

THE PHONETIC READER

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The Phonetic Reader by Charles W. Deane

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CHARLES W. DEANE

**THE PHONETIC
READER**

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BY

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PREFACE.

This little book has been prepared from the following considerations :

1. First lessons in reading should be for the purpose, primarily, of teaching the child to read. The selection of literature with a pedigree which entitles it to be considered classic, or the preparation of lessons in which reading is made subservient to information work of any kind, will not at first best suit this end.

2. A mastery of words is a first requisite in reading. The word is the unit recognized. Much has been said about reading by sentences, by paragraphs, even by pages, as units; but the more carefully we examine the process of reading, the more fully we are convinced that, except in a few rare and phenomenal instances, the word is the unit of the visual grasp.

3. A knowledge of the phonic elements and the power of letters in certain relations is necessary to the independent acquisition of a new word. Any plan of suggesting words to children, like every other means of telling, is radically wrong in any work where independence is desired. It is just as well to tell the child that c-o-w is the word *cow*, as to suggest it by a picture or image of the animal, or by saying that it is the name of the animal that gives milk. Neither will lead to independence on the part of the learner.

4. The sentence is the unit of thought expression. While words are the units recognized, they give thought only in relation

one to another. Each sentence should be expressed in its unity. A word alone is a dead, dry thing. Sentences express life and thought.

The plan of this book makes phonics the basis of word getting, gives exercises for the ready recognition of words by all the devices of the word method, and insists, from the beginning, upon the unity of the sentence. As soon as practicable, the lessons are based on information work and choice literature.

The author desires to make grateful acknowledgment to his associate teachers, Florence M. Quigg, Frances B. Coggsell, and M. Agnes Kerr, for valuable suggestions, and to the editor of *Our Little Ones*, for permission to use selections from that magazine.

To the little people in their first efforts at learning to read, and to the teachers who shall guide them, this book is hopefully dedicated.

CHAS. W. DEANE.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.,
August, 1896.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PART I.	
I. SOUNDS R, T, F, A	1
II. COMBINATION OF SOUNDS; WORDS	3
III. SOUNDS OF S AND C	4
IV. SOUND OF EE	5
V. WORD AND SOUND DRILL	6
VI. SOUNDS OF M AND N	8
 PART II.	
I. THE ARTICLE A	9
II. SENTENCES	10
III. THE ARTICLE THE	11
IV. CONNECTED SENTENCES. A STORY. E AND H	13
V. SOUND OF S	14
VI. SOUNDS OF U AND P	16
VII. SHORT SOUND OF I	17
VIII. SOUND OF D	18
IX. SOUND OF G (HARD)	20
X. SOUND OF OO	22
 PART III.	
I. THE APPLE. L AND K	24
II. THE APPLE. W	27
III. THE RABBIT. B	28
IV. THE SUNSET	31
V. THE ROBIN. SHORT O	32
VI. THE DOLL. V	34
VII. THE CAKE. FINAL E. LONG A	37
VIII. FRED HELPS MAKE THE CAKE. LONG I	38
IX. SAM'S HOME AND HIS PETS. LONG O	39
X. THE PICTURE IN THE POND. LONG U	41

	PAGE
PART IV.	
I. FRED AND FIDO. LONG VOWELS.	44
II. THE CROSS DOG. X, J AND CH	46
III. THE MOUSE. OU	47
IV. THE BUMBLE BEE. NG, SH AND Z	49
V. THE FLY. VOWEL Y	51
VI. LAZY NED. OI	53
VII. THE BOW AND ARROW. OW	55
VIII. CLOCK RHYME MOTHER GOOSE	57
IX. THE KITE. CONSONANT Y	58
X. MORE ABOUT SAM'S HOME. A BEFORE R	60
XI. THE SEEDS. WH	63
XII. THE TWO DOGS. OO	65
XIII. THE GIRL AND THE BIRDS. ER AND IR	67
XIV. THE BEETLE. TH	69
XV. THE FARMER. OR AND UR	71
XVI. REVIEW SENTENCES. ED	73
PART V.	
I. THE DEER. DOUBLE VOWELS ÆSOP	75
II. THE BONNY BOAT. OA	77
III. THE TWO BUCKETS	78
IV. OLD RHYMES MOTHER GOOSE	79
V. THE PLANT. A LIKE SHORT O	80
VI. THE BIRD AND ITS NEST ALFRED TENNYSON	82
VII. PLAYING STORE. C AND G (SOFT)	83
VIII. LITTLE JACK HORNER. THE NORTH WIND	87
IX. THE CROW AND THE PITCHER ÆSOP	88
X. THE FOX AND THE GRAPES ÆSOP	89
XI. THE BOY AND THE RAINDROPS	90
XII. ROOTS	91
XIII. OLD TIME'S WATCHERS C. W. D	93
XIV. THE COOKIE BOYS PEYTON BROWN	94
XV. THE BOY AND THE WOLF ÆSOP	95
XVI. KITTY AND MOUSEIE	98
XVII. THE WONDERFUL BRIDGE. O BEFORE LD OR LT	99

CONTENTS

vii

	PAGE
PART V—Continued.	
XVIII. THE CUBE	101
XIX. ON THE FINGERS AND TOES	103
OLD RHYME	103
XX. WHO TOLD? BROAD A	104
PART VI.	
I. MARY'S STOCKING	108
II. CAPTAIN PEN'S ARMY	108
C. W. D.	108
III. JAMES AND HIS FAULT. I BEFORE LD AND ND	110
IV. OUR OWN STORIES	112
V. THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER	115
ÆSOP	115
VI. MOUSIE'S ADVENTURE. I BEFORE GH	116
VII. LADY MOON	118
LORD HOUGHTON	118
VIII. THE SUN, THE MOON AND THE STARS	120
IX. SWING SONG	122
ZITELLA COCKE	122
X. FRED'S FISHING. O BETWEEN W AND R	124
XI. CRUMBS OF COMFORT	125
LIZZIE DE ARMOND	125
XII. STEMS	127
XIII. LEAVES	129
XIV. MORE ABOUT LEAVES	131
XV. SEVEN TIMES ONE	132
JEAN INGELOW	132
XVI. THE CAT AND THE MICE	135
ÆSOP	135
XVII. WHO STOLE THE BIRD'S NEST?	136
LYDIA MARIA CHILD	136
XVIII. THE WIND AND THE SUN	142
XIX. THE BABY	143
GEORGE MACDONALD	143
XX. CRADLE SONG	147
ELIZABETH PRENTISS	147
XXI. THE STRAW, THE COAL AND THE BEAN	149
GRIMM	149
SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS	157