

A Word Drill for Grade I

Stella T. Payson

I PUT on the board lists of three words from the primer, such as the following:—

man	dog	jug	bee	men	ox	and
pan	log	rug	tree	ten	box	hand
fan	frog	mug	three	pen	fox	stand

I put on a great many, perhaps 30 or 40 lists, using duplicates of course. The children go to the board one by one, point out and read a list, loudly, and erase it. This is a very popular exercise as children dearly love to rub out. After this has become a familiar exercise I vary it, by putting in each list a word which is not in the primer—thus:—

man	dog	jug	bee	men	and	pig
pan	log	rug	tree	ten	hand	big
tan	bog	tug	free	Ben	band	wig

When this has become familiar, I vary it by putting only odd words in the lists—thus:—

dog	boy	hen	Tom	run	play
chick	will	brook	Sam	look	jug
and	pig	sheep	Ann	duck	watch

Any teacher will see numerous ways of varying this exercise—by using phrases and sentences instead of lists—by having the children themselves make the lists for others to read, etc.

A POEM BY A GRADE II PUPIL

A fellow teacher read the old fable of The Wind and the Sun to her Grade II class, and, having questioned them on it, later asked the children to write the story in their own words. One little girl asked if she might write a verse instead. This is what she wrote:—

Mr. Wind is very bold
Yes he makes it very cold
Mr. Wind, the kites he flies,
Mr. Wind lives in the skys.
I like very much Mr. Sun
He gives us such a lot of fun
Mr. Sun lives in the sky
Mr. Sun is very spry.

To my mind this verse,—the product of an eight year old brain—is worth publishing. The use of capitals at the beginning of each line and for the personification of sun and wind is worthy of mention. The child asked for no help with the spelling, yet failed only in forming the plural of fly and sky, which errors she promptly corrected when told that it was like lady and ladies.

Needless to say a pupil of this type is not hard to teach.

E. M. M., St. John

Look at your mailing wrapper. Are you in arrears? Help us to pay our bills by paying yours.

A Spelling Test

THIS list of words was sent by Mr. G. K. Butler, Supervisor of Schools for the city of Halifax, to the Principal of each of the Common Schools asking that the accompanying suggestions be respected.

Give the following words as a spelling test to Grades V to VIII on March 21 at 9.30 or 2.00 and report on or before March 25 as follows:

1. Number took test in each Grade.
2. Total number of mistakes made by each grade.
3. Total number in each grade spelled every word correctly.
4. Total number of words all members of grade spelled correctly.
6. Smallest number of words correctly spelled by any one member of grade.

Please note that these are all common words in every day use.

Cellar	cypress	curtains
Foundation	ash	mason
basement	oak	plumber
cement	beech	electrician
concrete	pine	tinsmith
gravel	elm	solder
joist	maple	enamel
studding	birch	kettle
beam	brass	limestone
rafter	copper	carpet
roof	galvanized	paint
shingles	zinc	pictures
lumber	lead	statues
siding	verandah	mattress
finish	balcony	quilt
casement	garret	blanket
casing	attic	radiator
frame	carpenter	thermometer
window	basin	magazine
sash	stove	temperature
glass	andiron	coke
weight	varnish	kerosene
threshold	stain	electricity
hinges	filler	candle
pulley	wooden	parlor
latch	brick	kitchen
knob	stone	soap
lock	granite	scrubbing
key	marble	washing
spring	furnace	laundry
spruce	grate	wringer
fir	mantle	chimney
hemlock	tiles	saucepan

The results obtained were as follows:

	Number taking test	Number mistakes	Average	Number Spelling all correctly	Poorest results
Grade V.....	819	21792	26.6	—	10
Grade VI.....	823	15638	19	9	19
Grade VII....	528	6916	13.1	7	45
Grade VIII..	479	4364	9.1	18	58

Mr. Butler in his letter adds—"It must be remembered this test was not a review of any previously assigned work but a test of the pupil's knowledge of every day words."