

16. O'er rough and smooth she trips along  
 And never looks behind;  
 And sings a solitary song  
 That whistles in the wind.

1. This is the story of a little English girl, Lucy Gray. She lived a lonely life, a solitary life, on a moor. (What a moor is.) Yet she was not so far away from town but that she could hear the faint distant chiming of the church clock, the minster clock.

After a few words of explanation, as above, the teacher will read the piece through to the class, and afterwards the pupils will read it several times.

The story divides itself into five parts.

2. *The introduction.* Stanzas 1-3. This is a picture of the child in her lonely home. The reading will be slow and simple, with a little of the minor tone in it. Who is speaking? When did the poet see the "solitary child"? Which line tells of Lucy's loneliness? How does the poet describe her? What may still be seen on this moor? What is missing?

3. *The errand.* Stanzas 4-7. The reading may bring out the father's hesitation—"To-night will be a stormy night," with a suggestive glance at the sky—and Lucy's ready glad reply, and her "yonder is the moon" as she follows her father's glance at the sky. The blithesomeness of Lucy's movement may be brought out.

Where is Lucy to go? What for? What is she to take? Is Lucy willing? Does she obey at once? Is there plenty of time? What does her father then do? What does Lucy do? To what is Lucy compared as she starts? What words seem to show that she sets out smartly? To what is the powdery snow compared?