

PRIMARY POETRY.

Is the Moon Tired?

Is the moon tired? She looks so pale
 Within her misty veil;
 She scales the sky from East to West,
 And takes no rest.

Before the coming of the night
 The moon shows papery white;
 Before the dawning of the day
 She fades away.

—Christina Rossetti.

The Moon.

Lady Moon, Lady Moon, where are you roving?
Over the sea.

Lady Moon, Lady Moon, whom are you loving?
All that love me.

Are you not tired with rolling, and never
 Resting to sleep?
 Why look so pale, and so sad, as for ever
 Wishing to weep?

Ask me not this, little child, if you love me!
You are too bold;
I must obey my dear Father above me,
And do as I'm told.

Lady Moon, Lady Moon, where are you roving?
Over the sea.

Lady Moon, Lady Moon, whom are you loving?
All that love me.

—Lord Houghton.

Before reading the poems to the children have a little talk with them about the moon. Encourage them to tell where and when they have seen it and what it looked like.

These poems are both suited for concert recitation. Try to get the children to speak distinctly, but softly. They are very apt to shout, strain their voices, and produce a harsh unpleasant sound. Be sure that they do not get a false start with the metre, especially in the phrase "Lady Moon, Lady Moon." If left to themselves, they will stress the first syllable, "La," and slur the others. Tell them to *call* Lady Moon, very gently, twice over. Let them practice the phrases "Never resting to sleep," "forever wishing to weep" before they say the whole verse. In the second poem one child may take the part of the moon, and speak the italicised lines, or the class may be divided into two

divisions, one to question, and one to answer. Be careful not to let the poetry lesson run into a lesson on astronomy, or into a sermon. The aims should be. (1.) To let the children learn the words and feel the beauty of them. (2.) To let them see the pictures that the poems show us, and compare with the way they themselves see the moon. Above all, get them to say the lines as gently and sweetly as they possibly can. Read the first poem through twice. Who has seen the moon look like this? What is the misty veil? What does "scales" mean? Did you ever hear of "scaling ladders?" When does the moon show "papery white?" Why? What colour is she at night? When and why does she fade away? Did you ever see a lamp or a candle lighted in the day time? How does it look?

After Miss Rossetti's poem is learned, take up the second one.

In this poem the child asks the Moon herself if she is tired. Read it through twice. What do both these poems say about the moon? That she never rests, and that she is pale. Here is another verse that says,

"The moving moon went up the sky, But nowhere did abide." What does "abide" mean? Whom does the moon obey? What work does God give her to do? Say after me. "God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night." Does the moon always look pale and sad? Some people do not think so. Listen to this.

"The moon doth with delight look round her when the heavens are bare," and

"The moon, like a flower
 In heaven's high bower
 With silent delight
 Sits and smiles on the night."

Learn these verses too, and when next you look at the moon, I wonder which verse will come into your mind.

"Much of the good work in the world has been that of dull men who have done their best. Moderate intelligence with devotion behind it, and with constant exercises in the right direction has produced some of the most valuable among men and women"—L. B. Briggs.