

Atlantic

2000 at Spot story

2867

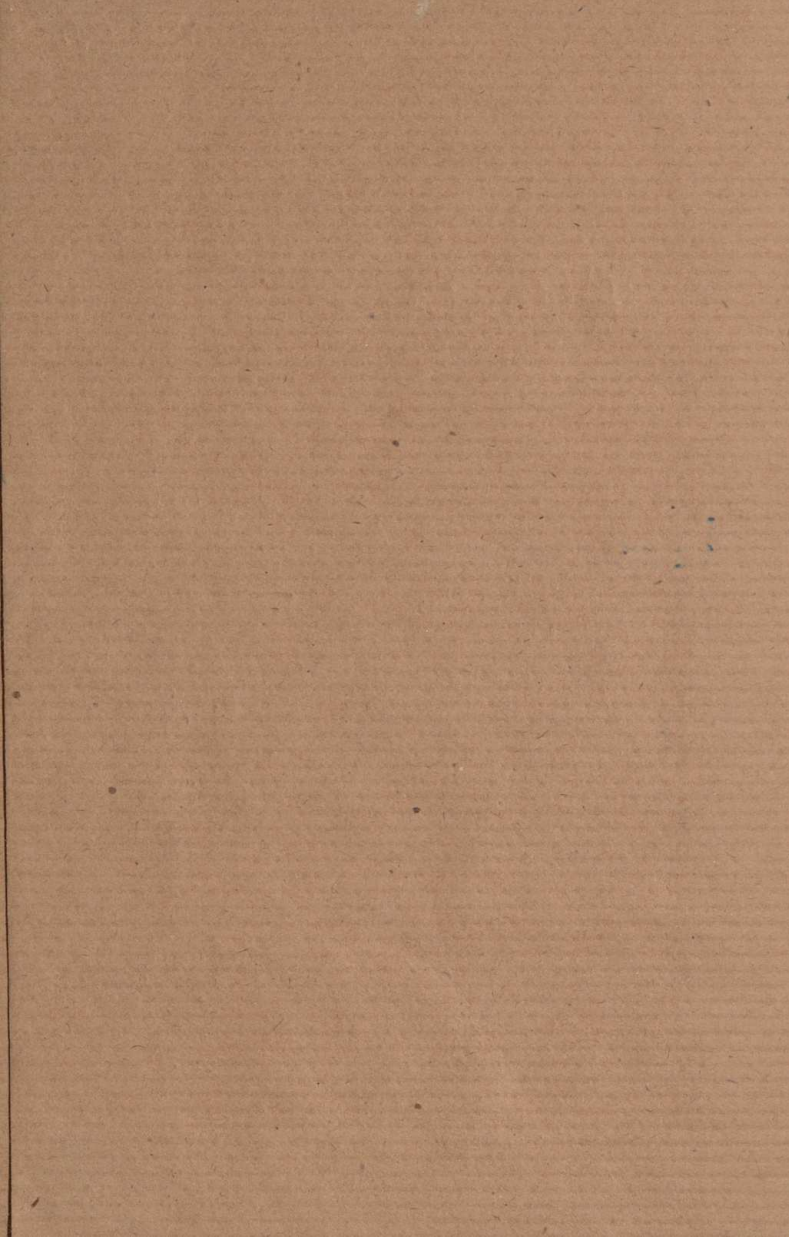
450

2864

~~Atlanta.~~

~~ATLANTA~~

~~a good book.~~



GRADED
HOME READING BOOKS

FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

STANDARD IX SERIES

BOOK V.

2864

ATALANTA

Editor

A Sankara Pillai, M. A., M. Ed.,

Formerly

Lecturer, Training College Trivandrum

F. I. EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS

THYCAUD : : TRIVANDRUM

1957

[Price 10 As

Number of Copies: 500

1050

PRINTED AT THE

KESARI PRESS, VAZHUTHACAUD, TRIVANDRUM

FOREWORD

'Atalanta' is the fifth of a series of six home reading books for Standard IX pupils. Only the words and sentence patterns introduced in the Detailed English Texts for Standards VI to VIII have been used in these books. Whenever a new word is brought in, its meaning is given at the foot of the page.

Atalanta was one of the most famous heroines of ancient Greece. The story of the Calydonian Boar hunt has been told by Swinburne in his famous play called 'Atalanta in Calydon'. William Morris in his beautiful poem, 'Atalanta's Race' gives an account of the race which ended in her marriage.

Self-administering tests are given at the end of every chapter. Readers are requested to test themselves before they

proceed to the next section. A final test covering the whole book has been given at the end. Teachers are requested to check up the library work of the pupils by making them write out the answers in their library note books. Only new type tests have been given, most of them being multiple choice tests.

EDITOR.

ATALANTA

I. THE KING'S DAUGHTER

Have you ever heard of women hunting or running better than men?

There was a woman in Ancient Greece called Atalanta who became famous as the fastest runner and the bravest huntress in the world.

Atalanta's father was the king of Tegea in Greece. His name was Schoenus. He was one of the best hunters and sportsmen of Greece. He did not think highly of women because they did not take part in hunting and fighting. When Schoenus got married he said, "I wish to have brave sons who could hunt and fight like me." He never wanted to have a daughter. "If a girl is born to me," he said, "I will put her to death."

The gods were angry with Schoenus for saying this. They did not like men to be proud. So they said, "Schoenus shall have no son and his only child shall be a daughter." For many years no child was born to the king and he was very unhappy. At last a daughter was born and she had a black birthmark¹ on her arm. When Schoenus took the baby in his arms she smiled sweetly on him. She was so beautiful that he did not want to kill her. Yet he did not want to keep her in his house, for he feared



that every body would laugh at him for not keeping his word. So he called a

servant to his side and told him to take her to the mountain and leave her there. "She will die of cold and hunger," said he, "and she won't live to say that she is my daughter."

1. birthmark-marks on one's body at or from birth.

But the gods willed otherwise. Though the man left the child on the mountain she did not die. The goddess Artemis saw her and said, "This child shall grow up into a strong and beautiful woman." So she sent a she-bear to the place. When the mother-bear saw the little girl it took her up and carried her to its cave. It had some cubs¹ in the cave and the little girl grew up with the young ones of the bear. She ran and played with the young bears and the cave rang with her laughter.

Days went by and the girl grew up and became old enough to leave the mother-bear. Then the goddess sent some nymphs² to take her away. They went to the cave and saw the girl playing with the young bears. "She is one of the most beautiful

1. cub-young one of a bear.

2. nymphs-goddesses living in river, sea, hills etc.

girls in the world," said they and took her to Artemis.

The goddess was pleased with the little girl and said, "Her name shall be Atalanta. She shall live with you on the hills and in the forests. She shall be the best huntress and runner in the world. In time she shall go back to her own people and bring both joy and sorrow to them."



From that day Atalanta lived with the nymphs in the forest. They taught her to run and to hunt. She learnt to shoot with bow and arrows. Before long she could shoot and hunt better than the nymphs. So the goddess loved her and wished to honour her. One day she called Atalanta to her side and said, "You are the best and bravest huntress in the world. But the people of Greece do not know you. Go to

Calydon. All the great heroes of Greece have gone there to hunt down a fierce boar. But without your help they can't kill it. The boar-hunt will make you famous all over Greece."

Then the nymphs told her the story of the Calydonian boar. They said that the king of Calydon had a brave son called Meleager. He went with Jason to bring the golden fleece. When Meleager came home safe, his father gave sacrifices to all the gods and goddesses. But he forgot Artemis. So the goddess got angry and she sent a fierce boar to destroy¹ Calydon. "Now," said they "the boar is so fierce that no one can stand against it. It kills sheep and cows and destroys everything. It has now turned Calydon into a desert and people are afraid to go outside the city. Meleager has called together all the great heroes of Greece to kill the boar. Jason and Theseus have

1. destroy-kill.

already gone to Calydon. But none of them can kill it without your help. The honour of the hunt shall be yours. So you go to Calydon and join the hunt.”

Atalanta was filled with joy when she heard it. At once she set out for Calydon for the boar-hunt.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:-

1. Atalanta was one of the most famous women in ancient (India, Greece, Rome)
2. She was the only child of King (Artemis, Schoenus, Calydon)
3. The king left her on the mountain (to play, to die, to pray)
4. But the goddess (Juno, Artemis, Athene) willed that she should live.
5. A (she-wolf, she-bear, lioness) brought her up with her cubs.
6. Then she lived with the (goddess, cubs, nymphs) who taught her to hunt and shoot.
7. The goddess sent her to Calydon to kill the (lion, boar, dragon)

2. THE BOAR HUNT

Atalanta had to cross the sea to reach Calydon. When she came to the seashore a strong wind blew. So she had to wait there for a day and she was a little late when she reached Calydon. All the great heroes had already come there and they were sitting in the king's hall when Atalanta arrived. They were filled with wonder when they saw a woman coming to take part in the hunt.

But Atalanta said, "I have been sent by Artemis to kill the boar. The goddess has told me that you cannot kill it without my help. And I have come to take part in the hunt." When the heroes heard her words, they said, "She is only a woman; yet she wants to join the hunt! But how can a woman be as strong and brave as we?" They did not want a woman to be better than they in the manly game of hunting. But Meleager did not think

so. He said, "O Atalanta, you are welcome to Calydon and we thank you for coming here. You will be able to kill the boar if the goddess Artemis helps you. Come and sit down."

So Atalanta sat down by the side of Meleager. As soon as he saw the beautiful girl he fell in love with her. But he did not want others to know it. At the same time he did not want her to join the hunt. "Perhaps she may be killed," he said to himself. So he turned to her and said, "The boar is so fierce that we are all afraid to face it. Have you no father or mother who will weep for you if you die."

"I am not afraid of the boar," answered she, "and I have no father or mother to weep for me. I do not know who my parents are; and it was a she-bear that brought me up. As for the boar, I am not afraid of it; for the goddess has said that it shall die by my hand." When

Meleager heard her words he loved her all the more for her bravery. But some of the men who had come to join the hunt were angry. "Who is this woman who thinks that she alone can kill the boar?" they asked. They were filled with envy and so they disliked her.

Early the next morning they set out to hunt the boar. They came to the forest where it lived and set nets to catch it. After that they set their dogs to drive the boar out of the cave in which it lived. Before long it came out. So big and fierce was it that they were afraid even to look at it. Quickly it jumped upon a man and tore him to pieces. Then it fell upon another hunter and soon he too lay dead on the ground.

Meanwhile the hunters closed round it and drove it into the net; but the boar

was so strong that it broke the net and ran off. The hunters followed it into the forest. Atalanta ran faster than all other hunters. Just as the boar was running away Atalanta took her bow and shot an arrow at it. The arrow hit it behind the ear and the boar fell. But it rose up again and turning round ran at her. Thereupon Meleager took his spear and threw it at the boar with all his strength. It hit the boar and again it fell down. Then the other hunters closed in upon it and killed it.

When the boar was killed Meleager thanked the hunters for their help. "Thank you all," said he, "for killing the boar." Then he turned to Atalanta and said; "I have to thank you, for killing the boar. It was your arrow that felled him first. So the honour of the hunt is yours. Take the boar's head for yourself."

But some men did not like this. "Why do you give the boar's head to Atalanta?" they asked. "Every one of us had a part in killing it." Among the leaders who did not like Atalanta were the two uncles of Meleager. They said, "It is unfair to give the prize to Atalanta." Meleager got angry when they said this. But they did not stop with these words. "You love her," they said to him. "That is why you have given the prize to her."

These words made Meleager so angry that he gave one of his uncles a blow. The blow was so hard that he fell dead on the ground. Then the other uncle fell upon Meleager and before their friends could part them, he was also killed. Then only did Meleager see what a great sin¹ it was to kill his uncles.

1. sin—evil deed.

"I have killed my uncles," said he "and my sin is so great that it is better that I die." So he took leave of his friends and went away.

"O fair fields of Calydon where I have lived all my days," said he, "farewell for ever. Never more shall I see you."

Then he went into the forest to die.

But Atalanta said, "He does not know what he is doing. I will go after him and see if I can be of any help to him." She followed him into the forest. When she came up to him she saw that he was dying.* So she made him lie down on the grass and he laid his head upon her lap. He was happy to have her by his side during the last hours of his life. "The gods are kind," said he as he closed

* see Appendix

his eyes for ever. When he was dead she called his friends and sent the dead body to the palace. After this she returned home from Calydon.

TEST. Complete the following sentences:-

1. Artemis was angry with the king of (Tegea, Calydon, Athens)
2. The goddess sent a fierce (lion, dragon, boar) to destroy the land
3. The king had a brave son named (Theseus Meleager, Jason)
4. The heroes came to Calydon to (take, kill, see) the boar.
5. Artemis sent (Meleager, Atalanta, Jason) to Calydon.
6. The honour of the hunt was (Atalanta's, Meleager's, Jason's)
7. Meleager died after killing his (father, uncles, friends)



3. ATALANTA AND HER FATHER

The boar hunt in Calydon made Atalanta famous all over Greece. "She is the swiftest¹ runner in the world," said the people. When King Pelias died and games were held in his honour Atalanta also took part in them. She won the first place in the running race quite easily. Many young men who saw her beauty fell in love with her. After the games she again returned to the forest.

Soon after this Atalanta met her father. One day the old king went out hunting in the forest. At that time Atalanta had come to those parts and when she heard the cry of the dogs she came out to join them. When the king

1. swift quick

saw her he said, "It is Atalanta and she is the only woman on earth who can hunt like a man." He received her with great joy and she joined the hunt. She ran faster than the fastest horse and was the first to reach the deer in the forest.

After the hunt she took leave of the king. "Atalanta," said Schoenus, "you are the best huntress I have seen. I am an old man and wish to give you this ring as a present. For you are like a daughter to me." Atalanta did not like to take presents from other people. Yet she did not say 'no' to him for she felt a daughter's love for the old man.



"May the gods give you a daughter like me," said she as she took the ring. When she put out her hands to take it,

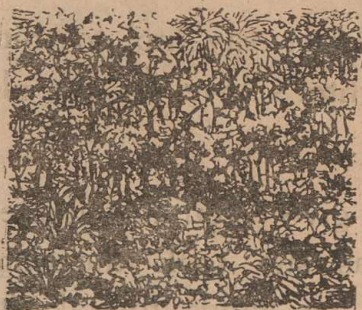
Schoenus saw the black birthmark on her arm. Then he knew that she was his own daughter whom he had left on the mountain to die when she was a child.

“Atalanta,” he said, “you are my own daughter.”

“How can that be?” she asked.

Then he told her the whole story and on hearing it, she fell at his feet and cried, “O my father.”

“Atalanta,” said the old man “come back to my palace, for you are dearer to me than life. And your old mother will be happy.”



But Atalanta did not like to leave the forest. She loved the free life she led with the nymphs and said, “My Lord, will a young

lion go back to its cage?" The king was sad when he heard the answer. But he said, "The gods are kind and I thank them for not allowing you to die. Whenever we hunt in these parts, you must come and join us."

2864

Then the king returned to the palace and Atalanta went back to her nymphs. But her love for her father was stronger than she thought and the words he spoke rang in her ears, "You are dearer to me than life." When she went to bed she could not sleep. Whenever she shut her eyes she thought she saw her father standing before her. At last she rose up from her bed and said, "I must go back to my father." So she took leave of the nymphs "Dear nymphs," said she, "farewell. I can no longer live with you, for I must go to my father."

Then she prayed to Artemis "O great goddess," she said, "though I go back to my father, I will be your servant for ever. I will never marry and always be a lover of the hunt."

She was sad as she turned away from the forest. "Dear trees and woods," said she, "farewell." She left the forest where she had lived so long and went to the palace. When the king saw her, he was very happy. "O my child" cried he, "the gods are very kind to me." In this way did Atalanta go back to her father.

The people of Tegea were glad when Atalanta came to live with them. When it was known that she was in the city, many young men came to woo¹ her. "Atalanta is the most beautiful princess

1. to woo—to make love

in Greece," they said and some of them loved her more than life. Yet she did not wish to marry any of them. "I will be a maid all my life," she said, "never will I marry." But her father was sad when he heard that she would never marry. "You are my only child," said he, "and if you don't marry this ancient family will die out and there will be no one left in the family." To this she answered, "In the name of Artemis I have vowed¹ not to marry and I won't break my vow."

But Schoenus spoke to her again and again and at last she said "I will marry the man who will run a race with me. If he wins I will be his wife, but if he loses, he must die."

"No man in all the world can run as fast as you," said the king, "and he

1. vow-promise

who runs with you will run himself to death."

"When they know this," answered Atalanta, "they will go away and no man will come to woo me."

When the young men who had come to woo her heard this, many of them went away without a word. But a few of them said, "It is better to die for love than to live without it." So they went to Atalanta and said, "We are ready to run a race with you."

"If you don't win," she said, "You must drink poison¹ and die."

"We are ready to die for your sake," they answered.

1. poison-something that kills when taken in.

Atalanta was sad when she came to run the race. But she did not want to marry. So she had to keep her word and run the race. The first man who ran with her lost the race. Thereupon he drank poison. "Farewell sweet lady," he said, "Don't weep for me. All of us must die soon or late. Now, I die for your sake." He died with a smile on his face.

After him many other young men came to run the race and they died for the sake of love and beauty. In this way the words of the goddess came true. Thus Atalanta came back to her people bringing 'joy and sorrow to many.'

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. Atalanta was the fastest (man, runner, swimmer) in all the world.
2. One day King Schoenus met her when he was (going home, riding, hunting)
3. He saw the (birthmark, bow) on her arm and knew that she was his own daughter.

- 4, Then she left the forest to live with her (friends, father, sister)
- 5, Atalanta vowed that she would never (go home, marry, hunt)
6. But her father wanted her to marry and so she said that she would marry the man who would (kill the boar, bring the golden apple, run a race with her and win)
- 7, But if he did not win, he must (go away, die, jump into the sea)
8. Many men ran the race with her and (died, won).



4. THE RACE

At last there came a man who ran with Atalanta and won the race. He was a prince named Meilanion. His father was an old friend of King Schoenus. When Atalanta came to live with her father and many young men came to woo

her, Meilanion said, "I too will go to Tegea to woo her."

But his father said, "Don't go, my son, I know Atalanta's father. We are old friends, but Schoenus is very proud and his daughter is like him. I am told that she is the most beautiful girl in the world. When young men see her they fall in love with her and are unwilling to go away from her. At last they become mad with love and run the race which ends in death."

When Meilanion heard this he said to himself, "If she is so very beautiful I must go and see her." So he set out at once and after a long journey, came to Tegea. On that day Atalanta was running a race with one of the young men who had come to woo her. "Are you going to see the race?" asked a man whom Meilanion met on the way.

"Yes," said he.

They went to see the race and he saw Atalanta running with the young man. "He will surely lose the race," said the man.

"Yes" said Meilanion; "but if I run I will surely win."

"Can you run faster than Atalanta?" the man asked.

"No" answered he. "Yet I will win the race."

"You will win death, not Atalanta," said his friend.

When Meilanion saw Atalanta he too fell madly in love with her. "I must run the race," said he, "but before I run, I must find out how to win the race."

Next day he went to the palace and saw the king. "Who are you?" Schoenus asked.

"I am a traveller," answered Meilanion. "Will you let me stay with you for the night?"

"Gladly," said Schoenus. "I thought you were another young man who had come to woo Atalanta."

Meilanion stayed there for the night. When they were sitting together Schoenus said to Atalanta, "Here is a young man who has not come to woo you." Atalanta was pleased to meet him and they sat talking for a long time. Meilanion was a clever and witty talker and the house rang with laughter as he spoke. So every one was sad when he rose up and said, "I am going away early next morning."

"But," said the king, "you have not told us who you are."

"I have vowed," said Meilanion "not to tell anyone my name. I have also

vowed not to spend more than a day in a place unless the daughter of the king agrees to marry me.”

“We are sorry to hear that,” said Atalanta, “and we shall be very glad if you will stay with us for a few days more.”

“But I can’t break my vow,” said he, “unless you break yours and agree to marry me.”

In the morning Meilanion rose up early and went out. But Atalanta had got up earlier. Together they walked along the road till they came to the parting of the ways. “Farewell,” said he “I must go away now. But I wish to tell you that I love you.”

Then he turned round and walked away without waiting for her answer. Atalanta was sad when he left her. “He

loves me," said she, "and I love him. But I won't break my vow to marry him." She returned to the palace sadly.

Meilanion was also very sad when he took leave of Atalanta. He had never seen a more beautiful girl than she. "I must make her my wife," said he to himself. "For I cannot live without her. But she won't have me if I don't win the race. I must win the race somehow.

He thought about it for a long time, "If Atalanta loves me, I will win the race," said he. "So I must make her fall in love with me." Then he prayed to Venus, the goddess of Love and Beauty. "If the goddess helps me," he said, "I will surely win her." He went to her temple and worshipped her. Yet Venus did not come to his help. Then Meilanion said, "I will go to Cypress, which is the land

of Venus. Perhaps she may come to my help there."

So he set out for Cypress and after a long voyage¹ he came to the place. He landed and sitting on the sea shore began to pray to Venus. As he sat praying to the goddess, he saw a bright cloud coming towards him. Out of it came a beautiful woman who had three golden apples in her hand. She was so bright and beautiful



that Meilanion had to turn his eyes away from her. But she spoke kindly to him. "I am Venus," said she, "and I have come to help you." So saying

she gave him the golden apples. "Here are three apples from mine own apple tree. Throw them one by one to Atalanta as you run the race with her. If she loves

1. voyage-journey by sea.

you, she will stop to pick them up and they will become so heavy that she won't be able to run very fast and then you can win the race."

With these words the goddess took leave of him and went away. Then Meilanion went back to Tegea to run the race with Atalanta. When she saw that he had come back, she asked, "Can you run faster than I?"

"No" answered he, "I can't run as fast as you, but I have something which will help me to win the race."

"What is that?" she asked.

"You shall see it" he said, "when you run the race."

Next morning they went to the place where the race was to be held. When Schoneus saw him he said, "I wish that you had not come back."

“But,” said Meilanion “I am sure that I will win the race and marry the princess.”

Soon it was time for the race to begin. Atalanta took her place at one end and Meilanion stood some yards ahead of her. When they were ready, the king said, “Go.” At once Meilanion jumped forward and ran as quickly as he could. But Atalanta ran more quickly, and soon she came up to him.

“Run faster,” cried the people “or she will overtake you.” Meilanion looked back and saw her just behind him. Quickly he took one of the golden apples and threw it to her. The apple fell near her and rolled on the ground.

“What is that?” asked the people.

“What a lovely apple!” cried Atalanta. When Atalanta saw the golden apple she wished to have it for herself. The goddess

had said that if she loved Meilanion she would stop to pick it up. Now, Atalanta loved him truly and so she ran after the golden apple to take it. When she came to the place where it lay, she bent down and picked it up. Then she turned round and saw that Meilanion had gone far ahead of her. Quickly she ran up and before long they were running shoulder to shoulder.

Again the people cried to Meilanion "Run faster, or she will overtake you." Again Meilanion took another apple and threw it right in front of her. It too rolled down and Atalanta ran off to pick it up. But after taking it, she turned round and ran after Meilanion. Before long she came up to him again and the people said, "If you have another apple, throw it down."

So Meilanion took the third apple and threw it down. As it rolled down

like the others, Atalanta stopped to pick it up. When she had taken the apple she turned back to finish the race. By this time Meilanion was nearing the other end and so Atalanta jumped forward to run as fast as she could. But the three apples grew so heavy that she could not run as fast as before. She ran like one who was carrying heavy load. So Meilanion won the race and the people cried, "Thank God. He has won the race. He has won her."

When the race was over every one was glad. Atalanta who loved Meilanion truly, was glad that she did not win. Her father was glad that his daughter would marry. The people were glad that no more men would die for Atalanta's sake. Then the king turned to Meilanion and asked, "As the princess has agreed to marry you, you can now tell us your name."

"I am Meilanion," said he, "son of Amphedamus, your old friend."

Schoenus was very much pleased when he learned that his friend's son had won his daughter. There was great rejoicing in the city when Atalanta was married to Meilanion. As for the golden apples, she put them into a box and kept them safe. After the marriage Atalanta took Meilanion aside and asked, "Tell me, what is the secret of the golden apples?"

Then he laughed and said, "The secret is in your heart. You loved me truly. That was why you stopped to pick them up."

"And why were they so heavy?" she asked again, "I could not run fast because of them."

"The secret is the same," he answered. "They were heavy because you loved me."

If you did not love me you would not have stopped to pick them up. They would not have been so heavy. Love is the secret of my success.”

TEST. Complete the following sentences:—

1. The man who ran with Atalanta and won the race was (Meleager, Meilanion, Jason)
2. He prayed to (Artemis, Venus, Juno) for help
3. She gave him three golden (oranges, mangoes, apples)
4. While they were running the race, he threw down the golden apples one by one and Atalanta stopped (to look at them, to pick them up, to eat them)
5. So Meilanion won the (apples, race) and married Atalanta
6. Atalanta stopped to pick up the apples ...
 - i. because they were made of gold.
 - ii. because she loved Meilanion.
 - iii. because she did not want to win the race.



Appendix

5. THE DEATH OF MELEAGER

There is an interesting story about the death of Meleager. When he was a little baby, the Fates came to his mother and spoke to her about his life and death. The Fates were three goddesses in whose hands were the birth, life and death of man. They were sisters. The youngest was the goddess of birth, the second one was the goddess of life while the eldest was the goddess of death.

Seven days after Meleager was born, the three goddesses came to the room where his mother lay asleep. She opened her eyes and saw them. The youngest goddess smiled and said, "I will give your son a bright and beautiful thread of life." The second



sister said, "Your son shall win great honour and fame." But the eldest one looked angrily at the little child and taking a piece of wood from the fire that was burning in the room she said, "When this is burnt up, your son shall die."

So saying she put the piece of wood back into the fire. But Meleager's mother ran to the fire-place and took it from the fire. Then she locked it up safely so that her son might not die.

When Meleager went out with the hunters to kill the boar, his mother looked at the piece of wood and said, "I will keep it safe so that my beloved son might not be killed." But when Meleager killed his uncles a man came to her and said, "Your brothers have been killed." Without knowing who had killed them she said, "I curse the man who killed them. Let him have no peace on earth. Let him not eat, drink or sleep." But

when she learnt that it was her own son who had killed them she felt very sad. "O my son," she cried "death alone can give you peace." So she took the piece of wood and threw it into the fire. By the time it was burnt up Meleager died.

FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences:-

1. Atalanta was the fastest (runner, swimmer) in the world
2. Her father left her on the mountain (to play, to die, to sing); but the goddess (Artemis, Venus, Juno) saved her.
3. A (lioness, she-wolf, she-bear) brought her up and the nymphs taught her to shoot and (sing, hunt, swim)
4. Artemis sent her to (Tegea, Calydon, Athens) to hunt the wild boar and she helped Meleager to kill it

5. She went to live with her father and agreed to marry the man who would run (a mile, two miles, a race) with her and win.
6. Many young men ran the race with her and lost it; they drank (wine, poison, tea) and died.
7. At last (Meleager, Theseus, Meilanion) came with three golden (oranges, apples, grapes) to run the race.
8. When he ran the race with Atalanta, he threw down the apples one by one, and she (stopped, ran on, looked on) to pick them up.
9. So he (lost, won) the race and (married, lost) Atalanta.

28/04

This story is very good

very good story

THIS

BOOK

BUT VERY VERY

INTERESTING

VBAD

need it.

32.89801.2

11

சென்னை

Atlanca

2nd ed. 1864

2864

450