

If the work be in the descriptive vein I should proceed, with slight variation, on the same lines as those outlined under narrative, making sure that the pupils have a mental grasp of the scenes depicted by the author, by having them orally and in writing, draft the scene as it appears to them. In all of this transcript or paraphrase work by the pupil good clear English must be insisted upon, and though the task may seem trying to a teacher yet "in due time he shall reap if he faint not."

When this work in critical analysis has been completed, interpretative oral reading should naturally follow. A great mistake made in the teaching of this department of literature is in requiring pupils to read a passage the meaning of which they have not studied. The main purpose in reading is, to interpret, by means of the tone, pitch and emphasis of voice, together with time and gesture, the thought of the author; and how can a pupil be expected to do this before being brought into sympathetic contact with that thought? In this subordinate division of my subject there is ample material for a separate paper; I shall therefore forego its further development here.

I anticipate some opposition on the part of you teachers to the method outlined above, and I am not sure there is no ground for such opposition. It may be objected that such a systematic analysis of a literary selection will tend to destroy the pleasure of the pupil in that selection. Such may to a very limited extent be the case; but without a systematic training of this nature the pupil will never be in a position to appreciate the deeper beauties, or drink in the more elevating influences that proceed from an author's production. For every one of us is aware what new beauties in a poem were unfolded to us through the directing influence of a teacher. I remember well some ten years ago reading the "Ancient Marinere" by Coleridge, and to my mind then a more senseless thing could never have been written. In fact its incredibility and unnaturalness were so prominent that to me it had no more interest than the product of the pen of an insane person; but I assure you that, when under the guidance of my teacher, the imagination was stirred to perceive the awful panorama of the Marinere's experience, the æsthetic nature quickened to feel the sweet melodies that chant from every line and the moral being roused to receive the deep lessons of life and love that echo in ever verse, then it became and has since