

**HOW TO SPEAK: EXERCISES  
IN VOICE CULTURE  
AND ARTICULATION  
WITH ILLUSTRATIVE POEMS**

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How to Speak: Exercises in Voice Culture and Articulation with Illustrative Poems by Adelaide Patterson

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# HOW TO SPEAK

EXERCISES IN VOICE CULTURE

AND ARTICULATION

WITH ILLUSTRATIVE POEMS

BY

ADELAIDE PATTERSON

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at the Rhode Island College  
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To my Mother  
whose voice in story and song  
has ever been an  
inspiration

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## PREFACE

Most of the excellent books on Voice Culture which have been published deal with the subject from the viewpoint of the singer. Our aim is to improve the speaking voice; therefore the emphasis is put on that side of the matter.

In all the discussions and exercises relating to articulation work, the necessity for the right mental attitude of the speaker toward his audience has been stressed. The obligation to make himself heard, and a real sympathy with the audience, should be felt by everyone, whether he is speaking in a large hall, a schoolroom or a drawing-room; and the majority of teachers recognize the importance of combining this feeling of responsibility with the mechanical drills.

The foundation for the work outlined here is built, mainly, upon the technical courses at Emerson College of Oratory in Boston; and the writer's experience in platform reading and teaching in grade work, as well as in teachers' college classes, has proved the value of the practice involved.

This book has been written in response to the request of many teachers in the public schools for a definite outline of work to develop the correct use of the voice and distinct articulation. It shows the logical order of the drills used every day in the Public Speaking classroom at the Rhode Island College of Education. Its simplicity makes it prac-

tical as a textbook for use in the grammar grades, as well as in high schools and colleges.

The poems chosen to illustrate the exercises are peculiarly fitted for drill upon the points one wishes to emphasize in each case. Many of them express strong emotion and are intended to arouse feeling in the speaker, a measure which helps to develop the desired quality and strength in the voice. While some of them are better for adults, most of them are appropriate for use in the four upper grades in school. Many would do for any one of these grades; but where a classification is advisable, their order helps,—the simpler ones for the fifth and sixth grades coming first in each group.

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