

**OUR COMMON  
FRIENDS AND FOES:  
A NATURE READER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649664825

Our Common Friends and Foes: A Nature Reader by Edwin Arthur Turner

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**EDWIN ARTHUR TURNER**

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A NATURE READER**



OUR COMMON FRIENDS  
AND FOES

*A NATURE READER*

BY

EDWIN ARTHUR TURNER

DIRECTOR OF THE PRACTICE SCHOOL, ILLINOIS STATE  
NORMAL UNIVERSITY, NORMAL, ILLINOIS



NEW YORK ·· CINCINNATI ·· CHICAGO  
AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

## PREFACE

"WE are beginning to use fruitfully in our education the legends and myths of the past, but the fundamental conceptions of these lie in the life and nature about us. All of this is the work of the Infinite Enchanter of the Universe and forms a realm of real magic, of which human myth and fairy tale are after all but the passing shadow." — *Hodge*.

Because of its inherent appeal to the fancy, make-believe, and curiosity of children, the *story* affords a natural approach to the facts of nature, and furnishes an adequate stimulus for developing research ideals and habits. This use of the story was first suggested to the author by the interest children manifest in "Peter Rabbit" and stories of a similar character. It seemed a great waste that this absorbing interest should be used to so little purpose.

The Story of a Toad was written to substantiate the belief that incidents of fact are quite as interesting as those of fancy providing they are given personality and a dramatic setting. The presentation of this and other stories to the children of several grades confirmed the belief.

These stories are an attempt to correlate the reading work of the grades with the natural and economic problems of the child's environment. And while it is conceded that class work in nature study will add to the interest of the stories, it is believed that the subjects treated are so widely known that they will interest children without previous preparation in the nature study class.

E. A. T.

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THE STORY OF A TOAD

