she's learnin', and when she learns she'll like this better 'n Italy."

TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS

It is now more than a year since you read my "Fifty Famous Stories." Those stories, as you will remember, are quite short and easy. Before you had finished your second year at school you could read every one of them without stopping to study the meaning of the words. Many thousands of children have read those fifty stories, and then they have asked for more; and this is my excuse for the present volume.

You are older now, and you have learned many things which you did not know when we first became acquainted. You are able to read almost everything. And so, in telling you "Thirty More Famous Stories," I have chosen more difficult subjects and have not been so careful to select the shortest and easiest words. Still, you will not find this book hard to read, neither do I think it will prove to be less interesting than the earlier volume.

Nearly all the stories are true, and there are not more than three or four that might not have happened. In every one there is something worth learning and remembering.

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THIRTY MORE FAMOUS STORIES

COLUMBUS AND THE EGG



Christopher Columbus discovered America on the 12th of October, 1492. He had spent eighteen years in planning for that wonderful first voyage which he made across the Atlantic Ocean. The thoughts and hopes of the best part of his life had been given to it. He had talked and argued with

sailors and scholars and princes and kings, saying, "I know that, by sailing west across the great ocean, one may at last reach lands that have never been visited by Europeans." But he had been laughed at as a foolish dreamer, and few people had any faith in his projects.

At last, however, the king and queen of Spain gave him ships with which to make the trial voyage. He crossed the ocean and discovered strange lands, inhabited by a people unlike any that had been known before. He believed that these lands were a part of India.

When he returned home with the news of his discovery there was great rejoicing, and he was hailed as the hero who had given a new world to Spain. Crowds of people lined the streets through which he passed, and all were anxious to do him honor. The king and queen welcomed him to their palace and listened with pleasure to the story of his voyage. Never had so great respect been shown to any common man.

But there were some who were jealous of the discoverer, and as ready to find fault as others were to praise. "Who is this Columbus?" they asked, "and what has he done? Is he not a pauper pilot from Italy? And could not any other seaman sail across the ocean just as he has done?"