

NEW PLAN SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

GENERAL EDITOR: DR. J. F. FORRESTER

GRADE III

BOOK 1

TWO BROTHERS AND OTHER STORIES

M. G. SUBBAIAH, M.A., L.T.

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PREFACE

THIS book contains mostly the vocabulary used in the first three books of the NEW PLAN ENGLISH READERS. The few new words that have been used either occur in the early lessons of Reader 4 or are within the one thousand words listed in the Syllabus. So this book can easily be read not only by pupils of Form IV who have used NEW PLAN ENGLISH READER III in Form III but also by others as Library Reading material.

It is hoped that boys and girls who read the stories will enjoy them.

EDITOR.



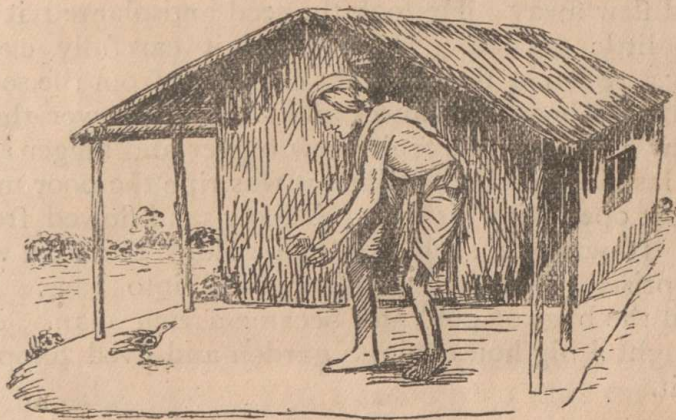
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1. TWO BROTHERS

ONCE there were two brothers in a town. The elder brother was a selfish and greedy man. He did not help the poor at all. But the younger was kind and helpful. He always helped the people in trouble by giving them food and money.

When their father died they divided his money equally between them. The elder always saved his money and became very rich. He lived in a big house with a garden. The younger brother who



went on giving his money to the poor became himself very poor in a short time. He lived in a hut. He greatly needed the help of his brother, but the rich brother did not help him at all.

One morning when the younger brother was sitting at the door of his hut, a little bird came limping into the hut. He picked it up and found that it was badly hurt. He found that one of its wings was broken. He treated it kindly and bound its broken wing. He gave it food to eat and a little bed to lie in. In a few days the bird was all right. The man and the bird had become friends. He did not like to let the bird go away, but he thought that the bird would be happy if left free. So when the bird was quite strong, he let it fly away.

A few days later the bird returned to his hut with a seed in its mouth. It laid the seed before him and flew away. He took the seed and planted it in his little garden. He watered it carefully every day. Soon a melon plant came out from the seed. It bore a beautiful flower and from the flower there grew a fruit. The fruit grew bigger and bigger and at last it was ripe. When it was ripe the poor man cut it open with his axe. Yellow sand flowed from it. It was not sand but real gold. The man was surprised. He put the golden sand into bags. He sold the bags of gold and became a rich man. He bought a big house with a garden and lived happily in it.

The elder brother saw that his brother had become rich all of a sudden. He went to his brother and asked him how he had become so rich. The younger brother told him about the bird with the broken

wing. The elder brother was astonished. He became envious of his brother. He also wanted to become very rich like his brother with the help of a bird. For three days, he searched and searched for a bird with a broken wing. He could not find such a bird. At last he thought of a plan.

He told his servant to catch a bird and hurt it badly. He told him to break its wing and throw it at his door. The servant did so. He picked up the bird thrown at his door and spoke kind words to it. He bound its wing and gave it food. In a few days the bird was well. He then let it fly away telling it again and again to return soon with a seed.

He waited eagerly for the bird to come back. It returned after two days and laid a big seed before him. He was filled with joy. He took up the seed and planted it in his garden. He watered it carefully every day. Soon a melon plant came out from the seed. It bore a flower and from the flower there grew a fruit. The fruit grew bigger and bigger and at last it was ripe. When it was ripe the greedy man cut it open with his axe. Yellow sand flowed from it. He took the sand and looked at it very carefully. It was only sand and not gold. The sand flowed and flowed from the fruit. It flowed all over his house. It flowed all over his gardens and fields and all his wealth was covered up by the sand. The greedy man lost all his wealth. He was sorry that his greed for wealth had led him to complete ruin.

QUESTIONS

1. Which of the two brothers was kind and helpful ?
2. What was the elder brother like ?
3. How did the younger brother treat the bird ?
4. What did the bird bring back to him ?
5. How did the younger brother become rich ?
6. What did the elder brother do then ?
7. What did he think was the way to become rich ?
8. Did he find a bird with a broken wing ?
9. What did he ask the servant to do ?
10. What did the servant do then ?
11. What did the elder brother wish the bird to do ?
12. How was the elder brother punished ?

2. ALEXANDER AND THE VILLAGE HEADMAN

MANY hundred years ago, there was a famous king called Alexander. He was a great fighter and a noble soldier. He conquered many countries. He conquered parts of India also.

As a boy, Alexander had heard that India was a very rich country. He had also heard that the Indians were brave, noble and honest. So he wanted to come to India and see the Indians. He wanted to fight the Indian kings.

In India, Alexander found that what he had heard about the men and kings of India was true. Everywhere in India he found her sons to be brave and fearless, noble and honest. He had not seen anywhere in other countries men so brave and fearless, so noble and honest as the Indians.

One day he put on simple clothes and dressed himself as an ordinary gentleman. People could not easily find out that he was a king.

He came to a village. The headman of the village was an old gentleman. He was the highest officer in the village. Alexander went to his house. The old man received him with kindness and treated him with respect. Very soon the old man found out that his guest was Alexander the Great. But Alexander thought that his host did not know who he was. At lunch, plates containing gold pieces, jewels and costly stones were placed before Alexander. He could not eat them.



'Is this the lunch you eat in your houses?' said the king. The old man said respectfully, 'Please, mighty king, we eat only simple rice and vegetables. We drink a cup of plain milk. But, pray excuse me, king, is it not the desire to have such a lunch that brought you here all the way from Greece?'

Alexander smiled. He said, 'I had heard that India was very rich. But it is not the desire for wealth alone that brought me here. I had heard also that the men of India were brave, noble and virtuous and I came to see them.' He set aside the plates of gold pieces, jewels and costly stones. He had his lunch of rice, vegetables and milk.

As they were talking happily, two farmers came to the headman and bowed to him respectfully. The headman said, 'Please, brothers, what is the matter?' 'Please, Master,' said one of the farmers, 'I bought a piece of land from this man a month ago for ten gold coins. I ploughed it to raise a good harvest. While ploughing it I found this pot of gold pieces buried in the earth. I offered him the pot but he would not take it. I bought only the land and not the gold buried in it. It is his and not mine. I request you to order him to take it.'

'And what do you say to this, good friend?' said the headman to the other farmer.

'Please, sir, I do not want that gold. I sold him the land for a fair price. The land and all that it gives are his and not mine.'

The headman looked at Alexander. Alexander smiled. He wished to see how the headman would decide.

'You have a fair, good-looking son, have you not, good brother?' asked the headman looking at one farmer.

'Please, sir, I have,' he replied.

The headman looked at the other farmer and said, 'And you, good brother, have a beautiful daughter of marriageable age, haven't you?'

'Please, sir, I have,' he replied. 'Then marry the good girl to the boy,' said the headman, 'and give this gift of mother earth to them.'

'Good sir, we will obey you,' said the two farmers and bowing to him respectfully once again, they went away.

The headman looked at Alexander. Alexander was filled with wonder and joy at what he saw. 'Long live India,' said Alexander, 'Her sons are virtuous beyond measure.'

QUESTIONS

1. Who was Alexander?
2. As a boy what did he hear about India?
3. What qualities did he find in the Indians?
4. What did he do one day?
5. How did the village headman treat him?
6. What kind of lunch did he first give Alexander?
7. What did Alexander say when he saw the lunch?
8. What did the village headman reply?
9. What did the first farmer say to the village headman?
10. What did the second farmer tell him?
11. How did the village headman decide the case?
12. What did Alexander say when he heard the decision?

3. THE FARMER AND THE FOXES

THERE was a farmer in a village. He had a field and one year he planted sugar cane in it. The plants grew well and were full of juice. A pack of foxes saw the sugar canes and wanted to eat them. They came to the field at night and pulled down the canes. They cut them to pieces and ate them. They filled their stomachs with the sweet juice and returned home early in the morning.

The farmer and his son saw that the sugar canes were being eaten and spoiled by the foxes. They did not know how to stop the foxes from eating the canes. They thought and thought and at last hit upon a plan.

They got a drum and either the son or the father sat beating it in the field at night. They beat the drum in such a way as to make on it a sound like that of a roaring tiger. All through the night the drum was beaten and all through the night a sound like that of a roaring tiger was heard in the field.

The foxes believed that there was a tiger in the field. They were afraid of the tiger and not one of them entered the field. The farmer and his son were glad that their plan had worked well. This went on for some days and their sugar canes were safe in the field. An old fox however thought that he must see the tiger first and then think of some way to drive him out of the field. One day he came to the field and hid himself in a bush nearby, to have a look at the tiger. He did not see any tiger. Instead of a tiger, he saw the farmer beating

his drum and making on it a sound like that of a roaring tiger. He now knew that the farmer had played a trick on them. He wanted to play a trick on the farmer in his turn.

Next night he brought all the foxes again to the field. He sat at the drum and began to beat it and make on it a sound like that of a roaring tiger.

Now the son heard the beating of the drum and thought that his father was in the field playing on the drum. So he did not go to the field that night. The father also heard the beating of the drum and thought that his son was in the field playing on it. So he too did not go to the field.

The foxes now pulled down as many sugar canes as they liked. They fed on as many of them as they liked. They filled their stomachs with the sweet juice of the sugar canes. They spoiled the field and went back home early in the morning.

Next morning when the farmer and his son went to the field they found that the foxes in their turn had deceived them.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the foxes see in the field of the farmer?
2. What did they do then?
3. What did the farmer and his son do to stop the foxes from spoiling their field?
4. How did the plan succeed for some days?
5. What did an old fox do one day?
6. What did he see in the field instead of the tiger?
7. What did the fox think then?
8. What was the trick played on the farmer?
9. What did the farmer and his son think, when they went to the field next morning?

4. THE ASS AND THE OX

AN ass and an ox were friends. They both worked under the same master. Their master was a farmer and he used the ox for the plough and the ass to ride on.

One day, late in the evening, the ass came to the ox and said, 'Good friend, are you well?' The ox replied, 'I am sad and weary. Master treats you very kindly. He gives you good food and rest. You have no work at all except to carry him here and there. But look at me. I pull the plough from morning till night and I return home very tired. For all the hard work of the day I get only dirty straw to eat. I have never enjoyed a good rest.' 'I am sorry to hear you say so,' said the ass, 'but I think the fault is more with you than with the master. He knows that you allow him to do as he likes with you. You are good and obedient and he takes advantage of it. You will be better if you listen to me and follow my advice. Do not eat the dirty straw they offer. When the workman comes to you, push him with your horns and kick him with your legs. The master will soon learn a lesson and will treat you well.' 'Thank you,' said the ox, 'I will follow your advice.'

The farmer heard their talk and smiled,

Next day the workman told the farmer that things were not well with the ox. He had not eaten his

food. He pushed and kicked the men who went near. He was ill and would not get up for work.

The farmer knew that the ox was following the advice of the ass. He said, 'Let the ox have a little rest today. Give him good food. Take the ass to the field and put him to the plough.' The servant



put the ass to the plough. All day long he ploughed the field. The workman beat him often as he could not plough well. When he returned home in the evening he was completely tired. 'I am half dead,' said the ass to himself, 'but this is all my own making. Why did I give such advice to the ox? What will become of me if the workman puts me to the plough tomorrow again? I must get rid of this trouble in some way.'

That night, the ox came to the ass to thank him for the good food and rest he had enjoyed. The

farmer again heard them talking to each other. 'I am very thankful to you,' said the ox, 'I will follow your good advice tomorrow also.' 'Oh! please do not do so,' said the ass, 'I have heard very bad news. I heard the farmer telling the workman an hour ago that as the ox was ill and could not work, he would send him to the meat-seller.'

The ox was afraid. He did not want his master to send him to the meat-seller. He said to the ass, 'Oh friend, tell me what I should do now.' The ass replied, 'If you do not want to die, eat your straw willingly. Do not push the workman but go to your work like a good ox. The master will think that you are all right and will not send you to the meat-seller.'

Next day, the ox went on with his work as usual. The farmer laughed aloud, and told his wife all about the ass and ox.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the ox complain about?
2. What was the advice given by the ass?
3. What did the ox do the next day?
4. What did the workman tell the farmer?
5. What was the farmer's reply?
6. How was the ass used the next day?
7. What did the ox do in the evening?
8. What did the ass tell him then?
9. What happened the next day?
10. Why did the farmer laugh aloud?

5. THE BIRD AND THE ELEPHANT

ONCE a little bird built her nest on a tree and laid her eggs in it. After some days baby birds came out of the eggs and the mother was happy with her baby birds.

One day an elephant passed by the tree. He rubbed his body against the tree and the tree swung this way and that like a cradle. The baby birds who were in the nest were very much afraid and began to cry. The mother thought that the baby birds might fall down from the nest and die. She came down to the elephant and said, 'Please sir, do not rub your body against this tree. You shake the tree badly and my babies may fall down from the nest and die. You may rub your body against some other tree.' The elephant was very proud. He laughed loudly and said, 'I shall rub my body against any tree I like. Who are you to tell me what I should do and what I should not do?'

Next day again the elephant came to the tree. He rubbed his body against the tree and the tree shook badly. The baby birds were afraid and began to cry again. The mother came down to the elephant again and said, 'Well sir, please see that you don't do this sort of thing and bring us sorrow. I warn you. If you repeat this I shall punish you and you will be sorry for it.'

The elephant laughed again loudly. He said, 'How dare you, a little bird, frighten me? Don't

you know that I am strong enough to fight a lion? I will rub my body against the tree. Do what you can.'

The third day the elephant came again to the tree and rubbed his body against the tree. The mother bird was angry. She said, 'Sir, I can't help it. You

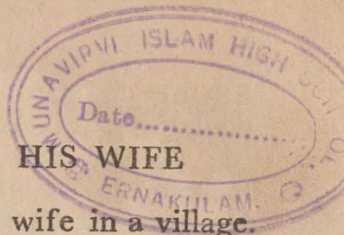


must be punished and that I will do.' So saying she flew quickly into the ear of the elephant. She sat deep in his ear and began to hurt the inside of his ear with her wings, legs and beak. The elephant could not bear the pain. He turned his head this way and that and tried to throw the bird out. He now saw what trouble he had brought upon himself. At last he said to the bird, 'Please, bird, excuse me. I am sorry for what I did. I will never rub my body against the tree. Please come out of my ear and we shall be good friends.'

The bird came out and said, 'Please see that you keep your word.'

QUESTIONS

1. Where did the little bird build her nest?
2. What did the elephant do one day?
3. Why did the baby birds cry?
4. What did the little birds tell the elephant?
5. What was the elephant's reply?
6. What did the elephant do the next day?
7. What did the little bird tell him then?
8. What did the elephant reply?
9. What did the elephant do the third day?
10. How did the little bird punish him?



6. THE VILLAGER AND HIS WIFE

ONCE there lived a man and his wife in a village. They were simple persons and they were always honest, cheerful, and helpful to others. They had an old cow in their house and as it was of no use to them they decided to sell it in a town nearby. So one day the man started with the cow to the town. His wife followed him for a little distance. She said, 'Take care of the wicked men in the town. They may deceive you.' The husband replied, 'No, they can't deceive me.'

The villager reached the town after a few hours' journey. He came to the market place and there he saw a man with a horse. 'Good friend,' said the villager, 'will you buy my old cow?' The man replied, 'I will buy your cow, but I have no money. I will buy her if you can give her for my good horse.' 'The horse is good,' thought the villager, 'my wife and I can use him to pull a carriage.' So he changed the cow for the horse and walked with him for a while.

Very soon the villager found that the horse was blind in one eye. He was sad and wanted to sell him. He met a man with a donkey. 'Good friend,' said the villager, 'will you buy my blind horse?' The man replied, 'I will buy your horse, but I have no money. I will buy him if you can give him for my good donkey.' 'A blind horse is of no use at all,' said the villager to himself, 'but a good donkey is really useful. I can use him to carry loads.'

So he changed the horse for the donkey and walked with it for some distance. He found that the donkey was very silly. It brayed often and kicked him a great deal. It was unmanageable. He was sad again and wanted to sell it. He then met a man with a sheep. 'Good sir,' said the villager. 'Will you buy my kicking donkey?' The man said, 'I shall buy your donkey, but I have no money. I shall buy him if you can give him for my good sheep.' 'A silly donkey that kicks is very troublesome,' said the villager to himself, 'but a good sheep gives us wool. My wife and I can have woollen rugs. We can keep ourselves warm and free from cold.' So he changed the donkey for the sheep and walked on. But very soon he found that the sheep was lame in one of its legs. It limped and fell down at each step. The villager was sad again and wished to sell him. He met a man with a hen. 'Good sir,' said he. 'Will you buy my limping sheep?' The man said, 'Yes, I shall buy your sheep, but I have no money. I shall buy him, if you can give him for my good hen.' 'It is difficult to clip and wash the wool of a sheep when he is limping. It will be troublesome and my wife will not like it,' said the villager to himself. 'But a good fat hen is worth having. We can roast it and eat it up. We can call our good neighbours for a dinner.' So he changed his sheep for the hen. Very soon he found that the hen was sickly and that something was wrong with it. He was sad again.

It was now late in the afternoon and he could not go further without something to eat. He then sold his hen for a shilling. As he was moving on,

with the shilling in his pocket, to purchase a piece of bread, he saw an old man in torn clothes. The old man said that he was very hungry and begged him for food. Being a kind and helpful man the villager at once took out the bright shilling from his pocket and gave it to the old beggar.

He returned home in the evening with a cheerful face. His wife was happy to see him. She said, 'Good husband, I see from your face that you have sold our cow for a good price.' The husband then told her all that he had done in the market. He told her how he had changed one animal for another. He said that he had not deceived anybody but told them that the horse was blind, that the donkey kicked, that the sheep was lame and that the fowl was sick. He ended the story by telling her how he had given away the shilling to the old hungry beggar. The wife listened to all that the husband told her. She said, 'Every action of yours was nobly done. But the noblest of all was your giving away the shilling to the old hungry beggar.' They then had their supper and went to bed.

When they woke up early in the morning they were surprised to see the cow, the horse, the donkey, the sheep and the hen, all standing in front of their door. They were all very good and there was no defect in any of them. The hen laid down a bright shilling in front of the man. It was the same coin he had given to the beggar in the market. Both the husband and his wife were filled with wonder. The wife said, 'The old beggar you met yesterday was no ordinary man. We shall

carefully lay up this shilling and it will give us many more.'

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the villager and his wife want to sell their cow?
2. What did the woman tell her husband on his way to the market?
3. Why did the villager change his horse for the donkey?
4. What was wrong with the donkey?
5. What did the villager do then?
6. What was wrong with the sheep he bought?
7. What did he do then?
8. What did he do with the hen?
9. What did the villager do with the shilling?
10. What did the wife tell her husband after hearing what he had done in the market?
11. What wonderful thing did they see in the morning?
12. What did the woman do with the shilling?

7. NICHOLAS AND WAKE

I

ONCE there were two boys named Nicholas and Wake in the same class in a school in England. They were good friends.

One day before the school began, they came into the class-room. They were alone and began to play. There was a new curtain hung up in the class-room. In their play, Wake pulled the curtain hard and tore a portion of it. The two boys were afraid. They knew that their teacher would punish them. They hastily hid the torn portion of the curtain in its folds and left the room.

Soon the school bell rang and all the boys entered their classes. The teacher came into the class-room a few minutes later. He found out that the curtain was torn. He said, 'The curtain is torn. Who has done this?' None of the boys got up. The teacher was angry. He said he would punish the whole class, if the boy who had torn the curtain did not get up and admit his fault. The class was silent. Nicholas got up. He said, 'Please sir, I did it by mistake. I was playing in the room before the class began and I pulled it hard by mistake and tore it.'

'Then why did you not get up at once and admit your fault?' said the teacher. 'Are you a coward?' He scolded Nicholas and punished him. Nicholas took both the scolding and the punishment bravely.

That evening Wake went to Nicholas. His eyes were full of tears. He said, 'Dear friend, you have

received the punishment which I should have got. I was afraid of the teacher and was not bold enough to tell the truth. I am sorry. I will try my best to be truthful and bold from today.'

'Don't worry,' said Nicholas. 'It has all ended well.'

In a few years the boys passed out of the school. They entered life and years passed on.

II

Charles the First was then the king of England. He quarrelled with his people and fought them. So there were two parties in the country. One was led by the king and the other was led by a great man called Cromwell. Nicholas was in the king's party. Wake was on the other side and he was much liked by Cromwell. The king was defeated and Cromwell became the highest man in the country. Men who were on the king's side were taken prisoners. They were tried and put to death. Wake was appointed as judge to try such prisoners and order them to be put to death. He held his court in a town far away from London.

One day a prisoner was brought before Wake for trial. He at once recognised the prisoner as his old friend Nicholas, but Nicholas did not recognise him. The trial began and ended soon. Nicholas was ordered to be put to death. He was to die the next morning. The prisoner was taken away and Wake closed his court at once.

Wake immediately ordered the best of his horses. He rode hastily to London, where his master Cromwell was staying. It was a long journey but he rode and rode for hours together.

Late in the evening he reached London and met Cromwell in his palace. He told Cromwell about his old friend Nicholas and about the days he had spent with him at school. He told him about the curtain which was torn one day in the school and how from that day he had learnt a lesson to be always truthful and bold. He requested Cromwell to save the life of his friend Nicholas.

Cromwell was pleased to grant Wake's request. He said, 'I will refuse you nothing. Your friend is set free, and I wish him long life.' He gave the order setting Nicholas free.

Wake took leave of his master and rode back again to Nicholas. He was very tired, but still he kept on riding. He reached his town early in the morning and met his friend Nicholas, in the prison. He said, 'Good friend Nicholas, you have forgotten me. I am your old friend Wake. Yesterday you were ordered to be put to death. But now you are set free by Cromwell and here is the order.'

Nicholas then understood that his old friend was the judge and that he had obtained for him Cromwell's pardon. The two friends were filled with joy to meet each other after so many years and Nicholas stayed with his friend for some days.

QUESTIONS

I

1. What did Nicholas and Wake do one day in the class-room?
2. Why did not Wake admit his mistake to the teacher?
3. What did Wake tell Nicholas that evening?

II

1. Who was Cromwell and how did he become the highest man in England?
2. In which party did Nicholas serve?
3. What was the punishment given to the men in the king's party?
4. Who was the judge that was appointed to try the prisoners?
5. How did Wake save the life of his friend?

8. THE TEA-SELLER AND THE PEACOCK

I

ONCE there was a tea-seller in a town. He had a small shop in which he sold bread and tea to the people. He did not earn much but he was happy with the money he got. He was kind and helpful to the poor. He gave bread and tea to the beggars without taking any money from them.

There was a beggar who came to his shop every day. Every day the tea-seller gave him a cup of tea and a piece of bread.

This went on for some years. One day the beggar said to the tea-seller, 'Dear sir, you are very kind to the poor. You have been very kind to me all these years. You have given me bread and tea every day without taking any money from me. I am a poor man and I have no money to pay you.'

'Don't worry,' said the tea-seller. 'I never wished to take any money from the poor.'

'Please listen to me,' said the beggar, 'I shall repay your kindness. I can make beautiful drawings. Get me some good colours and I shall draw the picture of a peacock on the wall of your shop. It will be a wonderful peacock and it will make you rich in a short time.'

The tea-seller was pleased with what the beggar said. He said, 'Very well. I shall get you some



colours and you may draw the peacock with them.' He got some good colours and gave them to the beggar.

The beggar drew the figure of a peacock on the wall. He painted it so nicely that it appeared like a real peacock. When the work was finished, he said to the tea-seller, 'Sir' this is a wonderful picture. If you clap your hands when there are a lot of people in your shop, a real peacock will come out of the picture. It will dance and skip in a wonderful way. People will come to your shop in large numbers to see the wonderful peacock and its dance. They will have their tea in your shop and you will soon become a rich man. But, please do not clap many times a day. The peacock will become tired and it will not dance afterwards.'

'Thank you,' said the tea-seller, 'I will not make it dance many times a day.'

That day there were some people in the tea shop. The tea-seller showed them the beautiful picture of the peacock on the wall. He clapped his hands. A real peacock came out slowly from the picture and danced before them for some time. It slowly went back again into the picture. The men in the shop were filled with wonder.

II

The story of the wonderful peacock spread through the whole town. It reached other towns also. Every day a lot of people came to the tea-seller's shop. They had their tea in the shop and

paid for it. They saw the tea-seller clap his hands. They saw the wonderful peacock come out of the picture and they saw its beautiful dance. The peacock danced many times a day and every day the tea-seller got a lot of money.

The tea-seller became very rich. As he became rich, he became also more fond of money. He saved every small coin. He began to be unkind to the poor. He drove away the beggars who came to his shop. He often set his dogs at them to drive them away. He became very proud and bad.

The poor beggar who had painted the peacock saw the change in the tea-seller. He saw that the tea-seller was no more a friend of the poor. He wanted to teach him a lesson. One day he called the peacock to him and asked it not to dance any more when the tea-seller clapped his hands.

Next day the king and his courtiers came to the tea-seller's shop to see the wonderful peacock and its dance. They saw the beautiful picture of the peacock on the wall. They told him that they wanted to see the dance of the wonderful peacock. The tea-seller clapped his hands but the peacock did not come from the picture. In vain, he clapped his hands again and again.

The king was angry. He said, 'You have played a trick all these days on the people and you have robbed them of their money. You dare not play such a trick on us. You are a bad man and you shall be punished.'

All the money of the tea-seller was taken by the king. The tea-seller became poor again and he was no longer unkind to the poor.

QUESTIONS

I

1. How did the tea-seller help the beggars in the beginning?
2. What did the beggar tell him one day?
3. What did the beggar do then?
4. Why was the picture a wonderful one?

II

1. How did the tea-seller become rich?
2. How did the tea-seller treat the beggars after becoming rich?
3. What did the beggar say to the peacock one day?
4. How did the beggar teach the tea-seller a lesson?

9. THE DOVES AND THE CROW

A FARMER once kept some doves in his garden. One of them was the father dove, another was the mother and the others were their young ones. They were all very happy.



Both the farmer and his wife were good and kind to the doves. Their children too loved them very much.

One evening the two big doves were walking in the garden. The father dove said to the mother dove, 'The farmer and his wife are very kind to us. They give us good food and water. They keep our home very clean.'

'You are right, dear husband,' said the mother

dove. 'They also love our young ones very much. They have put little silver bells round the feet of our children.'

'And what do you think of their boys?' said the father bird. 'Are they not very kind to our young ones?'

'Yes, they are,' replied the mother bird. 'They often speak kind words to our children and play with them. We should wish the farmer and his family good health and happiness.'

A crow was sitting on the branch of a tree nearby. He did not like the happy family of the doves. He did not like the farmer being very kind to them. He wanted to drive them away from the garden. He heard what the doves were saying. He came to them and said, 'Do you really think the farmer is kind to you?'

'Yes, we do,' replied the father dove.

'Oh no,' said the crow, 'he has put you all in a small room and you are like prisoners in it. Look at the other birds. They are free and they spend their time very happily. They go where they like and do what they like.'

'Don't be foolish,' said the father dove. 'In this garden we are also free to go where we like and do what we like.'

'You are wrong to think that the farmer and his wife are kind to you,' said the crow. 'They appear so because they know that very soon your children will become big and fat. They can then kill them and have them on any day for a good lunch.'

'No,' said the father, 'they won't eat our children.'

They could have eaten me and my wife long ago if they wanted to, but they did not. Now they won't eat our children.'

'Do not be sure of that,' replied the crow. 'They did not kill you and your wife because they knew that from both of you they could get many doves.'

The doves were angry. They said to the crow, 'Go away. Do not talk like this. We will punish you.' The crow flew away.

That night the mother bird did not sleep well. She said to her husband, 'Will the farmer kill our children for lunch?' 'No,' said the father dove. 'He is a good man. He will not do such a thing.' 'He may be a good man,' said the mother dove. 'But will his wife also be good to us?' 'Yes,' said the father dove, 'they are both good people.'

'She may also be good,' said the mother bird. 'But if their children want to have the young doves for their lunch, will they refuse? Will they be good to us then also?'

'Their children are very good,' said the father dove. 'They won't like our young ones to be killed for their lunch. Please go to sleep.'

'I cannot sleep,' said the mother dove. 'I am afraid something bad may happen to us. We will not stay here. We will run away to a distant forest with our children.'

'Oh! No,' said the father dove, 'we shall not do that.'

'Dear husband, we will run away,' said the mother dove. 'I cannot stay here. I am very sad.'

Early in the morning the two doves left the

farmer's garden with their children and flew away to a distant forest.

The evil crow was joyful that it had spoiled the happy life of the birds though it did not gain anything by it. The doves did not have a happy time in the forest. There was trouble and danger for them everywhere. The mother bird then thought that she was wrong in leaving the farmer's garden on the words of the evil crow.

QUESTIONS

1. How did the farmer keep the family of the dove happy?
2. What did the crow tell the doves about their freedom?
3. What was the reply of the father dove?
4. What did the crow tell them about their children?
5. What did the father dove reply?
6. Why did the mother bird want to fly away with her children from the garden?
7. Why was the crow happy when the birds went away from the garden?
8. What kind of life did the birds have in the forest?
9. What did the mother bird then think?

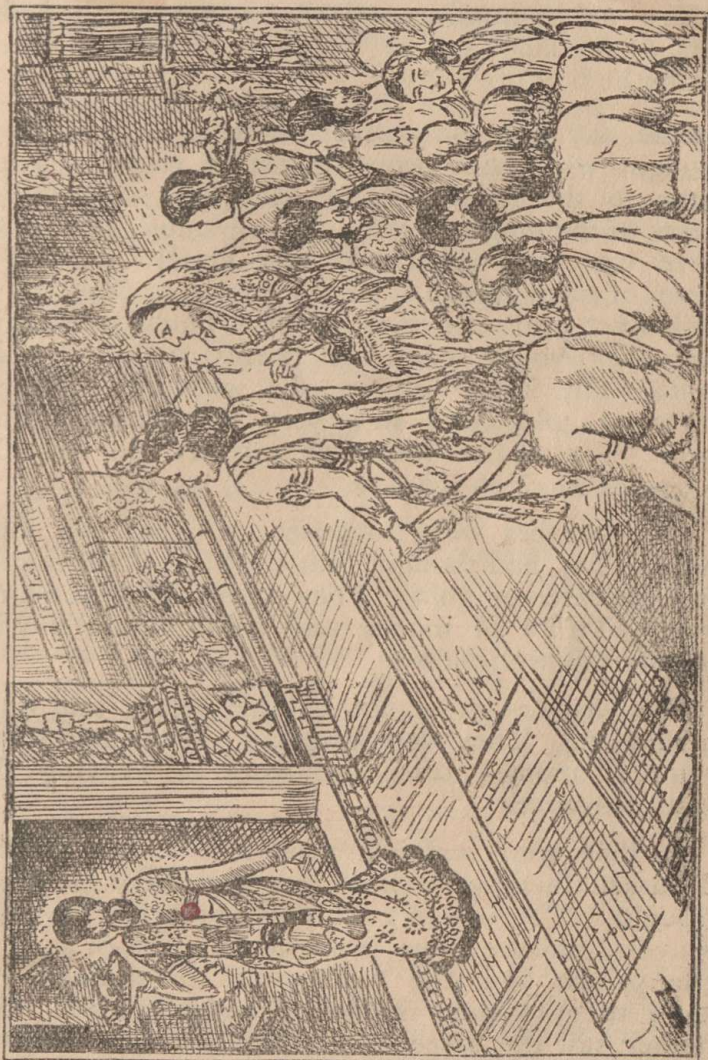
10. THE NOBLE PRINCE

LONG ago, there ruled over the kingdom of Magadha, a powerful king. He had two queens and by the elder of the two, he had a son named Nanda.

The younger queen did not like the elder queen and she planned to bring her trouble and sorrow. She spoiled the love and affection the king had for the elder queen and her son. The king began to be unkind to the elder queen and neglected her. The life of the queen became more and more unhappy as days passed on. One day the king was very unkind to her and ordered her to leave the palace. The elder queen left the palace with her little child. She left the royal city and lived in a hut in a village nearby.

The elder queen and her son lived in poverty. They had no friends and no money. They led a life of troubles and worries. But even in the midst of difficulties, the mother brought up the child very carefully. The child alone was her hope and joy. The child grew up to be a strong and healthy boy. The mother gave him the best education possible. The prince loved his mother very much.

Years passed on and Nanda became a handsome lad of sixteen years. He was a good fighter. He was brave and clever. He made friends with the noble men in the country. He won the love of many people in the country. The prince and his mother left the old hut in the village and lived in a small house outside the city.



The noble qualities of the prince reached the ears of the king and he began to feel sorry for the wrong he had done him.

One day, two weavers came to the city. They brought with them beautiful sarees to sell. They came to the palace of the king and showed the sarees to the king and the queen. Among the sarees there was one which was very lovely. It was a saree of gold thread. The younger queen liked it very much and wanted to buy it. The weavers said that they would sell it for twenty thousand gold coins. The king said to the weavers, 'Twenty thousand gold coins is a very big price for any saree. We do not need such a costly one. We do not want it. You may go.'

The weavers were surprised at what the king said. They had thought that the king would surely buy the saree of gold. They knew that if the king who had a lot of money and gold did not buy it, nobody else would do so.

The weavers came out of the palace and were moving on. They were very sad. They had spent a lot of money, time and work in weaving the beautiful saree.

As they were walking, they met Prince Nanda. He asked them who they were and what they had brought. The weavers said, 'Great prince, we are weavers, and we have brought the best of sarees.' The prince took the weavers to his house. He asked them to show the sarees to his mother. His mother saw the sarees. She saw the saree of gold thread and said, 'This is wonderful. What is its

cost?' The weavers replied, 'We will sell it for twenty thousand gold coins.' 'This saree is very beautiful and worth the amount,' said the queen, 'but we do not have so much money and we cannot buy it.' The prince said to the weavers, 'I shall buy it for my mother. I have no money to pay you now, but I shall pay double the amount when I become king. You may give the saree to my mother.'

'Noble prince, you may give the money when you become king,' said the weavers. 'You may take the saree and give it to your mother.' The weavers gave him the saree and went away. The mother of the prince was very much pleased to have the saree.

That evening the elder queen wore the new saree and went to the temple in the city. It was a beautiful evening and her saree appeared wonderful in the golden rays of the evening sun. She appeared very grand and beautiful in her new saree of gold. The king and his younger queen had also come to the temple. They saw the elder queen in her beautiful saree of gold. The younger queen said to the king, 'Dear, did you buy this saree for the elder queen and give it to her?' 'No, I didn't buy it and give it to her,' said the king. 'The prince must have bought it for his mother.' The younger queen did not like the older queen wearing such a beautiful saree. She was very sad.

The king did not know how the prince could pay the weavers so much money. He sent for the prince. When the prince came to him, he said, 'My son, I see that you have bought the saree of gold

for your mother. Why did you buy such a costly one?' The prince replied, 'Dear father, mother said that it was beautiful and good. She wished to have it. I must always keep her happy and cheerful. Besides, I thought that the saree was one worthy to be worn by a queen.' 'But how could you pay such a large sum of money to the weavers?' said the king. 'I know that you do not have so much money.'

'Dear father, I did not pay for it,' said the prince. 'I promised to pay the weavers when I become king.' 'But how can you become king?' said the king. 'You are driven out of the royal family.' The prince answered, 'Why, father, we do not know what will happen tomorrow. In a few years I may become the king of a country. If you are kind to me and my mother and take us back, I may become the king very soon. Men always hope for the best.'

The king saw that the prince cared much for the happiness of his mother. He also saw that the prince valued honour and fame more than money. He was much pleased with the noble qualities of his son. He said, 'Dear son, you are worthy to be the king of a great kingdom. I want to see you become king and rule over the people happily. I will give you my kingdom.'

The king took the prince and his mother back. The younger queen requested the elder queen to excuse her for her past conduct. They all became reconciled to one another and they were all happy.

After a few days the father gave his kingdom to his son and Nanda became the king of Magadha.

The old king became his adviser. When Nanda became king, he paid the weavers the amount promised for the golden saree.

QUESTIONS

1. What made the elder queen leave the king's palace and live in a hut?
2. Why did not the king buy the saree of gold for the younger queen?
3. Why did the weavers sell the saree to the prince?
4. What was the promise of the prince to the weavers?
5. Why did the king send for the prince one evening?
6. What did the king say to him?
7. What was the reply of the prince?
8. Why did the king take back the elder queen and the prince?

11. ASCLEPIUS AND HIS TEACHER

LONG, long ago, in the far off land of Greece, there lived a great and wonderful person called Cheiron. He lived in a cave at the foot of a high hill far away from the cities.

Cheiron was half man and half horse in body. His face, hands and chest were like those of a man. His legs and feet were like those of a horse.

Cheiron was a great teacher and the heroes of the land learnt their lessons under him. He trained them to be brave, noble and good. They had a great love and respect for their teacher. The kings and noblemen in the country sent their sons to Cheiron to receive the best possible education under him.

Cheiron lived with his young pupils in the cave at the foot of the hill. He loved his pupils very much. He taught them poetry, science and music. He taught them many things that make men happy, brave and virtuous. He gave them the best education possible.

Every day the boys went out into the forest on the mountains nearby. They spent much of the day in the forest and came to Cheiron in the evening. They told him what they had observed in the forest and what they had done during the day. Cheiron was much pleased to hear each of them tell his adventures in the forest during the day. Then they cooked their food and ate it. Then they sang and danced to the tune of Cheiron's harp. They lay down on the grassy plains and went to sleep.

One evening as usual the boys returned to the cave from the forest. Cheiron was in the cave. They cried out, 'Come out, Father Cheiron, and see what we have brought.'

Cheiron came out to receive them. He was filled with joy when he saw his pupils.

'I have killed these two deer,' said one of the boys. 'We will have a nice dinner of them.'

'I have killed a wild goat,' said the second boy. 'I have brought his skin to make a soft bed for us.'

'I tied a strong root round the neck of this bull,' said the third. 'We will try our strength with him and drag him many times round the cave.'

'I have brought these two bear cubs under my arms,' said the fourth boy. 'We will have a lot of fun with them.'

Cheiron praised them all. There was one boy standing a little away. His name was Asclepius. He carried with him many leaves and flowers. He carried a snake in his hands. He came to Cheiron and said in low voice: 'Father Cheiron! I saw this snake throw off its old skin and become young again. Perhaps I stayed a long time there. I went into the village and cured a dying man with the juice of this herb. I had seen a sick goat eat this herb and become well.'

'Very good,' said Cheiron, 'that is a noble deed.' Cheiron was very happy with the boys. He said, 'Dear boys, you have all done well.' Drawing Asclepius nearer, he said, 'My young boy, you have done the best. You have cured and saved while others have killed.'

QUESTIONS

1. Who was Cheiron ?
2. Where did he live ?
3. What did he teach his pupils ?
4. How did the boys spend their time with him ?
5. What did the first boy tell Cheiron one evening ?
6. What did the fourth boy tell him ?
7. What did Asclepius tell Cheiron ?
8. What did Cheiron say to the boys in the end ?

12. BENJAMIN AND HIS FATHER

ABOUT two hundred years ago there lived, in one of the towns of America, a boy named Benjamin Franklin. Later in life he rose to a very high place. He was one of those who played an important part in the national life of America.

Benjamin was a good-looking boy. He was clever and thoughtful and his father liked him much. He was fond of fishing and often went with his friend to a pool nearby to catch fish. There was a river by the side of the pool. The pool was full of mud and the boys had to go into the mud knee-deep to catch fish. They often got their shoes, stockings and trousers spoiled by the mud. Also they had to stand for a long time to catch fish.

One day, when they were fishing in the pool Benjamin said to his friends, 'We must put an end to this difficulty. We cannot move in this mud like ducks. We must make our fishing a happier task.' He began to think of a plan.

As he was returning home with his friends, he saw on the way a heap of stones in an open space. They were piled up there by a farmer to build a new house. All on a sudden he hit upon a plan. He looked at his friends and said, 'Friends, we will no more have the trouble of standing in the mud for long hours. We need not get our clothes also spoiled. Look at these stones. We will carry them to the

pool and build a nice platform. It will help us to catch fish easily. It will also help the fishermen a good deal. The boatmen up and down the river will make it a resting place.'

The boys agreed. They decided to come there in the night and carry the stones by the moon-light to the pool.

When it was night the boys gathered there and removed all the stones to the pool. They did so easily because they were many in number. Soon they built a very nice platform in the pool. Benjamin was their leader. When the work was finished they were happy and went home praising one another.

Next morning, the workmen came to the place to build the house. They were surprised when they did not see the stones there. They searched for the stones. They saw marks of small feet on the ground. The marks led them to the platform in the pool. The truth became clear to them. They knew that the boys had built the platform in the night with the stones. They looked carefully at the platform and they found that it was built very strongly and beautifully. Though they praised the work of the boys, they were angry with them for having stolen the stones.

The owner of the house was kind enough not to report it to the police. But the parents of the boys came to know of it. They scolded and punished their boys.

Benjamin's father was angry when he heard the news. He called the boy into his room. He said, 'Well, Benjamin, why did you steal the stones that belonged to the farmer?'

Benjamin was at first afraid. But he slowly gathered courage and looking at his father said, 'Dear father, I thought it was no stealing. I did not take the stones for my use. I wanted to do good to a large number of people with them. If the farmer built a house with them, he alone would use it. But the platform in the pool would be useful to many.' The father was still angry. He did not agree with his son. Shaking his head he said to him, 'But in trying to do good to many people, you have really done a great wrong.'

'How?' said the boy. There was surprise in his face. The father gently patted him on the shoulder. He said, 'Dear boy, in-trying to do good to a large number, we must not turn away from the highest rules of conduct. The Lord has said that we should not steal. That is one of the first rules laid down for us by the Lord. Any good done to the people against His laws is no good at all. On the other hand it is a great harm. Good things are to be done by good methods. Also in doing good to many no person should suffer.'

'Thank you, father,' said the boy, 'I now see my mistake. I know now that I have done a wrong thing. I will never do so again.'

Benjamin Franklin remembered for ever the good lesson which his father had taught him.

QUESTIONS

1. Who was Benjamin Franklin?
2. Why did he go often to the pool with his friends?
3. In what kind of place did they catch fish?
4. What did Benjamin tell his friends one day when they were fishing?
5. What did they do to get rid of the difficulty they had in fishing in the pool?
6. How did the workmen come to know that the stones were stolen by the boys?
7. What did Benjamin tell his father when asked why he had stolen the stones?
8. What did his father tell him then?

13. NAPOLEON AND THE YOUNG MAN

ABOUT one hundred and thirty years ago, there lived in France one of the greatest soldiers called Napoleon. He entered the French army when he was young, as an ordinary soldier. He rose quickly to a high position in the army by his good work and courage. He grew very powerful and soon became the greatest man in the country. He fought several wars with the neighbouring countries and won great victories over them. France under him was very powerful.

He chose the officers who worked under him very carefully. He worked hard and made them work hard. He was hard to them when there was need to be so. But he was kind to them when there was no need to be hard. He loved his men and paid them well.

He had several secretaries under him and one of them was a tall, handsome youth. Napoleon liked him for his good work and paid him a thousand francs every month. This secretary had the bad habit of spending more than he earned. He spent his money freely and was soon heavily in debt. He owed a lot of money to the men in the town. After a few days the men began to ask him to repay the money. They asked him several times to pay it back. The young man was worried. He had no money to pay them. He was not happy and could not eat and sleep well. One night after supper he

went to bed. But he could not sleep at all. The thought of his debts came into his mind again and again and worried him much. He got up and walked to his office. He lit the lamps and began to work at his table. It was late at night. A few minutes later, Napoleon came that way on some work. He saw the lights burning in the office at that late hour. He went into the office and found the secretary working at his table. He went to him and sat on a chair by his side. The secretary saw his master. He got up and bowed to him respectfully.

‘Young man,’ said Napoleon, ‘it is late at night.’ ‘Why are you still at your papers?’

‘Respected Sir, I wished to answer these papers quickly and send them by early morning.’

‘Are they so urgent?’ said Napoleon. ‘Let me see them.’

Napoleon looked into the papers. They were not papers to be answered urgently.

‘These are not urgent,’ said Napoleon, ‘you can answer them tomorrow. Why do you worry yourself about them at this late hour? This is the time for you to sleep.’

‘I could not sleep, Sir,’ said the young man, ‘and so I wanted to do some work in the office.’

‘So, you could not go to sleep,’ said Napoleon. ‘Young men like you should be able to sleep after a day’s hard work. Tell me what it is that worries you, and drives the sleep away from you.’

The secretary was afraid. He did not speak. ‘Surely there is something wrong with you,’ said

Napoleon, 'tell me what it is.' 'I have run into debt, Sir,' replied the young man, 'and the men whom I owe are pressing me for the money.' 'What is the amount of the debt?' asked Napoleon.

'Ten thousand francs, Sir,' replied the young man. 'Wonderful,' said Napoleon, 'you get a thousand francs a month and still you have debts to pay. You must be leading a bad life.' The secretary's face was pale with fear. Napoleon was angry. He said, 'I do not want you to work under me any more. It is shameful that my secretary should owe money to people. It is shameful to know that the debts are your own making. I do not like your way of living. You may go home.'

The young man was sent away. He was very sad. He went home. He had an old father and mother whom he had to support. He had a wife and a child who depended upon him. Early in the morning an officer came to him with a packet and a letter from Napoleon. The young man opened the packet and found ten thousand francs in it. He read the letter. Napoleon had written to him that he had thought over the matter well. He felt that by removing him from office his family would suffer a lot. He asked him to pay the debts with the money sent. He also said that the money was his own. He asked him to lead a good life and be happy from that day.

Napoleon took the young man again into his office. The young man was full of joy. He was very grateful to his master. He became a good man and never spent more than he earned.

QUESTIONS

1. Who was Napoleon?
2. How did he treat the officers under him?
3. What kind of man was the secretary?
4. What was the result of his spending money freely?
5. Why did he go to his office at a late hour one night?
6. What happened then?
7. Why did Napoleon remove the young man from his office?
8. What did Napoleon do in the morning?

Very good

LIST OF NEW WORDS

The number in brackets denotes the lesson in which the word first appears in this book.

A

admit (7)
 advantage (4)
 affection (10)
 aloud (4)
 amount (10)
 astonished (1)

B

baby (5)
 beak (5)
 bear-cubs (11)
 bird (5)
 blind (6)
 bold (7)
 bowed (2)
 bray (6)
 bread (8)
 bury (2)

C

clap (8)
 clothes (2)
 coin (8)
 colours (8)
 conduct (10)
 courage (13)
 court (7)
 coward (7)
 cradle (5)
 cry (5)
 cure (11)
 curtain (7)

D

dare (8)
 debt (13)
 deceive (3)
 deed (11)
 desire (2)
 difficulty (12)
 distance (6)
 donkey (6)
 dove (9)
 drawing (8)
 dress (2)
 drum (3)
 duck (12)

E

earn (13)
 earth (2)
 egg (5)
 elder (1)
 envious (1)
 enjoy (4)
 equally (1)
 excuse (2)

F

fat (9)
 fishing (12)
 folds (7)
 fowl (6)
 fun (11)

G

garden (1)
 grand (10)

grant (7)
 greedy (1)
 grassy (11)

H

handsome (10)
 headman (2)
 health (9)
 heart (11)
 hurt (5)

I

inside (5)

J

jewels (2)
 journey (6)
 juice (3)

K

kindness (2)

L

lame (6)
 lamp (13)
 lead (13)
 limp (1)

M

meat-seller (4)
 melon (1)
 mighty (2)

N

national (12)
neck (11)
neglect (10)
nest (5)
news (4)
nicely (8)

O

owe (13)

P

pale (13)
pardon (7)
party (7)
pat (12)
peacock (8)
picture (8)
piled (12)
plant (1)
portion (7)
poverty (10)
praise (11)
pressing (13)
price (10)
prisoner (7)
pupils (11)
purchase (6)

Q

queen (10)

R

rays (10)
recognize (7)
reconcile (10)
remove (13)
repeat (5)
request (7)
ripe (1)
roast (6)
rob (8)
roaring (3)
royal (10)
rug (6)
ruin (1)

S

scold (7)
search (1)
seed (1)
shameful (13)
sheet (6)
shoulder (12)
silly (6)
simple (2)
space (12)
stockings (12)
straw (4)
suffer (13)
supper (6)
support (13)
swing (5)

T

tear (7)
thread (10)
trial (7)
trousers (12)

U

understand (7)
urgent (13)

V

vain (8)
value (10)
virtuous (2)

W

warm (6)
wear (10)
weary (4)
weaver (10)
wicked (6)
willing (4)
wing (1)
wool (6)
worry (7)
worthy (10)

Y

youth (13)

very good
Moby Donaya