

**SHELDONS'  
SUPPLEMENTARY  
READING. THIRD BOOK**

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Sheldons' Supplementary Reading. Third Book by Butler & Co.

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THIRD BOOK

Butler, Sheldon & Co.

# PREFACE

THIS book is intended to follow the use of any Third Reader. It is believed that if pupils have been properly taught, they can take up this book without difficulty at this stage. With the exception of a few scientific terms, there are very few words so difficult as to be any hindrance to its use. These can be made as easy as any others by a little care on the part of the teacher. It is important that children be early taught to observe what they see around them; to notice some of the more common phenomena with which they are surrounded; and also to express their observations in something like accurate language.

The language of science, for such purposes, is always the simplest, and the most easily comprehended.

The questions appended to the several lessons are merely suggestive, and many others should be used by the teacher in reviewing each lesson.

It is believed that children will not only learn much that will be valuable for them to know, from a proper use of this

book, but also that their interest will be so enlisted that they will also *learn to read* much more rapidly than they are likely to do by using an additional book of disconnected *selections*.

Great care should be taken to be sure that the children thoroughly understand every statement of fact, and so far as may be possible, to make experiments.

While this little book is not intended as a text-book on Physical Science, the elements of science may be, and should be, mastered by its use. The habit of careful and accurate observation can be easily secured, and nothing, in the training of children, can be of greater importance.

With the hope that curiosity,—that potent factor in education,—may be aroused, and correct habits of observation secured, this little volume is submitted to the teachers of the country by

THE AUTHOR.



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SHELDON'S  
SUPPLEMENTARY READING.

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LESSON I.

SUNBEAMS.

I.

1. In order to learn science, we must learn something of the language of science. If you were to travel in a country without knowing the language of that country, you would learn but a small part of that which you might learn if you could talk with the people whom you met. So, if you are to go to books to find answers to your questions, you must know something of the language used in books. You need not learn very many hard names, but you must clearly understand what common words mean.

2. And more than this, you must keep your eyes open all the time. There are many more things to be seen about us than most of us ever see. There is very much of interest to be learned about the most common things of every-day life. Who does not love the

sunbeam? It is so dear to us, that it has become a household word for all that is bright and cheerful. When we wish to describe the happiest little girl among us, who brings a smile to every face, wherever she goes, we call her "the sunbeam of the house."

3. And yet, how little even the wisest among us know about the nature and work of these bright sunbeams, which come every day to gladden our lives. Did you ever wake quite early in the morning, when it was still dark, and you could see nothing, not even your own hand; and then lie waiting and watching, until the light came slowly creeping in at the window?

4. At first you can only see the dim outline of the things in the room. Then, by degrees, the form of the objects in the room becomes clearer and clearer, until at last you see all, distinctly, in broad daylight. What has been happening here? Why have the things in the room become visible by such slow degrees? We say the sun is rising, but we know very well it is not the sun that moves. Our earth has been turning slowly round, until the little spot on which we live has been brought face to face with the sun, so that its beams can fall upon us.

5. Take a small globe, and place a piece of paper over that part of it on which you find the map of the United States. Let a lighted lamp represent the sun.