

Suggestions for a First Lesson in Reading.

Before the time of the recitation, the teacher has written upon the blackboard, in large, clear writing, the sentences and phrases to be taught, each one several times. A clear space of board is reserved directly in front of the place where the class is to sit. The story chosen for this lesson is the fable of the Lion and the Mouse. The phrases to be taught are *a big lion*, *five little mice*, *Please let me go*, and *Thank you, mouse*.

The lesson begins with an informal talk with the children on the comparative size and strength of the two animals. A picture of a lion is shown. The teacher then begins to tell the story.

Once upon a time, in a country far away from us, a big lion lived in the woods. What was it that lived there? (Children repeat *a big lion*). We are going to talk so much about him, that we will want to see how he looks. Here he is. (The teacher writes the phrase upon the blackboard.) What is this? (Children read, *a big lion*). There are many more in the room. Look and see if you can find a big lion. (The class go to the boards and look for the phrase. When a child finds it he will tell what he has found. When all have returned to seats the story continues.) One day the big lion was very sleepy, so he lay down under a tree for a nap. In the tree lived five little mice. Who lived there? (Children repeat phrase.) Here they are. (The teacher writes upon the board *five little mice*.) Can you find five little mice? Look all about for them. (The children find phrase and read as before). What went to sleep near their home? Find him. (Children point to phrase and read as before.)

After the lion was sound asleep the five little mice came out of their hole. They saw the big lion and they said: "What a nice, soft hill for us to run on; let's play hide and seek." So one of them was blinder and the others ran to hide. One hid in his mane, one behind his ear, one under his tail, and one under his paw. Then the blinder started to find them. As he ran about he happened to go over the lion's face and woke him up. The big lion was very angry. He started up, and put his paw right on top of the mouse who was hiding under it. Then he said, "Now I've got you. I'll just eat you up." The little mouse was dreadfully frightened, and begged, "Please let me go. Please let me go." What did he say? We will put it upon the board. (Teacher writes, *Please let me go*.) Find what the mouse said. Find who it was that put his paw on the mouse. Find who were playing hide and seek.

The lion said, "No, I'll not let you go." The little mouse said, "I'll do something for you sometime if you

will. Please let me go." Then the big lion laughed. "How can a little thing like you help me? But that is such a good joke that I'll let you go." So he lifted his paw and the five little mice ran home. Find *five little mice*. Find *a big lion*. Find what the mouse asked the lion. (The children point to and read the phrases).

A long time after this the five little mice were playing about, when they heard a terrible roaring. One of them said, "That must be the big lion. Let's see what is the matter with him." So they ran to the place from which the noise came, and there they found the lion caught in a net that some hunters had put there. (Explain if necessary). He couldn't get away, and he was making such a noise! The little mouse that had been under his paw said, "Keep still, lion, and I'll help you." So the lion kept still and the mouse gnawed all the cords, and the lion was free. He jumped up and ran away, but as he ran he called out, "Thank you, mouse." What did he say? (Teacher writes the sentence). Play you were the lion, and thank the mouse. (Children find and read.)

Various drill will now be given. The children are given erasers, with the directions, "See if you can send the five little mice to their home." They find and erase the phrase. The teacher says, "Let's play that we are circus men, and we'll each try to catch a big lion and put him in a cage for our menagerie." The children are given crayon, and draw a cage about *a big lion*, when found. When the lion caught the mouse, what did mouse say? Find it. What did the lion say as he ran away? Find it.

When you go to your seats, you may cut out a big lion, and five little mice, and the tree the mice lived in, and by and by we will paste them into a picture.—*School Education*.

[Primary teachers may get a hint from the above how to adopt other fables and stories, such as those contained in the readers or in the "Classics for Canadian Children" series: A. & W. MacKinlay, Publishers, Halifax.—EDITOR.]

We keep company with an idiom, phrase, expression or abbreviation for many years without entertaining a thought of it until an accident draws attention to its oddity. How many of us who write "No." every day for "number" have considered the origin of the abbreviation? Very few. It never occurred to us that there is no "o" in "number," and teacher never told us that "No." is an abbreviation of the Latin "*numero*." Why? Because teacher never thought of it.—*New York Press*.