

own part. When you express a thought, either verbally or in writing, be sure that it should not be enclosed in quotation marks. "A poor thing, but mine own," makes a very good motto for a beginner. These crude opinions, formed honestly and subject to change, are forerunners of a thought and decision for which no apology is needed.

A RIGHT AND WRONG USE.

Ruth and Margaret go to a Sunday school that has a large library of carefully-chosen books, which are free to all the members of the school. Both of the girls like to read, and at their home you will always find two books from the library. But they use their books in very different ways.

Ruth reads nothing but stories; Margaret consults with the librarian, and has in that way discovered some very interesting works of travel and biography, which have led her to other good reading. Ruth takes a book almost every week, and reads very fast. If you ask her about a story that she read some time ago, she cannot tell you anything about it, for she has forgotten most of it. She laughs at Margaret for spending such a long time on one book, but Margaret remembers a great deal of what she has read, and can talk about it in an interesting way.

The books are distributed at the close of the lesson hour, and Ruth is always so impatient to know what book she is to have, and whether it is the one she wanted most, that for the last five minutes of the lesson time she pays very poor attention. Margaret is always interested, too, but she does not let her attention wander.

At home Ruth sits down at once to read her book. Until it is finished, she seizes every possible minute to read. She slights the little duties that form part of her work, to get to reading as soon as possible, and she puts down her book with bad grace when her mother calls on her for help about the house. Sometimes, when she is in school, she sits down to read before she has studied her lessons for the next day, and the result is that she has poor lessons, and her library book is a hindrance to her, instead of a help.

With Margaret it is different. She does not let her book interfere with her small duties about the house, though she is no less fond of reading than Ruth. She responds cheerfully if her mother asks her help, even though she may be in the middle of a chapter, and she waits till her lessons are learned before she takes up the library book. And very often the book is a great help to her in her lessons, for it gives her a more vivid idea of the places where great events have taken place, or tells her interesting incidents of famous men, about whom she is studying in her history.

Even so good a thing as a library book may be wrongly used, and so prove a hindrance to us, in-

stead of a help. Here are two ways of using such books. Which way shall we choose for ourselves?

THE HAWK AND THE NIGHTINGALE.

A nightingale once fell into the clutches of a hungry hawk who had been all day on the look-out for food. "Pray let me go," said the nightingale; "I am such a mite for a stomach like yours. I sing so nicely, too. Do let me go, it will do you good to hear me." "Much good it will do to an empty belly," replied the hawk; "and besides, a little bird that I have is more to me than a great one that has yet to be caught."

ALL ABOUT A LOBSTER.

Some of our boys and girls, who live far away from the sea, may not know very much about the little creature that dresses himself in a suit of armour which he changes every year until he is full-grown.

The lobster is a very curious animal. He is furnished with a complete suit of armour, which consists of a great many different pieces. This armour, or shell, is as hard as stone, of a purplish black colour, with pale spots here and there. When the lobster is boiled its shell turns red.

The lobster has no less than eight pairs of legs and arms—almost enough for a centipede. The front pair are much larger and stronger than the others, with huge pincers at the end. When he is seized by one of his claws, the owner quietly leaves it in the hand of the captor, as though he were saying, "I will make you a present of it," and tosses himself off as fast as possible. But when he seizes others by the claw, it is quite another matter, as his powers of holding on are not easily exhausted.

A lobster thinks very little of a broken claw, as another claw takes its place, although it is some time before a new arm or leg is as strong as the old one. Numbers of broken claws are sometimes found among the rocks where the lobsters disport themselves. This is a sure sign that there has been a naval battle under water, or that the knights in armour have had a great fright from thunder, or fishermen, or some other danger.

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When they are alarmed these strange creatures drop their claws. Owing to these causes, some lobsters are found with no claws, some with one, and others with one shorter than the other.

These two large claws differ both in appearance and use. One has short, blunt teeth, and the other very sharp ones. The blunt toothed one is used by the lobster as a support when he wishes to anchor himself to anything, and with the other he attacks and destroys his prey. But the teeth proper, with which he chews his food, are in his stomach; they are only three in number, and arranged in such a manner that they grind like a mill. This queer part of the lobster's anatomy is sometimes called "the lady in her chair."

The head of the lobster has six pairs of jaws. In front of the jaws are two strong feelers, called "antennae," which are very easily broken. Next come the little feelers, and then a pair of joints which support the eye.

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