

**NATURE READERS:  
SEASIDE AND  
WAYSIDE, NO. 3**

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Nature Readers: Seaside and Wayside, No. 3 by Julia McNair Wright

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**JULIA MCNAIR WRIGHT**

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NATURE READERS

SEASIDE AND WAYSIDE

No. 3

BY

JULIA McNAIR WRIGHT

And if ever the way grew long,  
And his strength began to fail,  
She sang a more beautiful song,  
And she told a more wonderful tale.

—LONGFELLOW, *Birthday Poem to Agassiz*.

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**SEASIDE AND WAYSIDE NATURE READERS.**

By **JULIA McNAIR WRIGHT.**

**Seaside and Wayside Nature Reader, No. 1.**

Describes Crabs, Wasps, Spiders, Bees, and some Univalve Mollusks.

**Seaside and Wayside Nature Reader, No. 2.**

Describes Ants, Flies, Earthworms, Beetles, Barnacles, and Starfish.

**Seaside and Wayside Nature Reader, No. 3.**

Has chapters on Plant-life, Grasshoppers, Butterflies, and Birds.

**Seaside and Wayside Nature Reader, No. 4.**

Has chapters on Geology, Astronomy, World-life, etc.

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By **JULIA McNAIR WRIGHT**

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## PREFACE.

IN presenting a third volume of the Nature Readers to the children of our land, and to their parents and teachers, I feel it both a duty and a delight to thank those who have so cordially and sympathetically welcomed a new departure in school-book literature.

I have not sought to model these Readers upon any pattern previously set, but to make them the outcome of what I have learned by observation of the receptive and retentive powers of children.

I desired to impart useful and needful knowledge in a fashion which should not be burdensome, and which should strongly impress young minds.

I have had no hobby of book-making or of style to follow. My one idea has been to benefit the child, and to that end I have directed my whole effort.

I sing an old song when I say that we are a nervous race, and our children are more intensely nervous than their parents. The antidote for this nervousness, and its consequent train of disasters, is to be found in the open air, in healthful out-of-door exercise, in the serene calm of nature, in the peaceful joys which the investigation of nature affords us.

If we can open wide the gates of "the fairy-land of science,"—if we can bring the child near to the heart of nature,—if we can absorb his hours of leisure, and many of his hours of brain-work, in the study of nature out of doors, we shall have done much toward making him robust in body, sound in mind, cheerful of disposition, and useful in the future.

THE AUTHOR.



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"Nothing left Him."

## SEASIDE AND WAYSIDE.

### LESSON I.

#### THE GREAT MOTHER.

"WHAT are you doing?" I asked a boy to-day.

"Only digging in the dirt," he said.

"And what is that in your little cart?"

"Nothing but dirt."

"And what is this that you call dirt?"

He did not reply. An older boy, who had read more, said: "Dirt is the top crust of the ball, called the earth, on which we live."

"Very good. Now, my lad, what is dirt worth?"

The boy who was digging said: "Ho! Dirt is worth nothing."