

# **THE PRIMER**



**READING-LITERATURE**  
**THE PRIMER**

**BY**

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**YESTERDAY'S CLASSICS**

**CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA**

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# PREFACE

For years the most progressive educators have been urging that only good literature should be used in school readers. Some authors of primers have thought it impossible to provide such material within the vocabulary that beginners can learn with ease. Others have used a little real literature with a large amount of unrelated and uninteresting material specially prepared for the sake of word repetition and phonic drill.

Experience proves that all children are interested in and enjoy the simple folk tales, which are the literary products of many minds, and which have survived the centuries because they represent universal human experiences and satisfy certain common needs of childhood. Through countless repetitions, from one generation to another, they have assumed a form marked by simplicity and literary charm.

After years of careful work we present some of these tales so as to utilize the child's love for the stories and make an easy road to reading. Avoiding the long struggle through forced interest, and the devious byways of artificial methods, we start the child at once into the realm of good, appropriate literature.

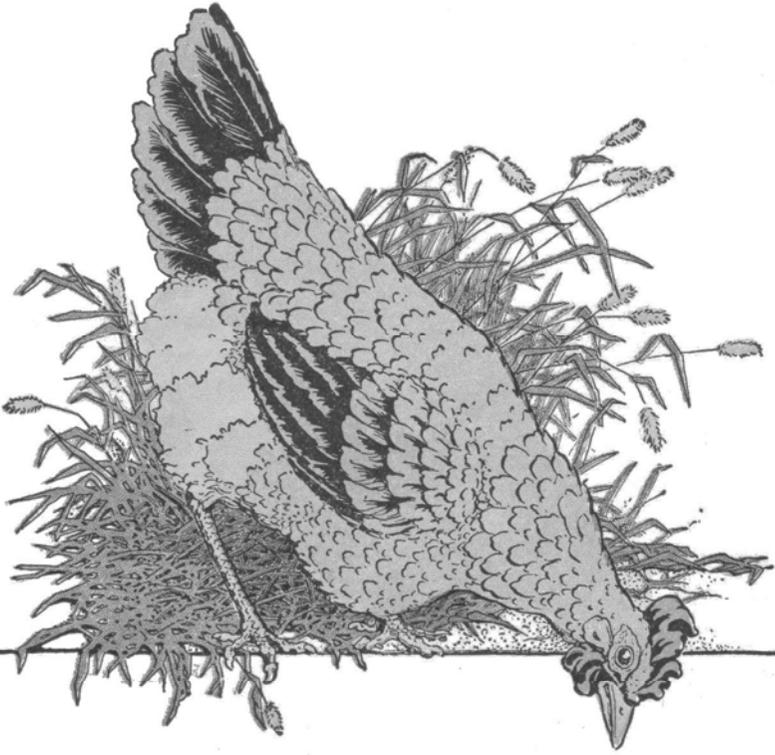
THE AUTHORS.



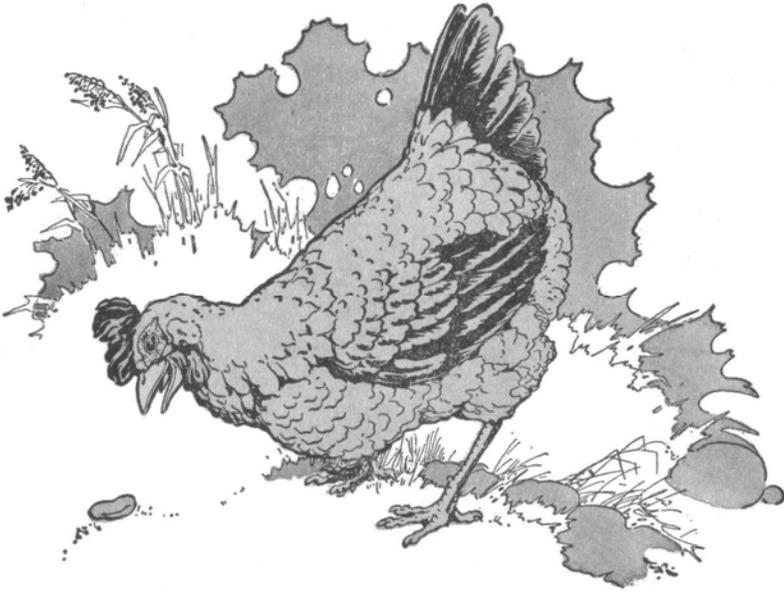
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**TO LITTLE CHILDREN  
LEARNING TO READ**



**The Little Red Hen**



The little red hen found a seed.  
It was a little seed.

The little red hen found a seed.  
It was a wheat seed.

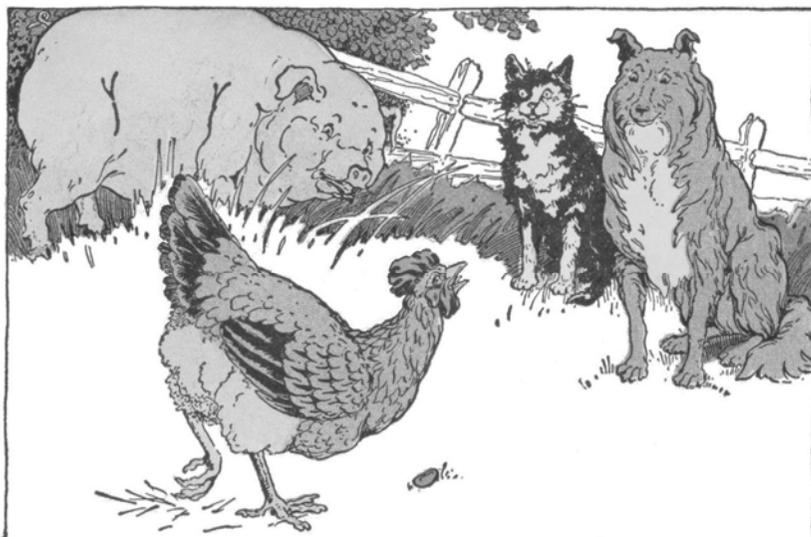


The little red hen found a seed.

It was a wheat seed.

The little red hen said,

“Who will plant the seed?”



The little red hen said,

“Who will plant the seed?”

The pig said, “Not I.”

The cat said, “Not I.”

The dog said, “Not I.”

The little red hen said, “I will.”



The little red hen said,

“Who will cut the wheat?”

The pig said, “Not I.”

The cat said, “Not I.”

The dog said, “Not I.”

The little red hen said,

“I will then.”

And she did.



The little red hen said,  
"Who will thresh the wheat?"

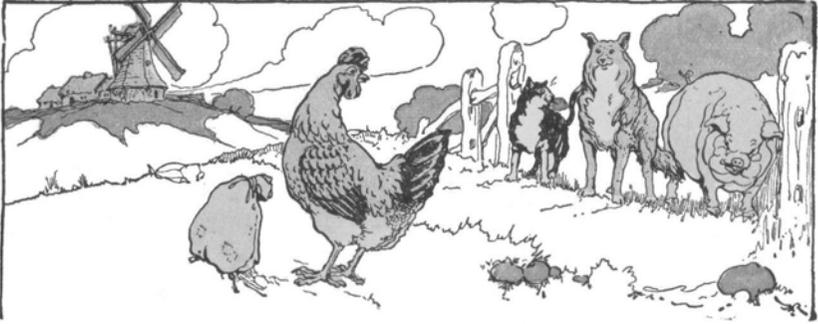
The pig said, "Not I."

The cat said, "Not I."

The dog said, "Not I."

The little red hen said,  
"I will then."

And she did.



The little red hen said,  
"Who will grind the wheat?"

The pig said, "Not I."

The cat said, "Not I."

The dog said, "Not I."

The little red hen said,  
"I will then."

And she did.



The little red hen said,  
"Who will make the bread?"

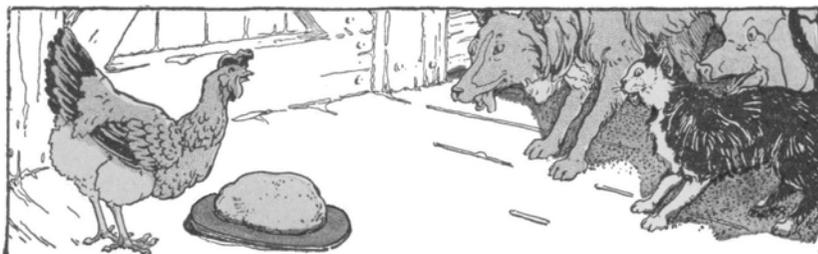
The pig said, "Not I."

The cat said, "Not I."

The dog said, "Not I."

The little red hen said,  
"I will then."

And she did.



The little red hen said,  
"Who will eat the bread?"

The pig said, "I will."

The cat said, "I will."

The dog said, "I will."

The little red hen said,  
"You shall not eat the bread.  
I will eat it."

And she did.

The little red hen found a seed.

It was a wheat seed.

She said,

“Who will plant the wheat?

Who will cut the wheat?

Who will thresh the wheat?

Who will grind the wheat?

Who will make the bread?”

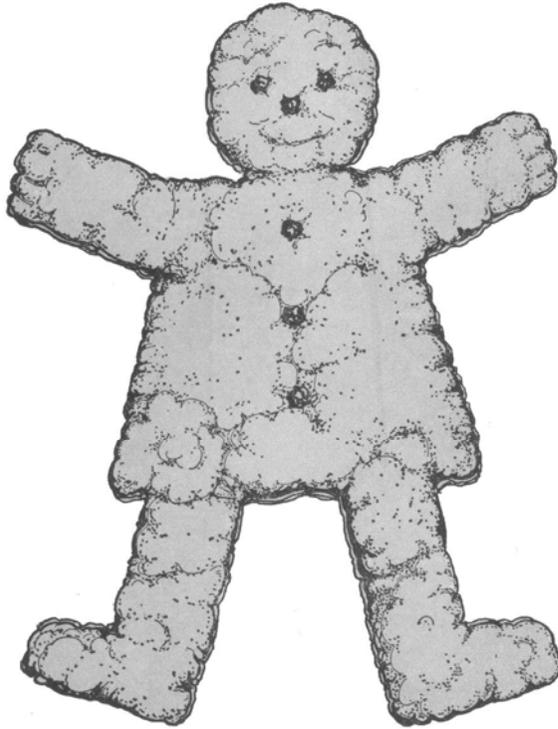
The pig said, “I will not.”

The cat said, “I will not.”

The dog said, “I will not.”

The little red hen said,

“Then you shall not eat the bread.”



## The Gingerbread Boy



There was a little old woman.

There was a little old man.

The little old woman had a cat.

The little old man had a pig.



The little old woman wanted a boy.

The little old man wanted a boy.

The little old woman said,

“I will make a gingerbread boy.”

So she made a gingerbread boy.



The gingerbread boy ran away.

He ran away  
from the little old woman,

He ran away  
from the little old man,

He ran, and he ran, and he ran.



The gingerbread boy met a cat.

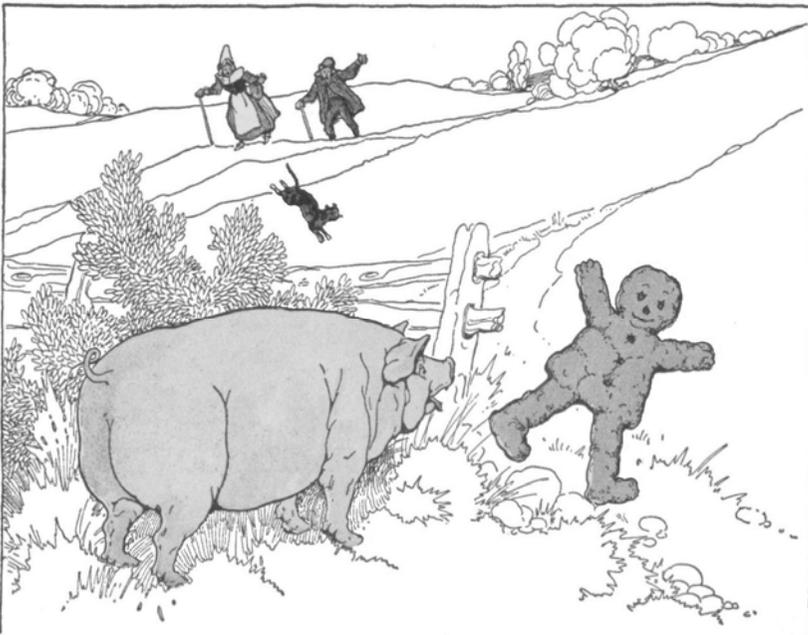
He said,

“I am a gingerbread boy,  
I am, I am, I am.

I ran away  
from the little old woman,

I ran away  
from the little old man,  
I can run away from you,  
I can, I can, I can."

And he ran, and he ran,  
and he ran.



The gingerbread boy met a pig.

He said,

“I am a gingerbread boy,

I am, I am, I am.

I ran away

from the little old woman,

I ran away

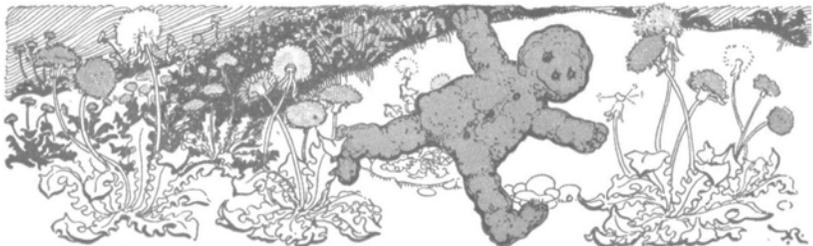
from the little old man,

I ran away from the cat,

I can run away from you,

I can, I can, I can.”

And he ran, and he ran, and he ran.





The gingerbread boy met a dog.

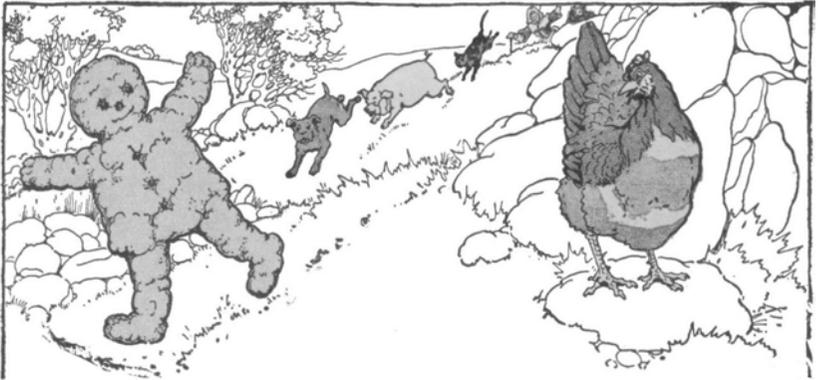
He said,

“I am a gingerbread boy,  
I am, I am, I am.

I ran away  
from the little old woman,

I ran away  
from the little old man,  
I ran away from the cat,  
I ran away from the pig,  
I can run away from you,  
I can, I can, I can."

And he ran, and he ran, and he ran.



The gingerbread boy met a hen.

He said,

“I am a gingerbread boy,  
I am, I am, I am.

I ran away  
from the little old woman,

I ran away  
from the little old man,

I ran away from the cat,

I ran away from the pig,

I ran away from the dog,

I can run away from you,  
I can, I can, I can.”

And he ran, and he ran, and he ran.



The gingerbread boy met a fox.

He said,

“I am a gingerbread boy,

I am, I am, I am.

I ran away from the hen,

I ran away from the dog,

I ran away from the pig,

I ran away from the cat,

I ran away  
from the little old woman,

I ran away  
from the little old man,

I can run away from you,  
I can, I can, I can."

And he ran, and he ran, and he ran.

The fox said,

"You can run away  
from the little old woman,

You can run away  
from the little old man,

You can run away from the pig,

You can run away from the dog,



You can run away from the cat,  
You can run away from the hen,  
But you can not run away  
from the fox.

I shall eat you." And he did.

There was a little old woman.

There was a little old man.

The little old woman wanted a boy.

The little old man wanted a boy.

So she made a gingerbread boy.

The gingerbread boy ran away.

He ran away from the little old woman,

He ran away from the little old man,

He ran away from the pig,

He ran away from the cat,

He ran away from the dog,

He ran away from the hen.

He did not run away from the fox.