

habit of sending out a new branch from the middle of the upper surface of the "frond." The latter is among the most beautiful of our mosses.

Of all the mosses, however, my favorite is the Plume Moss. When dry, it is extremely commonplace. But after a rain, it is certainly beautiful. As its name suggests, it looks like a feather. It is more compact than the Mountain Fern Moss; but is not wholly unlike it.

In addition to these, I shall merely name the Tree Moss, Shaggy Moss, Peat Moss (of bogs) and two for which possibly some reader could assist me in suggesting common names. One of these is *Ulota*, which grows in small tufts on the trunks of beech and other trees. How would it do to call it Beech Moss? The other is the *Mnium*, of which we have several species. They grow on wet rocks and soil on the banks of brooks. Their leaves are much like chickweed leaves—being broad instead of narrow, as are most moss-leaves. When not in fruit, one might not be sure that they were mosses. They look more like leaves of flowering plants.

The foregoing descriptions are not complete. My hope is that someone will look at the mosses now; and possibly try to identify them by the brief description here given. If this serves to interest someone sufficiently to lead to observation of our mosses, then that interest will naturally grow without further effort.

A good game for a warm day is the familiar one of "Steps." By any of the counting out formulas known to children, choose one child to be blindfolded. He is turned three times around after having his eyes bound. He then calls, "Seven steps," or "Ten steps," or any number which he chooses to give, and moves in the direction which his ear or his memory tells him will bring him within reach of another player.

When he comes dangerously near to any player, that one may twist, bend, or step noiselessly in any direction to avoid being touched, but he may take no more than the number of steps given at the start by the one blindfolded. When touched, if his identity is guessed by the blindfolded one, he becomes "it" and the game continues. If his identity is not guessed, the search is continued. Players at some distance can help the threatened one by making some noise to cover that made by the steps necessary to avoid the searching hand.

Notes on High School Literature.

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Ivanhoe.

Scott calls Ivanhoe "a romance." What definition of this word can you find, and how does it apply to this novel? What do you think of this definition as applied to Ivanhoe?

"That prose-fiction which deals with life in a false or fantastic manner, or represents it in the setting of strange, improbable, or impossible events, or idealizes the virtues and the vices of human nature, is called romance?"

Are there any strange, improbable, or impossible events in Ivanhoe? Are any of the characters "idealized," that is, different from what they would be in real life. Have due regard to the time and country in which the scenes are laid, in answering these questions.

By an historical novel is usually meant a novel dealing with historical events or historical characters, or both. Sometimes the story presents great movements or important events without making prominent any great historical people. "A Tale of Two Cities" and "Barnaby Rudge" are of this kind. Sometimes it introduces famous people moving in scenes that are not of special historic importance, or that are purely fictitious. Such a novel is Kenilworth. Always it gives a picture of the manners and customs of the time. Very often the great events and great people form only a framework for the doings of the characters invented by the author. Do any important historic events occur in Ivanhoe? Are any such referred to? Make a list of the historic characters. How long a period does the story cover? Read up in a history of England the events of these years. If you were going to write a story, what times and what country would you choose to write about? Why? Is it easier to write about what you see going on round you, or about what you imagine, or what you have read of? Did Scott write any stories of his own times? Any others of the times of the Crusades?

The opening chapters of a novel generally give a picture of the place or time in which the story is to move, and introduce some of the less important characters—sometimes the leading characters also, and give us a hint, at least, of what the complications of the story are to be. Show how the first two chapters of Ivanhoe do all this. When does