

There were two or three copies of "The Age of Fable" in the school library and two more in the town library. We fought for those books, we planned to meet at each other's houses so that one might read aloud to several others, and before the end of a week we had read that portion of the book which refers to the Trojan war, and considerable more. Meantime we were learning and reciting a stated lesson each day.

There was never a recitation to which Miss Thompson did not add far more than what we had found in the text-book, and added it so vividly that we could not help remembering it. She always called us to account for this extra information, and usually we gave it back without much trouble. Almost every day she began a book or an article or a poem bearing on the subject, read it aloud until she reached a critical point, and then held it aloft with the smiling question, "Who would like to take this book home until to-morrow?" Thirty-five hands would go up and envied would be the fortunate one who received the book.

She spent days in trying to make us realize the grandeur of Greek art and letters. She used photographs and every book she could lay her hands on, but more than all she made us feel how great a thing the Greek influence has been through all the ages. If I may venture to say it without seeming ridiculous she made us feel that artists were painting, scholars were studying, and we, in our small way, were acquiring knowledge the better, because those artists and scholars had so labored in the long ago. In the last two weeks which we devoted to Greek history she read aloud a history of modern Greece, and then she gave us an examination. There were two parts to this examination. One was an essay on whatever in Greek history had seemed to each pupil particularly surprising, interesting, or worth remembering. The other was like all ordinary examinations, ten questions on the work just completed, but every question required for its answer an act of reasoning rather than an act of memory. Of course memory was necessary, memory of facts from which to reason, but no verbatim memorizing was of any avail in that examination, which included, it may be said, just as many questions on the information Miss Thompson herself had given us and on the books we had read and heard, as on the matter in the text-book.