

**THE BEACON
FIRST READER**

**THE BEACON
FIRST READER**

by

James H. Fassett

YESTERDAY'S CLASSICS

ITHACA, NEW YORK

Cover and arrangement © 2022 Yesterday's Classics, LLC.

This edition, first published in 2022 by Yesterday's Classics, an imprint of Yesterday's Classics, LLC, is an unabridged republication of the text originally published by Ginn and Company in 1913. For the complete listing of the books that are published by Yesterday's Classics, please visit www.yesterdaysclassics.com. Yesterday's Classics is the publishing arm of Gateway to the Classics which presents the complete text of hundreds of classic books for children at www.gatewaytotheclassics.com.

ISBN: 978-1-63334-174-6

Yesterday's Classics, LLC

PO Box 339

Ithaca, NY 14851

PREFACE

The “Beacon First Reader” differs from other first readers in that all the material has been carefully arranged with reference to its phonetic difficulties. So far as possible, unphonetic words have been excluded from the stories in the first part of the book. As the work progresses, however, more and more unphonetic words are introduced, but so gradually has this been done that at no time does the child meet with the discouragement of insurmountable difficulties.

In selecting material the plan has been to present only stories that have stood the test of time — stories which the child delights to hear repeated again and again. Since our language is so richly endowed with these masterpieces, it seems absurd to give to children made-up stories which are in no sense comparable, as examples of literature, to the old folklore.

The interest with which the child reads the classic tales he loves proves a most effective stimulus to his reading power. He does not need to be urged to master them, sentence by sentence, but seizes upon them with avidity. The power which this element of interest lends cannot be emphasized too strongly.

The stories of Part One are designed to supplement the stories of Part Two of the Primer, and should be read during the latter half of the first year. Part Two of the First Reader may well be left for the beginning of the second-grade work.

CONTENTS

PART I

THE PANCAKE	<i>Norse Folk Tale</i>	1
THE OLD WOMAN AND HER PIG	<i>English Folk Tale</i>	7
THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT	<i>Nursery Rhyme</i>	16
THIS LITTLE PIG WENT TO MARKET	<i>Mother Goose</i>	22
CHICKEN LICKEN	<i>English Folk Tale</i>	23
OLD MOTHER HUBBARD	<i>English Nursery Rhyme</i>	34
TITTY MOUSE AND TATTY MOUSE	<i>English Folk Tale</i>	36
NURSERY JINGLE		47
THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF	<i>English Folk Tale</i>	48

PART II

THE LITTLE RED HEN	<i>English Folk Tale</i>	57
LITTLE PUSSY	<i>Jane Taylor</i>	63
THE GOAT BOY	<i>English Folk Tale</i>	64
WHICH WAY DOES THE WIND BLOW?	<i>Lucy Aikin</i>	70
LITTLE HALF-CHICK	<i>Spanish Folk Tale</i>	71
TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR	<i>Jane Taylor</i>	78
THE GINGERBREAD BOY	<i>English Folk Tale</i>	79

THE PARTY *Gelett Burgess* 90

SILVER LOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS.. *English Folk Tale* 91

THE SWING *Robert Louis Stevenson* 99

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD *German Folk Tale* 100

MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB *Mother Goose* 107

CAREFUL HANS *German Folk Tale* 108

THE CRAB AND THE FOX *German Folk Tale* 121

THE COW *Robert Louis Stevenson* 124

PHONETIC TABLES 125

DIRECTIONS TO TEACHERS

Teachers will find that, even in the First Reader, drill upon the phonetic tables is still their most important work. These tables, which begin on page 125, will be found to differ somewhat in arrangement from those of the Primer, but the principles involved are identical.

The amount of time which can be spent profitably upon the tables will vary according to the ability of the several classes. If the division is made up of pupils whose minds work slowly, fully one half the reading time should be devoted to the tables for quick recognition of words. On the other hand, for divisions composed of keen, alert children, three or four exercises a week will be sufficient.

In all phonetic work the important point for the teacher to remember is that the children should not be allowed to hesitate and drawl out the words. The work should be snappy and sharp, and if she cannot get this quick response from her pupils, it indicates clearly that she needs to review the easier words of the earlier tables, in which the pupils *can* respond to her request for rapid work.

PART I



THE PANCAKE

good after cook
rolled every began

A big fat cook made a big fat
pancake.

Near the cook were seven hungry
little boys.

“We like big round pancakes, Mr. Cook,” said all the little boys.

“This pancake will be good to eat,” said Mr. Cook.

But the pancake in the pan said:

“I will not, not, not be eaten.”

So the big round pancake gave a hop.

The pancake gave a jump.

And off he rolled out of the pan.

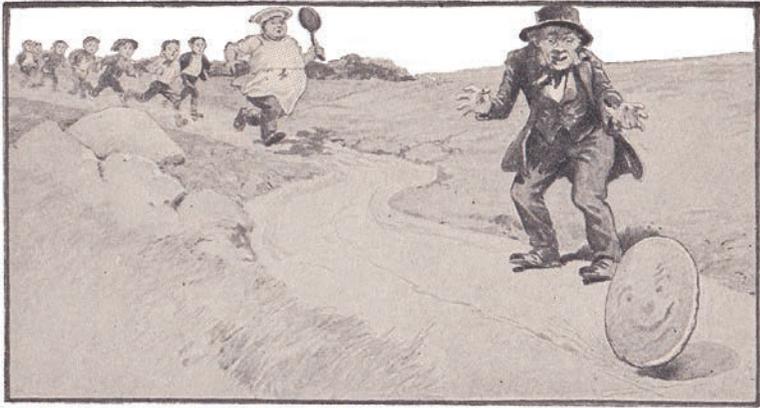
Mr. Pancake rolled round and round and round.

And oh! so very, very fast.

“Stop! stop! Mr. Pancake!” said the cook.

But the pancake rolled faster and faster.

Then the big fat cook began to run after the pancake.



“Stop! stop!” said all the little boys.

But the pancake rolled faster and faster.

Then all the little boys began to run.

The pancake met a little man.

“Stop, Pancake, stop! I am hungry!

I wish to eat you,” said the little man.

“The cook can not stop me.

The boys can not stop me.

You can not stop me.”

And the pancake rolled faster and faster.

Then the little man began to run.

The pancake met a hen.

“Stop! Pancake! Stop! I am very hungry!

I wish to eat you,” said the hen.

“The cook can not stop me.

The boys can not stop me.

The man can not stop me.

You can not stop me.”

And the pancake rolled faster than ever.

Then the hen began to run.

The pancake met a duck.

“Stop! Pancake! Stop! I am very, very hungry!

I wish to eat you,” said the duck.



“The cook can not stop me.

The boys can not stop me.

The man can not stop me.

The hen can not stop me.

You can not stop me.”

And the pancake rolled faster and faster.

The pancake met a pig.

“Why do you run so fast?” said the pig.

“Can you not see?

The cook, the boys, the man, the hen, and the duck wish to eat me.”

“That is too bad. I will run with you,” said the pig.

So the pig and the pancake went on and on and on.

They came to a wide pond.

“I can not swim,” said the pancake.

“I can swim,” said the pig,

“Jump upon my nose, and I will take you across.”

So the pancake jumped upon the pig’s nose.

The pig gave a big grunt.

And snip! snap! he ate up the big round pancake.

Yes, the pig ate up every bit.

Norse Folk Tale



THE OLD WOMAN AND HER PIG

woman won't shan't to-night

One day an old woman found a penny.

“What can I do with this penny?”
said she.

“I will go to the market and buy
a pig.”

So the old woman got a pig.

Then she tied a string to the
pig's leg.

On her way home she came to a stile.

The pig would not go over the stile.

She went a little farther and met a dog.

She said to the dog:

“Dog, dog, bite pig;

Pig won't go over the stile,

And I shan't get home to-night.”

But the dog would not.

She went a little farther and met a stick.

“Stick, stick, beat dog;

Dog won't bite pig,

Pig won't go over the stile,

And I shan't get home to-night.”

But the stick would not.

She went a little farther and met
a fire.

“Fire, fire, burn stick;
Stick won’t beat dog,
Dog won’t bite pig,
Pig won’t go over the stile,
And I shan’t get home to-night.”
But the fire would not.

She went a little farther and met
some water.

“Water, water, put out fire;
Fire won’t burn stick,
Stick won’t beat dog,
Dog won’t bite pig,
Pig won’t go over the stile,
And I shan’t get home to-night.”
But the water would not.



She went a little farther and met
an ox.

“Ox, ox, drink water;
Water won’t put out fire,
Fire won’t burn stick,
Stick won’t beat dog,
Dog won’t bite pig,
Pig won’t go over the stile,
And I shan’t get home to-night.”
But the ox would not.

She went a little farther and met
a man.



“Man, man, kill ox;
Ox won’t drink water,
Water won’t put out fire,
Fire won’t burn stick,
Stick won’t beat dog,
Dog won’t bite pig,
Pig won’t go over the stile,
And I shan’t get home to-night.”
But the man would not.
She went a little farther and met a
rope.

“Rope, rope, hang man;

Man won't kill ox,
Ox won't drink water,
Water won't put out fire,
Fire won't burn stick,
Stick won't beat dog,
Dog won't bite pig,
Pig won't go over the stile,
And I shan't get home to-night."
But the rope would not.
She went a little farther and met a rat.
"Rat, rat, bite rope;
Rope won't hang man,
Man won't kill ox,
Ox won't drink water,
Water won't put out fire,
Fire won't burn stick,
Stick won't beat dog,
Dog won't bite pig,

Pig won't go over the stile,
And I shan't get home to-night."
But the rat would not.
She went a little farther and met a
cat.



“Cat, cat, kill rat;
Rat won't bite rope,
Rope won't hang man,
Man won't kill ox,
Ox won't drink water,
Water won't put out fire,
Fire won't burn stick,

Stick won't beat dog,
Dog won't bite pig,
Pig won't go over the stile,
And I shan't get home to-night."

The cat said, "You must get me some milk.

Then I will kill the rat."

So the old woman went to the cow and said:

"Cow, cow, will you give me some milk?"

The cow said, "Get me a pail of water to drink.

Then I will give you some milk."

So the old woman took a pail of water to the cow.

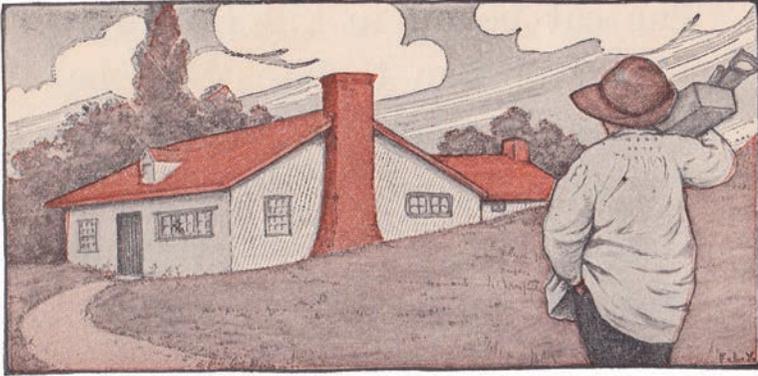
And the cow gave her some milk.

Then the old woman gave the milk to the cat.

The cat began to kill the rat,
The rat began to bite the rope,
The rope began to hang the man,
The man began to kill the ox,
The ox began to drink the water,
The water began to put out the fire,
The fire began to burn the stick,
The stick began to beat the dog,
The dog began to bite the pig,
And the pig jumped over the stile.
So the old woman got home with
her pig.

English Folk Tale





THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

worried malt priest crowed
married built shaven crumpled

This is the house that Jack built.

This is the malt,



That lay in the house that Jack built.

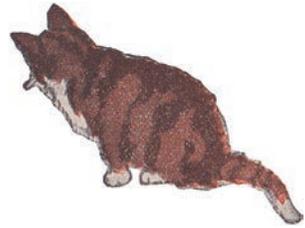
This is the rat,



That ate the malt,

That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt,
That lay in the house that Jack built.



This is the dog,
That worried the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt,
That lay in the house that Jack built.



This is the cow with the crumpled
horn,
That tossed the dog,
That worried the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt,
That lay in the house that Jack built.





This is the maiden all forlorn,
That milked the cow with the
 crumpled horn,
That tossed the dog,
That worried the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt,
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the man all tattered and
 torn,
That kissed the maiden all forlorn,
That milked the cow with the
 crumpled horn,

That tossed the dog,
That worried the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt,
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the priest all shaven and shorn,
That married the man all tattered
and torn,
That kissed the maiden all forlorn,
That milked the cow with the
crumpled horn,
That tossed the dog,
That worried the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt,
That lay in the house that Jack built.



This is the cock that
 crowed in the morn,
That woke the priest all shaven
 and shorn,
That married the man all
 tattered and torn,
That kissed the maiden all forlorn,
That milked the cow with the
 crumpled horn,
That tossed the dog,
That worried the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt,
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the farmer sowing his corn,
That kept the cock that crowed in
the morn,
That woke the priest all shaven and
shorn,
That married the man all tattered
and torn,
That kissed the maiden all forlorn,
That milked the cow with the
crumpled horn,
That tossed the dog,
That worried the cat,
That killed the rat,
That ate the malt,
That lay in the house that Jack built.

Nursery Rhyme