

## THE BOYS AND GIRLS

### The First Dandelion

The April winds blow bleak and strong;  
The robin sings, but dallies long  
To start the making of his home.  
But when, above the wet, black mold,  
Appears the dandelion's gold,  
Then redbreast calls, "Come, sweet-heart, come,  
The sunshine has its carpet spread,  
The buds are swelling overhead.  
I'll bring the straws, he wisps of hay.  
To build the nest; we must make haste,  
For soon across this April waste  
Will march the sandaled feet of May."

### Read These Quickly

Bill had a billboard. Bill also had a board bill. The board bill bored Bill so that Bill sold the billboard to pay his board bill. So after Bill sold the billboard to pay his board bill the boardbill no longer bored Bill.

A tall girl named Short loved a certain big Mr. Little, while Little, little thinking of Short, loved a little lass named Long. To make a long story short, Little proposed to Long, and Short longed to be even with Little's shortcomings. So Short meeting Long, threatened to marry Little before long, which caused Little in a short time to marry Long. Overly tall did Short love big Little less because Little loved Long?

### A Poor Memory

"Isn't it a pity Mirandy Tuttle has such a poor mem'ry," sighed grandmother, as the front door clicked behind her old friend.

"A poor mem'ry!" echoed Doris in surprise. "Why, Grandmother Patterson, it always seems to me Mrs. Tuttle remembers everything that ever happened in Ancona, especially the disagreeable things."

"That's just it," responded grandmother, placidly. "That's why I say she has a poor mem'ry. She always was that way about remembering the mean things. We girls used to say, 'Now, don't let Mirandy Jost know, or we'll never hear the last of it.' I like to see Mirandy because she's the last of my school friends there is left, and it seems queer I can't take comfort with her. But before she's been here ten minutes I'm almost wishing she hadn't come. And still I know I should feel terribly if Mirandy was to die. I don't know but what if Mirandy had a grandmother to tell her things, she might have had a different kind of mem'ry, and I don't know as she would. Now today I say, 'Don't it do you good to see the way Bert Lamprey's son turned out? To see him town clerk, and come leading his little family into meeting ev'ry Sunday morning, regular as clockwork?' You see, Bert was the cleverest fellow about giving us girls rides on his hand sled. He was always the first to offer his sled, and I always said if his wife hadn't died, and he hadn't gone over to Warwick, and hadn't never got in with unprincipled men, he'd never in the world have gone wrong, never. But, speaking of Bert's never, Mirandy said, 'Oh, dear, I never look at Bob Lamprey

of a Sunday morning, without thinking how Bert drank himself to death. I'm looking ev'ry day to hear that Bob's begun to follow in his father's tracks.' Do you know, it made me real provoked to hear her talk so.

"Mirandy might just as well had a rich mem'ry, for it always seemed to me Ancona folks were just the best kind of folks going. There aren't none of us perfect, so what's the use of always remembering ev'ry little mistake folks makes. Mirandy never seemed to see that she's setting herself up for perfect when she criticizes ev'rybody else, and she forgets that she makes mistakes, too. It seems kind of fasin'ing when you're young to pick ev'rybody to pieces; with the girls laughing, and making b'lieve they think you're cute. But nobody thinks you're cute when you're going on seventy-three, and your hair's most gone, and your face is all yellow and wrinkled. They think you're just a disagreeable old woman, then. Anything poor shows off worse on old people, and a poor mem'ry's no exception. If you want to be money rich, you don't want to be losing out of the hole in your pocket all the time; but to have a rich mem'ry, you want to have a big hole and let all the mean things slip through, the minute you hear them."

Doris smiled absently. She was wondering if grandmother's door was open the day before when the girls came.—Forward.

### A Spring Airing

All the good little kittens have washed their kittens,  
And hung them up to dry;  
They're gray and fluffy, and soft and muffy,

But it's time to lay them by;  
And now that we've come to the spring of the year,

They have them all out airing here;  
And that is the reason, I do suppose,  
Why this little tree that every one knows,

By the name of Pussy Willow goes.

### Similes in Rhyme

As wet as a fish—as dry as a bone.  
As live as a bird—as dead as a stone.

As plump as a partridge—as poor as a rat.

As white as a lily—as black as a coal.  
As plain as a pickstaff—as rough as a

As tight as a drum—as free as the air.  
As heavy as lead—as light as a feather.

As steady as time—uncertain as weather.

As hot as an oven—as cold as a frog.  
As gay as a lark—as sick as a dog.  
As slow as a tortoise—as swift as the wind.

As true as the gospel—as false as mankind.

As thin as a herring—as fat as a pig.  
As proud as a peacock—as gay as a

As savage as tigers—as mild as a dove.

As stiff as a poker—as limp as a glove.

As blind as a bat—as deaf as a post.  
As cool as a cucumber—as warm as

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