

**GRADED LIST OF
STORIES FOR
READING ALOUD**

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Graded List of Stories for Reading Aloud by Harriot E. Hassler & Carrie E. Scott

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HARRIOT E. HASSLER & CARRIE E. SCOTT

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for
READING ALOUD

Compiled by
HARRIOT E. HASSLER AND CARRIE E. SCOTT

THIRD EDITION, REVISED

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHING BOARD
CHICAGO
1915
F. L. C.

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FROM THE PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

It is to answer the increasing calls on library workers for "a good story to read to my school" that the following graded list for reading aloud has been prepared. The practical utility of such a list should be self-evident, since the practice of reading aloud at the opening or the closing of the school session is becoming almost universal, and with such good reason.

Many children are absolutely dependent on their teachers for the cultivation of any taste for good literature, without which the simple ability to read may prove as much of a curse as a blessing. Then, too, many children go into the school room out of disturbed and discordant homes, and they find it easier to swing into step for the day's work if they are first lured into an attitude of comradeship through the pages of a good story. "All the world loves a good story," so it is not strange that the tense, overcharged atmosphere of a school room at the close of the day should be relieved and cleared, that some vim and energy should be thrown into tasks otherwise grown irksome, by the promise of the teacher to read aloud if all the work is done by such and such an hour.

The making of the above list is no attempt to compile a graded list of the world's best stories. It does not attempt to include every book which may be read aloud with pleasure and profit in the class rooms. It aims rather to give a list of some twenty or thirty books which will be found enjoyable to both teachers and pupils, and will leave the children with some idea of the best juvenile literature, and to give them stories which will leave behind in their minds a "kind of fine and wholesome feeling" for the whole day.

If the following list proves suggestive and helpful to the librarian's best friend—the teacher—if it is the means of lifting her and her school room out of the humdrum into a real comradeship with her boys and girls as they all go off together into the enchanted land of story books, we shall be satisfied. Perhaps, in the long, long years it will be these "special times" that will affect most definitely the life of the child, and this recreation of the school day may prove well worth while,

"Silly gardener, summer goes
And winter comes with pinching toes,
When in the garden bare and brown
You must lay your barrow down.

Well now, and while the summer stays,
To profit by these garden days;
O, how much wiser it would be
To play at Indian wars with me!"

or else to sail the high seas with Blackbeard or Odysseus, to stand with throbbing hearts beside the minute-men at Concord, or to live one happy day in a serene and contented home, all through the magic spell of a story book.

HARRIOT E. HASSLER.

PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION.

The Graded List of Stories for Reading Aloud was first issued by the Public Library Commission of Indiana in 1908, and enlarged and revised by Miss Carrie E. Scott in 1910.

For the third edition, the number of titles has been reduced to fifteen for each grade, and some minor changes made, introducing some later books not included before. The reception accorded the former issues implies that there is still a need for this type of list.

The List for the Story Teller has been carefully revised and is supplemented by outlines for Cycles of Stories, covering the great Epics and some other great stories. Some of these outlines were originally worked out by members of the staff of the children's department of the Queens Borough Public Library of the City of New York.

A word of suggestion to any inexperienced story tellers who may use the list as a basis of story telling rather than for reading aloud may be timely. Use the books about story telling to learn methods and to benefit by the experience of other story tellers as freely as you will, but in selecting stories to tell go back to the strong, simple old forms and do not use the re-told versions. In other words, for such material as old folk tales, go to Mr. Joseph Jacobs' "English fairy tales" and learn from him, rather than from an adapted version in any volume about story telling. Otherwise you will be imposing only a pale shadow—and often a distorted shadow—of the original on your trusting audience and will have paid them for their trusting attention in counterfeit coin, when you could have given them pure gold. If you have learned that you can tell stories—some people cannot—spend your free reading time for a season in preparing some of the great stories outlined in the appended Cycles. Read as much as you can—not as little as possible—of good versions or translations of the stories you would tell until you become imbued with the spirit of the people who thus immortalized their ideal of heroism. Then, and then only, will you realize the real satisfaction of story telling.

"The rest may reason and welcome; 'tis we musicians know."

The two Indian Cycles are given in the hope that they may suggest wider use of that rich and picturesque folk lore which is the peculiar inheritance of the boys and girls of America.

HARRIET E. HASSLER.

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GRADED LIST OF STORIES FOR READING ALOUD

GRADES 1-2.

Aspinwall, Mrs. Alicia. Short stories for short people. Dutton, \$1.50.

Humorous stories.

Read: A quick-running squash. The toad. The n. s. bicycle. The tiger on the Hudson. What the squirrel did for Richard. A grasshopper's trip to the city. The lady of snow; and others.

Baldwin, James. Fairy stories and fables. American Book Co., \$0.35.

Read: The three bears. Little Red Riding Hood. The story of Tom Thumb. Cinderella; and others.

Deming, Mrs. T. O. Little red people. Stokes, \$1.25.

Reprint of half of "Indian child life." Vigorous and convincing illustrations.

Read: A greedy bear. Winter fun. The cliff-dwellers and their pets. Little beaver and the tame crows. The war dance. The babies and the woodpeckers.

Dickens, Charles. Magic fish bone. Dodd, \$0.60.

A holiday romance by Alice Rainbird, aged 7.

This delectable story centers about the fortunes of Princess Alicia and the 18 other princes and princesses, as well as the King, the Queen, the Fairy Grandmarina, and last, but not least, Prince Certainpersonlo.

Eddy, S. J., comp. Friends and helpers. Ginn, \$0.60.

Anecdotes and poems about animals.

Eggleston, Edward. Stories of great Americans for little Americans. American Book Co., \$0.40.

Read: Franklin's whistle. Putnam and the wolf. Kit Carson and the bears. Washington's Christmas gift. Dr. Kane in the frozen sea. Captain Clark's burning glass. Daniel Boone and his grapevine swing. The india-rubber man; and others.