

**NATURAL-HISTORY
PLAYS AND
DIALOGUES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649409006

Natural-History Plays and Dialogues by Louisa P. Hopkins

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LOUISA P. HOPKINS

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PLAYS AND
DIALOGUES**

PREFACE.

THESE plays, which first appeared in Bicknell's educational periodicals, were written for and successfully used by a class of pupils of from seven to twelve years of age, during a period of several years.

They are designed for concerts or part-recitation and reading, and many of them involve action; the *Movement-plays* are to be carried out by characteristic motions accompanying the text, as may be indicated by the teacher or suggested by the spontaneous action of the pupils, in imitation of the natural movements of the animals represented, and after the manner of the Kindergarten-plays as prescribed by Fröbel.

The author also offers these plays as accurate and scientific studies of their subjects, not only entertaining, but instructive, and giving unconsciously a knowledge of the facts, technicalities, and scientific classifications of animals; the structure, habits, food, and haunts of every animal represented, and the distinctive characteristics of every class have been thoroughly and conscientiously worked out, and may be relied upon for fundamental, scientific instruction in natural history.

LOUISA P. HOPKINS.

NEW BEDFORD, June, 1884.

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NATURAL-HISTORY PLAYS.

THE BEARS.

(MOVEMENT-PLAY.)

[*Grizzly, Polar, Black, and Great Brown Bears.
Boys wearing characteristic furs.*]

Grizzly Bear.

Good day, give paw, great Bruin brothers;
I greet ye as I would no others.
Are ye just roused from winter's sleep
In rocky den or cavern deep?

Polar Bear.

My wife does the family sleeping,
Her two fat cubs she is keeping,
All snug in their snowy hole,
Far up by the Northern Pole.
But I, in my great white coat,
On the cold blue ice-blocks float;
Or roam o'er the snowy plains
Where old King Winter reigns.

Grizzly Bear.

You are the bear of my very heart,
My brave and honest counterpart.
I could show you slides on the glaciated slope,
And hunts for the bison and antelope.

For the Rocky Mountain tracts I roam,
And their fastnesses are my wild safe home.
My wife and babies may sleep and doze,
At hibernating I toss my nose.

Polar Bear.

I swim and bask and dive
Where the strong-tusked walrus live,
And the seal and fish I eat
In my icy, lone retreat.
While, through the six-months night,
Aurora flashes bright,
And lights my festive way
While I gambol, roar, and play.

Black Bear.

Well, a good sleep's no harm,
I care not to alarm;
Grizzly's ferocious muzzle
The bleeding flesh may guzzle;
I choose a milder diet,
And winter's warm dark quiet;
The odorous summer air,
Suits, too, this homely bear.

Grizzly Bear.

Yes, tame old dolt, you climb the trees,
And gnaw the trunk to find the bees,
Then scrape the honey, with your paw,
Right into your capacious maw;
With berry-juice your face you stain,
And roam from Florida to Maine.

Black Bear.

I envy not your fame,
The terror of your name,
Your broad and grizzly head
Close on the bison's tread,
Your sharply-chiselled claws
Writing your bloody laws.

Great Brown Bear.

I am so dull, but just aroused,
So well I slept, so warm was housed ;
My moss-lined hole and family,
True, solid comfort are to me.
I love the little human folks,
They stroke my nose, and pat and coax ;
I let them climb my back, then run,
And love their frolic and their fun.

Polar Bear.

Where do you live, old dullard,
So brown and tamely colored ?

Brown Bear.

In Scandinavian woods I roam,
But sometimes to your borders come ;
Through lofty Himalaya's gates,
Across the steppes to Behring's Straits.
In German forests, too, I hide,
Die Kinder on my saddle ride ;
But when I scent a nice fat sheep
My instincts wild their temper keep.