

The Children's Page.

RECITATIONS WITH ACTIONS.

Jack Frost.

- (1) Jack Frost peeped in at the window
- (2) One cold, cold winter day,
- (3) He wanted to pinch the fingers
- (4) And nose of little May.
- (5) But May was eating her breakfast
Of hot new milk and bread,
- (6) So he said, "I must wait and catch her
- (7) When she comes outside instead."

- Jack Frost waited in the garden
- (8) Till May came dancing along,
 - (9) Wrapped in her furs so warmly,
And singing a little song.
 - (10) And she bounded along so lightly,
And never once had a fall,
 - (11) And smiled in his face so brightly,
 - (12) Jack Frost could not catch her at all.

- (1) Make two circles by joining each thumb and forefinger; place these around the eyes and peep through them.
- (2) Cross the arms over the chest, and shrug the shoulders as if cold.
- (3) Show these.
- (4) Point to this.
- (5) Stand in position.
- (6) Raise the forefinger as if to emphasize what is said.
- (7) Point to the outside.
- (8) Extend the hands in front, droop them, and move them quickly to and fro.
- (9) Stroke jackets and pinafores with both hands.
- (10) Repeat action 8.
- (11) Look up and smile.
- (12) Shake the head and look pleased.

A Nest in a Pocket.

- (1) A little bird went to and fro
Once in the nesting season,
And sought for shelter high and low,
Until, for some queer reason,
She flew into a granary.
 - (2) Where, on a nail suspended,
The farmer's coat she chanced to see;
And there her search was ended.
- The granary was in a loft,
Where not a creature met her;
- (3) The coat had hollows deep and soft—
Could anything be better?
 - (4) And where it hung, how safe it was,
Without a breeze to rock it!
Come, little busy beak and claws,
Build quick inside the pocket!
 - (5) Three speckled eggs soon warmly lay
Beneath the happy sitter;
Three little birds—O joy!—one day
Began to chirp and twitter.
Until—ah, can you guess the tale?
The farmer came one morning,
 - (6) And took his coat down from the nail
Without a word of warning!

- (7) He put the coat back carefully;
- (8) "I guess I have another;
So don't you be afraid of me,
You bright-eyed little mother.
I know just how you feel, poor thing,
For I have youngsters, bless you!
There—stop your foolish fluttering—
Nobody shall distress you."

- (1) Imitate fluttering by moving the raised hands.
- (2) Point upwards.
- (3) Dip hands into folds of the dress or into pockets.
- (4) Shake the head, and sway the hand backwards and forwards.
- (5) Show three fingers.
- (6) Show the action by standing on tiptoe, and extending hand as if to unhook something from a high nail.
- (7) Look astonished, as if what had been taken in the hand were an object causing wonder.
- (8) Reach, standing on tiptoe, as if to replace it.

Fanny's Robin.

- (1) A ruddy robin used to come
 - (2) The orchard boughs among,
And at the early spring time dawn,
Awake me with his song:
 - (3) "Come little girl, (4) the sun is up,
 - (5) And looking round for you;
The currant bush has decked itself
 - (6) With strings of pearly dew;
 - (7) And round about the cherry tree
The buds begin to blow,
 - (8) So you must tumble out of bed
To see the pretty show."
 - (9) The robin built his nest of sticks
 - (10) Up in the tree so high,
That kitty did not find it
 - (11) Till the little birds could fly.
 - (12) Says Kitty, "Tell me where you live,
I'd like to make a call."
 - (13) But Robin made a bow and said,
 - (14) "I'll show you not at all."
- Cock Robin saw a little worm
- (15) Come climbing up the tree;
 - (16) Says he, "My birdies would be glad
To have you dine with me."
The worm desired to be excused,
But all excuse was vain;
 - (17) I do not think that little worm
Will ever dine again.
- One autumn morning, ere the sun
- (18) Above the hill-tops rose,
Jack Frost came creeping round the house,
 - (19) And pinched the Robin's toes.
Says Robin, "If Jack Frost has come,
'Tis time I went away."
 - (20) So off he went where all the year
The summer breezes play.
 - (21) But when Jack Frost had gone again,
 - (22) And April's plenteous showers
 - (23) Had spread the fields with velvet green,
Thick-set with golden flowers,