

Sometimes during the year the teacher wishes to take up with the class, poems that are suited to special occasions; and in such cases this method of reading and questioning, stanza by stanza, generally proves satisfactory. On the 31st of October, for example, immediately preceding Hallowe'en, the first two stanzas of Lowell's *All Saints* forms a very interesting sight passage:

One day, of holy days the crest,
 I, though no churchman, love to keep,—
 All-Saints—the unknown good that rest
 In God's still memory folded deep;
 The bravely dumb, that did their deed,
 And scorned to blot it with a name;
 Men of the plain heroic breed,
 That loved Heaven's silence more than Fame.

Such lived not in the past alone,
 But thread to-day the unheeding street;
 And stairs to sin and famine known,
 Sing with the welcome of their feet;
 The den they enter grows a shrine,
 The grimy sash an oriel burns,
 Their cup of water warms like wine,
 Their speech is filled from heavenly urns.

A passage such as this is more difficult for the pupil to carry in mind, and the teacher may find it advisable to dictate it to the class, or put it on the blackboard, four lines at a time.

Even in the case of prescribed work the teacher will sometimes find that his lesson is more effective if it is developed without the use of the printed page. When a lesson is taught in this way, the pupil must be on the alert, for if he misses a question or an explanation he has not the text to refer to. Besides, the average pupil likes the stimulus which comes from having to carry the details of the passage in mind rather than depend on the book. If a lesson of this kind proves a failure it is usually because the passage is too difficult for the pupil to follow, or else because the teacher does not present it clearly. In order to use this method the teacher himself must be familiar with the poem which he aims to present.

On the departmental and matriculation examination papers, “sight” passages always appear, and pupils should have some practice on sight work during the year. But in the case of these passages the teacher will prefer to give them in the form of an examination test, in which pupils will put their answers in writing.

The teacher was holding up a picture of a zebra.

“Now, children, what is this?”

“It looks to me like a horse in a bathing suit,” answered little Arthur.