

Are you not tired with rolling and never
Resting to sleep?
Why look so pale and so sad as forever
Wishing to weep?
Ask me not this, little child, if you love me;
You are too bold,
I must obey the great Father above me,
And do as I'm told.

—Lord Houghton.

I. Preparation.

Have you ever watched the moon on a night when there were many clouds? What did the moon seem to be doing? Did you ever wonder where she was going?

II. Presentation.

The teacher should quote this charming little poem with interest and vivacity.

III. Analysis.

What does the child first ask "Lady Moon?" What does the moon reply? What is another question that the child asks? What does the moon say? How does the child think the moon looks? How does the child think the moon must feel? Why? What does the moon reply?

IV. Memorizing.

The teacher should again quote the whole poem and then ask individual pupils for their favorite parts. These sections should be quoted even though referred to by several pupils. The teacher may several times include repetitions of the whole poem.

Grade III.

THE LAND OF COUNTERPANE.

When I was sick and lay a-bed,
I had two pillows at my head,
And all my toys beside me lay
To keep me happy all the day.

And sometimes for an hour or so
I watched my leaden soldiers go,
With different uniforms and drills
Among the bed-clothes, through the hills;

And sometimes sent my ships in fleets
All up and down among the sheets;
Or brought my trees and houses out,
And planted cities all about.

I was the giant great and still
That sits upon the pillow-hill,
And sees before him, dale and plain,
The pleasant land of counterpane.

—Robert Louis Stevenson.

I. Preparation.

Have you ever been so sick that you had to stay in bed? Did you get tired of it? What did you do to make the time pass? Did you play any games? etc.

II. Presentation.

When Robert Louis Stevenson was a little boy he was not strong. He used to be ill much of the time, but he was very cheerful and happy and made up games to play in bed. When he grew to be a man he wrote a poem about it. It is called "The Land of Counterpane." The teacher should then quote the entire poem.

III. Analysis of Poem.

Why is it called the "land of counterpane?" Who will describe the first picture? Who can tell one game he played? Who will tell us of another? Of another? What did he pretend he was himself? Where was he sitting?

IV. Memorizing the Poem.

Which play would you like best, John? Read about it. Which one, Mary? Read about it, etc. Some such scheme may be used to get repetitions of different parts of the poem. Several complete repetitions should be included.

V. Correlation.

The children will enjoy illustrating this poem for their book of "Memory Gems." Selection from Wiggins' Birds Christmas Carol or Patsy may be read aloud.

Grade IV.

WISHING.

Ring-ting! I wish I were a primrose,
A bright yellow primrose, blowing in the spring!
The stooping boughs above me,
The wandering bee to love me,
The fern and moss to creep across,
And the elm-tree for our king!

Nay-stay! I wish I were an elm-tree,
A great, lofty elm-tree, with green leaves gay!
The winds would set them dancing,
The sun and moonshine glance in,
The birds would house among the boughs,
And sweetly sing.

Oh-no! I wish I were a robin,
A robin, or a little wren, everywhere to go;
Through forest, field or garden,
Ask no leave or pardon,
Till winter comes with icy thumbs
To ruffle up our wing!

Well-tell! Where should I fly to,
Where go to sleep in the dark wood or dell?
Before a day was over,
Home comes the rover,
For mother's kiss—sweeter this
Than any other thing.

—William Allingham.

I. Preparation.

Do you ever wish you were somewhere else? Where? Did you ever wish you to be something else than a boy, John? Why? etc.

II. Presentation.

Today we are to read a poem that is entitled "Wishing." This little child wished he were a number of different things. The teacher should then read the whole poem with enthusiasm, showing in the last stanza the revulsion of feeling and the child's desire to be himself again.

III. Analysis of Poem.

What does the child wish first to be? Who will describe the picture? Why does he say the "wandering bee?" Who is to be king?

Nay-Stay! He has changed his mind. What does he want to be now? Who will tell about this? What