

西方家庭学校原版教材与经典读物

澳大利亚语文

THE
QUEENSLAND
READERS



AUTHORIZED BY
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

澳大利亚教育部 / 编

天津出版传媒集团
天津人民出版社

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ABOUT THE BOOK

This set of school readers was introduced and used to teach thousands of Queensland children to read. The choice of stories within the Readers was therefore crucial to encouraging success in literacy. The Readers featured:

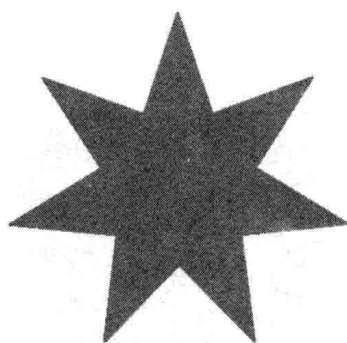
- * classic stories from English literature
- * adventure stories
- * accounts from British, Australian and Queensland history
- * biographies of significant figures in history
- * traditional fairy tales
- * poems
- * health lessons
- * stories encouraging the development of good character.

Along with the skill and love of reading, the aim of the Readers was to encourage the development of good character. The content of the Readers consequently include a treasure trove of facts, moral tales, fables and poetry that reflect the values and concerns of the times in which they were written.



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**THE
QUEENSLAND
READERS**



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LESSON 1

THE AUSTRALIAN

ploughed

wrought

thrall

He swings his axe in the golden morn;

The blade bites clean and free;

The trees must fall ere the land be ploughed,

And an axeman strong is he.

He drives his plough through the yellow **mould**¹;

The **share**² cuts clean and free;

The soil must break ere the seed be sown,

And a ploughman strong is he.

He sows the seed in the furrowed field;

With a tireless hand sows he;

When sun and rain have **wrought**³ their will,

What shall the harvest be?

If trees alone his axe-blade hewed,

If he but ploughed the plain,

And ploughed no more, and sowed the wheat,

1 mould: *Fine soft earth.*

2 share: *Ploughshare; blade.*

3 wrought: *worked.*

‘Twould be but golden grain.
But more than trees he brings to earth—
Old wrongs that bind and **thrall**¹;
And from his harvest shall be made
The sweetest bread of all.

A young man in a young land, he
Dreams noble dreams of youth;
And, foremost in the van² of years,
He sows the seeds of truth.

—RODERIC QUINN

1 thrall: *Enthrall, enslave.*

2 van: *The front, especially of an army.*

LESSON 2

THE FAWN AND THE EAGLES

scouting

hovering

proceedings

circling

temptation

verified

rifle

swooped

hopped

Some years ago a party of soldiers, while **scouting**¹, saw a huge eagle soaring in the air over a distant ridge. As they watched him he darted down, and then flew back again with angry shrieks and flapping wings, to repeat the dashes from time to time.

As they got near the spot over which the eagle was **hovering**², the soldiers saw a second bird on the ground. When the one in the air darted down this one joined in the attack, and then returned to its place in the high grass as the first soared upward.

“I knew it was a deer they were at,” said the guide, as at a trot the party ran up to the summit of a ridge and saw a fine full-grown doe **standing at bay**³ before the eagles. She was so busy watching her winged enemies, that she paid no heed to the presence of the men, although they took no care to hide themselves from her, and were indeed only two or three hundred yards away.

“She is wounded, of course,” said the guide, as they halted to view the proceedings. “These eagles know well enough not to

1 scouting: *Watching for the movements of an enemy, and trying to get information about the enemy's plans.*

2 hovering: *Fluttering in the air, ready to dart down on an object.*

3 standing at bay: *Standing so as to face the enemy.*

waste their time on a full-grown deer that is unhurt.”

Even the eagles did not notice the presence of the party, but prepared for another attack.

The one on the ground came hopping along first, with arched neck and spread wings, like a fighting cock in the barnyard. When within ten or fifteen feet of the deer it began circling round, the doe facing the eagle from whatever quarter it made its attack. Meantime the eagle in the air slowly approached to within a foot or two, striking with its wings and pecking at the doe's head.

This troubled the deer so much that she rose on her hind-feet and struck at the bird with her fore-hoofs. As she rose, the eagle on the ground rushed rapidly towards her. Down came the deer in a second, striking at the eagle with her fore-feet blows that could be plainly heard a long way off.

The eagle at first seemed to be killed. It lay like a bundle of crumpled feathers in front of the doe. But it was only “shamming,” to get the deer to follow it up. This was a temptation so great that the angered beast made one or two savage leaps and struck it again with its fore-feet; but the bird, suddenly rising, flew off a yard or two and escaped.

As the deer rushed forward, the eagle in the air **swooped**¹ downward on the spot where it had been standing. Quick as a flash the doe wheeled and made for the new enemy. There was no doubt of her success this time.

Feathers went flying into the air and the eagle flew screaming

¹ swooped: *Darted suddenly.*

away, while the other hopped off to a safe distance.

"There is the whole thing made clear, Captain," said the guide, who had eyes like a hawk. "She has got a little fawn with her, and the eagles are after it. There is the little one under her—that thing that looks like a small rock or bit of wood."



THE DOE ATTACKED BY EAGLES

The field-glasses of one of the party soon **verified**¹ this and they then saw the plan of the eagles. It was the part of one to stay on the ground, while the other hung in the air right over the doe. If she attacked the one in the air, the other was to try to get the young one and, not succeeding, was to tempt the mother to follow it, and thus leave the fawn open to the attacks of the one above.

These attacks were kept up until both birds were well tired, or the doe struck one of them. Then they would retreat to regain their breath or straighten out their feathers. How long they had been **contending**² there was no means of knowing, but all three

1 verified: *Proved to be true.*

2 contending: *Fighting, struggling.*

looked well tired out.

After the first battle had ended with the doe's success, the eagles saw the party of soldiers and at once flew away. The guide, however, was too quick for the male, and a bullet from his rifle soon brought the fierce bird to the ground dead. The doe watched the proceedings from the top of a ridge hard by. She offered a splendid mark, but not a shot was fired at her. In a few minutes she trotted away, followed by the little fawn.

LESSON 3

THE FISHERMEN

anchor steeple mackerel congeals

Hurrah! the seaward breezes

Sweep down the bay **amain**¹;

Heave up, my lads, the anchor!

Run up the sail again!

Leave to the lubber landsmen

The rai-lroad and the **steed**²;

The stars of heaven shall guide us,

The breath of heaven shall speed.

From the hill-top looks the steeple,

And the lighthouse from the sand;

And the scattered pines are waving

Their farewell from the land.

One glance, my lads, behind us,

For the homes we leave one sigh,

Ere we take the change and chances

Of the ocean and the sky.

We'll drop our lines, and gather

1 amain: *With force.*

2 steed: *Horse.*

Old Ocean's treasures in,
Where'er the mottled mackerel
Turns up a steel-dark fin.
The sea's our field of harvest,
 Its **scaly tribes**¹, our grain;
We'll reap the teeming waters;
At home, they reap the plain.



"WE WILL WHISTLE DOWN THE WILD WIND."

Though the mist upon our jackets
 In the bitter air **congeals**²,
And our lines wind stiff and slowly
 From off the frozen ,reels;
Though the fog be dark around us,
 And the storm blow high and loud,
We will whistle down the wild wind,
 And laugh beneath the cloud.

¹ *scaly tribes: Fish.*

² *congeals: Freezes; turns to ice.*