

**NATURE STORIES
FOR YOUNG
READERS: PLANT LIFE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649030811

Nature Stories for Young Readers: Plant Life by M. Florence Bass

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M. FLORENCE BASS

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YOUNG READERS

PLANT LIFE

BY

M. FLORENCE BASS

"Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

ILLUSTRATED BY MRS. M. Q. HURNETT

BOSTON, U.S.A.

D. C. HEATH & CO., PUBLISHERS

1896

PREFACE.

THIS book is designed to accompany any First and Second Readers.

Some of the lessons are easy enough for First Reader pupils, while others are better adapted to children of a higher grade.

The book is intended to be used as a change from the regular reader, and not to be read through continuously by any class.

The arrangement of lessons is made with reference to the convenience of the teacher, who will select such as are suited to the season in which she is working.

It is hoped that the lessons will be given to the children as an outgrowth of observation and conversation on the subject-matter of the lessons.

Let the objects be brought before the children in every case in which it is possible, that they may become familiar with the real things treated of in the book.

They should observe the plants in the different

stages of growth indicated, when reading the lessons descriptive of those stages.

Such a lesson as "Spring Rain" will be best appreciated by the children if read on just such a day as it describes.

Such lessons as "Out of the Ground" are intended only as texts, and will doubtless suggest many other items of interest to the children.

Many of the lessons aim to give only a particular instance of a general truth, to lead the children to discover for themselves other like instances, and finally infer the truth itself: for example, "The Chestnut Burr" will lead to a discussion of the different ways in which seeds are protected until they are ripe; "The Beech Nuts," to the storing up of food in the seed, which the young plant will need when it begins to grow; "The Milkweed," to the various ways in which seeds are scattered; "The Jamestown Weed," to the mutual help of insects and plants, and so on.

In the last-named lesson, as in some others, it has not seemed amiss to let the children see that there is something beautiful and interesting even in the most common and despised weeds.

This little book is sent out with the hope that it may brighten some hour in some schoolroom.

TO THE CHILDREN.

DEAR LITTLE CHILDREN:—

Once, when I was a timid little girl, our family moved to a strange city.

I went to a school where I was a stranger.

One day as I sat in my seat, working at my lesson, I chanced to look up at my teacher.

She gave me a pleasant little smile.

It made me very happy, for she seemed to say: "I am pleased with what you are doing."

Yet she really said not a word.

Suppose she had frowned at me. Do you think I should have felt as happy?

I tell you this to help you to think how many things are really said, even when no words are used.

Plants, birds, and insects cannot say things to us in words, yet they tell us many beautiful things by what they do, if we will only learn to watch them and think about them.

They tell us something by just being here.

v

Even a house says something to me. As I look at it, it says: "Some one made me,—some one who could do much more than any little boy or girl."

So when I look at a tree or a bird, it says: "Some one who is greater than any man or woman made me."

In these little lessons I have tried to help you to find out some of the many things that are told us without words, by things that we may see every day.

Will you not watch and think to see how many more you can find out for yourselves?

Your friend,

FLORENCE BASS.

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