



西方家庭学校经典教材读本

英国语文

THE ROYAL READERS



THOMAS NELSON

〔英〕托马斯-尼尔森公司/编

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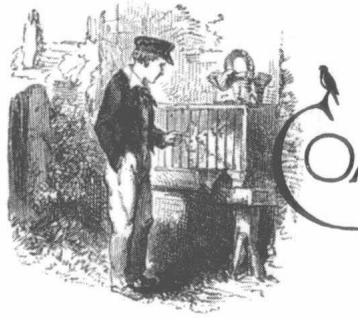
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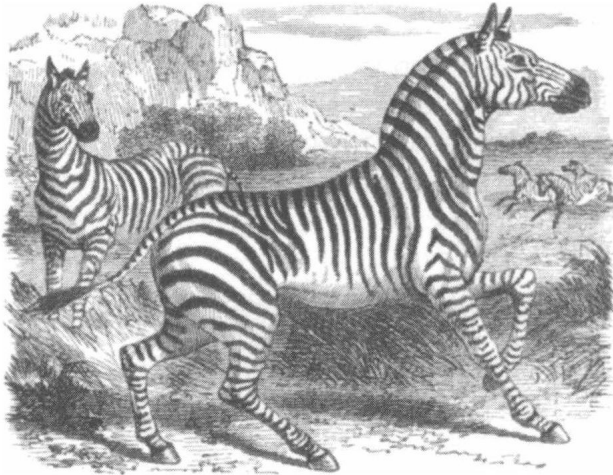
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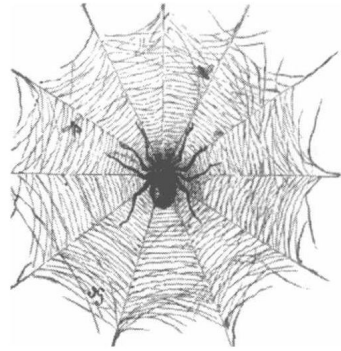


❖ LESSON 1 ❖

THE SPIDER

Do you see the spider in the picture? He has just got his web done; and there he sits in the very middle of it, ready to pounce^① upon a fly.

The spider loves work. He begins to work as soon as he begins to live. Every spider is born a *weaver*. Even the youngest spider knows how to weave his web just as well as the oldest.

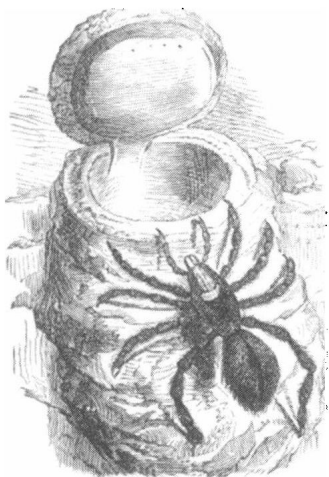


The spider never has to go to school to learn his task. So, the little duck can swim as soon as it is hatched. And the little bird can build its nest, and the bee can make the honey-comb, without any teaching.

God has given these creatures the power to do their work. And that is why they never make any blunders. Not all the weavers and spinners in the world could beat the spider in the work that he does.

The spider is never in a hurry. He always takes

① Pounce, *dart down quickly*.



care to make every thread fast. He takes a pride in doing his work well.

All spiders have not the same kind of work to do. But they all do it in the very best way.

Some spiders are *masons*. These build houses, the size of a big thimble. They make doors to them, which they shut when they go in. It is even said that they are able to fasten the door of the house inside, so that no robber can get in.

The garden spider lets its threads float in the air till they happen to take hold of plants or branches of trees. It then uses these threads as the roads or bridges by which it crosses from place to place.

A strange story is told of a spider saving his life by this means. He was put upon the end of a stick which stood a foot or two out of water. He was on a little island^① in the midst of a little sea.

What did he do? He walked down the stick to the edge of the water. He went round and round it; but he could find no way to get off.

① Island, land with water round it.

He then went once more to the top of the stick, and kept still for a while. He seemed to say to himself, "Well, I am in a nice fix now; what am I to do?"

He soon made up his mind. For he at once began to spin a long thread. He made one end of it fast to the top of the stick; and let the thread float away in the wind till it caught a tree on the shore. He then slid along the line, and got safely to dry land at last!

QUESTIONS

What is every spider, when he is born? Who has taught him? What do the mason-spiders build? How does the garden-spider cross from place to place? What did the spider do when he was put on a stick in the water?

PRONUNCIATION

spi'-der	weav'-er	teach'-ing	spin'-ners	rob'-ber
pic'-ture	youn'-gest	crea'-tures	hur'-ry	bridg'-es
mid'-dle	old'-est	pow'-er	thim'-ble	wa'-ter
look'-ing	hon'-ey	nev'-er	ma'-sons	him-self
be-gins'	with-out'	blun'-ders	hous'-es	safe'-ly

WRITE

<i>build</i>	<i>thread</i>	<i>float</i>	<i>while</i>
<i>school</i>	<i>caught</i>	<i>pounce</i>	<i>shore</i>

❧ LESSON 2 ❧

THE CHILD AND THE BIRD

LITTLE bird, little bird, come to me!
I have a clean cage all ready for thee;
Many bright flowers I'll bring to you,
And fresh, ripe cherries, all wet with dew. —

“Thanks, little maiden, for all thy care,
But I dearly love the clear, cool air;
And my snug little nest in the old oak tree
Is better than golden cage for me!” —

Little bird, little bird, where wilt thou go
When all the fields are buried in snow?
The ice will cover the old oak tree;
Little bird, little bird, stay with me! —

“Nay, little maiden, away I'll fly
To greener fields and a warmer sky:
When Spring comes back with cheerful rain
My joyful song you will hear again.” —

Little bird, little bird, who will guide thee
Over the hills and over the sea?
Foolish one, come with me to stay;
If you don't, I am sure you will lose your way. —

"Ah, no, little maiden! God guides me
Over the hills and over the sea:
He made me free as the morning air,
To drink the sunshine everywhere!"

QUESTIONS

What does the little bird like better than a pretty cage?
Where does the bird go in winter? When does it come back
again? Why does it not lose its way?

PRONUNCIATION

lit'-tle	maid'-en	bur'-ied	warm'-er	fool'-ish
read'-y	dear'-ly	cov'-er	cheer'-ful	morn'-ing
flow'-ers	bet'-ter	a-way'	joy'-ful	sun'-shine
cher'-ries	gold'-en	green'-er	o'-ver	ev'-er-y-where

WRITE

clean
bright

fields
thanks

rain
spring

drink
guides

❧ LESSON 3 ❧

THE RABBITS

THERE is George looking at the rabbits. Let us go and see them too.

“Oh, how pretty they are! Can they eat anything?”

Yes, Lily. You may give them these green leaves.

Now they see the leaves. Oh, how they are feasting! They seem very hungry.

Their little mouths go round and round the edges of the fresh green leaves, and soon they will eat them all up.

Wild rabbits go into holes which they make in the ground. There they are safe, and do not fear either dogs or cats; or even men, who would like to catch them.

In the evening, they come out of their holes to feed in the fields. They sit very close to the ground, amongst the grass, and you can hardly see the little gray things.



But if you clap your hands, they will all run off to their holes, and you may see lots of little white tails bobbing over the field.

It is a pretty sight to see wild rabbits running over the fields.

On the hills near the sea-shore, where Lily lives, there are hundreds and hundreds of them.

There is quite a large rabbit town there, with its streets and houses, all under the ground.



Lily must go with me some day, and perhaps we shall see some of the little creatures that live in the rabbit town.

QUESTIONS

What do rabbits eat? How do they eat them? Where do wild rabbits live? Where are there hundreds of them? When a great many of them live together, what do you call the place?

PRONUNCIATION

look'-ing	pret'-ty	edg'-es	a-mongst'	hous'-es
rab'-bits	feast'-ing	ei'-ther	run'-ning	per-haps'
Lil'-y	hun'-gry	eve'-ning	hun'-dreds	crea'-tures

WRITE

green
George

wait
leaves

round
catch

sight
quite

❧ LESSON 4 ❧

THE TWO GOATS

ON a wild mountain, two goats met on a ledge^① just over a high cliff. The ledge was so narrow, that there was neither room for them to pass each other nor to turn round and go back. A steep rock rose straight above them—a deep dark chasm^② lay below! What do you think the two goats did?



① Ledge, a shelf of rock.

② Chasm, opening in the rocks; cleft.

One of them with great care laid himself down on the narrow ledge, pressing as close to the rock as he could. Then the other goat gently and softly stepped over his friend, till, safely past him, he could lightly bound away.

The goat that had lain down then drew himself up from his lowly place, safe and sound, free to spring again from rock to rock, and crop the sweet grass on the hills.

Two other goats had left the valley, and climbed far up the mountain. At length they met on the banks of a wild, rushing stream. A tree had fallen across the stream, and formed a bridge from the one side to the other.

The goats looked at each other, and each wished to pass over first.

They stood for a moment with one foot on the tree, each thinking that the other would draw back. But neither of them would give way, and they met at last on the middle of the narrow bridge!

They then began to push and fight with their horns, till at last their feet slipped, and both the goats fell into the swift flowing stream, and were lost in the waters!

Both might have been saved, if either of them had known how to yield at the right time.