

An Adaptation of New Language Exercises for Primary Schools by C. C. Long

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(Excerpted and adapted from the original book.)

INSTRUCTION in language often deals too much with the forms of sentences and too little with thought. Grammatical drill has little effect upon the correctness of every-day expression. The child should be continually engaged in forming exact ideas about objects of study, and in expressing them clearly and accurately. Language is a medium, merely, for the expression of thought, and it is important that its nature and purpose be kept in mind.

The value of the lessons in this book is to be sought in the habits of observation and reflection they teach, and in the practice they give in forming exact ideas, and in expressing them clearly. Things seen every day, pictures, choice stories, animals, letter-writing, etc.,subjects upon which the thoughts, of children exercise themselves spontaneously, -furnish material for these lessons.

The terms "noun," "verb," "adjective," etc., have been used for convenience, and not for the purpose of definition and minute grammatical classification. The children will soon become familiar with them and will use them properly, just as they use many other class words which they can not define formally.

Most of the exercises in this book have been subjected to the test of class use. It is believed that they will commend themselves to teachers who are seeking rational methods of instruction in language.


# Introduction 

## And Instructions


have observed that, if not corrected early-on, some habits of poor grammar and spelling can become like permanent marker on the walls of a young child's mind. Even though I agree heartily with the idea that children learn spelling and grammar best by reading and writing, my own children have needed more specific instruction. However, I'm not willing to overburden them with a complete English program in every grade. This repetition of the same information year-after -year kills the love of language in children.

## I needed to find a program that was:

- Something I could put on "auto pilot"
- Quick (for kids who already had trouble sitting still for reading and math)
- Not technical
- Cheap and easy to put together (not too much printing, cutting, pasting, etc., etc., etc.)

Early-on I discovered Simply Grammar, an expanded version of Charlotte Mason's First Grammar Lessons. However, the work was meant to be done orally, which was too much work for a woman juggling children at six different levels at the same time.

Finally, I stumbled upon Dollar Homeschool in The Old Schoolhouse magazine. This company specializes in collecting school books from times past and making them available in digital

form for modern use. These materials were written before the Progressive education movement in America, a time before humanism and its psychobabble began to rule the way children were taught.

Included on one of the CD's from Dollar Homeschool was a collection of grammar books, and in particular two which I found very interesting. These were written by a person by the name of C. C. Long and were entitled New Language Exercises for Primary Schools part one and part two (I like to refer to them as "Long's Language"). As I read through them I became more and more excited; this was finally the answer, the tool that would help fill the gap and turn my beginning readers into confident, competent writers!

For one thing, the first lessons are not about nouns and verbs. There is actually very little mentioned in the first book about grammar at all, although grammar is the subject. Instead, children are asked to write about themselves, where they live, etc. The lessons present sentences as "statements" including a subject and a predicate without ever mentioning the technical terms. Within the first 50 lessons, my little ones have been able to write short paragraphs that describe familiar objects such as a ball, a cow, etc.

For another thing, the lessons are oh, so short! The instructions are usually one or two sentences long, and the exercise is not more than six to twelve short sentences (that follow a formula, so there is not that much thinking involved). If a child is focused, which is easy to do because of the simplicity, the longest lesson takes less than 15 minutes to complete!

Besides all this, the work is mostly self-directed. The learning is gradual, no great leaps are expected from one day to another, so little instruction or oversight is necessary. This is certainly a win/win for us moms of many! My children come away from the lessons feeling accomplished and energized without feeling frustrated. Before I realize it they are well on their way to being successful writers!

After I published a post on my blog recommending this resource, I realized there was a way to make things even easier (both for me and for my readers).

So, I finally sat down with some computer software and began the process of taking the original book and re-engineering it for modern use.

The result is what you see here. As a result of prayer, I was able to come up with a way that streamlined the lessons and created a work text of sorts, with the original directions and copywork presented with places directly adjoining for the child to complete the work. The instructions are included in each page - no extra searching,
no lugging around a teacher's manual, no loss due to distraction between the printed page and the actual work.

While I tried to keep to the flavor of the original work, I did tweak the lessons in a few areas, including some correction where the wording was a bit too archaic. I also restructured some of the composition lessons and even wrote a few to add that were more appropriate where necessary.

You will probably want to spend a minute or two on each lesson just to make sure the instructions are understood, and I would also check up to make sure they are done with neatness (remember, a little done well is better than a lot done poorly).

* Dictation lessons are repeated on the last few pages for your convenience.

Easy as pie, right?
Please note: You won't want your child to attempt this level until he/she has a good understanding of the different types of sentences and has a basic grasp of punctuation. If he is not used to these things, have him go through the first and second levels of Gentle Grammar before you try this third level.

## Blessings,

P.S. For any further information on this or any other of our projects, please visit our site, momdelights.com


| LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |  |
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|  | THE SENTENCE |
|  |  |
|  | Lesson 1. - Think something about: <br> An apple; a bird; the flowers on the desk. <br> Tell what you think. <br> Think of the objects you saw while coming to school. Tell one thing about each object. <br> When you use words to tell what you think, you make a sentence; as, The apple is sweet. |
|  | Write a sentence about: |
| 1. | A horse |
| 2. | The sun |
|  |  |
|  |  |


|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | Lesson 1. (continued) |
| 3. | Summer |
| 4. | Some fruit which you like |
| 5. | An animal that can swim |
|  | Lesson 2. - Statements. Write statements about: |
| 1. | Your desk |
| 2. | Your slate |
| 3. | The wind |
| 4. | The snow |
| 5. | A lamp |
| 6. | A picture |





| LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |  |
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|  | Lesson 5. -The Exclamation. |
|  |  |
|  | A word or a sentence may express sudden feeling; as, See how it rains! Hurra! We have won. There! I have lost my book. <br> The mark (!) is called an exclamation point. Write these sentences, using an exclamation point. |
| 1. | How hard it rains |
| 2. | What a cold day it is |
| 3. | Hark what is that? |
| 4. | How beautiful the roses are |
| 5. | There the bird has flown. |
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|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | Lesson 6. - Dictation Exercise |
|  | Ida, bring me your book. <br> Why are you so happy, O birdie? <br> Reindeer and seals live in cold countries. <br> Some ferns, mosses, and grasses grow near. <br> What beautiful sunsets we have! |
| 1, |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |
|  | TO THE TEACHER: Read each sentence slowly. Do not repeat. These pages can be found on the last pages |
|  |  |



|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | PROPER AND COMMON NAMES |
|  | Lesson 8. - Dictation Exercise. |
|  | John lives on Charles Street. <br> Coffee is brought from Brazil. <br> We sailed up the Hudson River. <br> New York is the largest city in the United States. <br> America was discovered by Christopher Columbus. |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |
|  | TO THE TEACHER: Read each sentence slowly. Do not repeat. These pages can be found on the last pages |


|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | CHRISTIAN NAMES AND SURNAMES |
|  | Lesson 9. - The name given to a person by his parents is called the Christian name. <br> The last name is called the family name or surname. <br> EXAMPLE. - Charles Dickens was a novelist. <br> The first name, Charles, is called the Christian name. <br> The last name, Dickens, is called the surname. |
|  | Write answers to these questions. Make each answer a complete statement. |
| 1. | What is your surname? |
| 2. | What is your Christian name? |
| 3. | What is your father's surname? |
| 4. | What is your father's Christian name? |
| 5. | What is your mother's Christian name? |
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| LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |  |
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|  | INITIALS |
|  | Lesson 10. - The first letter of a word is called the initial letter. We often write only the initial of a person's Christian name; thus, H. Rose for Harry Rose. J. Milton for John Milton. C. J. Walton for Charles John Walton. |
| 1. | Write your full name. |
| 2. | Write your initials. |
| 3. | Write your father's full name. |
| 4. | Write your father's initials. |
| 5. | Write the initial of your state. |
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|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | ABBREVIATIONS |
|  | Lesson 12. - The following are the abbreviations of the days and the months. <br> Write the words for which they stand. |
| 1. | Sun. |
| 2. | Thurs. |
| 3. | Feb. |
| 4. | Sept. |
| 5. | Mon. |
| 6. | Fri. |
| 7. | Mar. |
| 8. | Oct. |



|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | Lesson 13. - Dictation Exercises. |
| I. | School begins at 9 o' clock A. M. and closes at 4 P. M. Capt. And Mrs. Fay live at 112 Regent St. <br> St. James Chapel is on Forest Ave. |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| II. | George Washington was the first President of the United States. He was born Feb. 22, 1732, and died Dec. 14, 1799. |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | TO THE TEACHER: Read each sentence slowly. Do not repeat. These pages can be found on the last pages |
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|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | THE QUESTION |
|  | Lesson 15. The Seasons* Write complete answers. |
| 1. | What return in spring? |
| 2. | Do they build their nests? |
| 3. | Where? |
| 4. | Does the grass spring up? |
| 5. | What flowers bloom in spring? |
| 6. | Are we glad to see them? |
| 7. | Who like to gather them? |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  | *TO THE TEACHER. - As a preparation for the written work, bring out, by easy, pleasant questioning all that the children know about each season, - what are the signs of its coming, the differences in the seasons in weather, length of days, vegetation, etc. |


|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | THE SEASONS |
|  | Lesson 15. (continued) |
| 8. | Are the fruit trees white with blossoms? |
| 9. | In summer does the weather get warmer? |
| 10. | Are the fields covered with grass and flowers? |
| 11. | Are the trees in full leaf? |
| 12. | Are the peaches and apples ripening? |
| 13. | In autumn is the yellow corn gathered in? |
| 14. | Does the frost change the color of the leaves? |
| 15. | What does the November wind do with them? |
| 16. | Does Thanksgiving Day come? |


| LANGUAGE EXERCISES |  |
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| LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |  |  |  |  |
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|  | NAMES: SINGULAR AND PLURAL |  |  |  |
|  | Lesson 16. - A name may denote one; as man, dog, hat. <br> A name may denote more than one; as men, dogs, hats. <br> When names mean only one, they are in the singular form. <br> When they mean more than one, they are in the plural form. Write these words in the plural form by adding s. |  |  |  |
|  | hill | wreath | parcel | petal |
| pond |  | tongue | eyelid | sailor |
| river |  | beggar | pebble | cupful |
| brook |  | meadow | cupful | spoonful |
| Write the above plural words in sentences. |  |  |  |  |
| 1. | hills |  |  |  |
| 2. | wreaths |  |  |  |
| 3. | parcels |  |  |  |


|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | NAMES: SINGULAR AND PLURAL |
|  | Lesson 16. - (continued) |
| 4. | petals |
| 5. | ponds |
| 6. | tongues |
| 7. | eyelids |
| 8. | sailors |
| 9. | rivers |
| 10. | beggars |
| 11. | pebbles |
| 12. | cupfuls |


| LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE |  |  |
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|  | NAMES: SINGULAR AND PLURAL |  |

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE

## SINGULAR AND PLURAL.

Lesson 18. - Write in the plural form by changing f or fe to ves.

| leaf | loaf | beef |  | thief |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| half | life |  | wolf | shelf |
| wife | calf | knife |  | sheaf |
| Lesson 19. - When names end in $y$ preceded by $a, e$, or $o$, add $s$ to form the plural. Write each plural below its singular form. |  |  |  |  |
| day | boy | valley | turkey | ray |
| key | toy | chimney | monkey | alley |

Make these names plural by changing the y to ies.

| city | pony | tidy | berry | army |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| lady | story | baby | cherry | study |
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| LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |  |  |  |
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| SINGULAR AND PLURAL |  |  |  |
| Lesson 20. - Which of these words mean one? Write 1 beside it. Which mean more than one? Write + beside it. |  |  |  |
| ox | goose | foot | mouse |
| oxen | geese | feet | mice |
| man | child | tooth | woman |
| men | children | teeth | women |
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| LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |  |  |
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|  | WORDS THAT DENOTE POSSESSION. |  |
|  | Lesson 21. - We write an apostrophe (') and (s) after singular names to denote possession; thus, |  |
|  | The boy's hat | The bird's nest |
|  | The girl's dress | The cat's claws |
|  | Write sentences containing the following: |  |
| 1. | The tree's leaf |  |
| 2. | The robin's egg |  |
| 3. | The horse's tail |  |
| 4. | The cow's head |  |
| 5. | The scholar's book |  |
| 6. | The squirrel's tooth |  |
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| LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |  |  |
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|  | THE APOSTROPHE |  |
|  | Lesson 26. - Dictation Exercise (continued) |  |
| 1. |  | 3 |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |
| 5. |  |  |
| 6. |  |  |
| 7. |  |  |
| 8. |  |  |
| 9. |  |  |






| LANGUAGE EXERCISES |  |
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|  | THIRD READER GRADE |
|  | Lesson 30. (continued) |
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|  | How does a mineral resemble a plant? |
|  |  |
|  | How does a plant resemble an animal? |
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|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE |
|  | Lesson 32.-Write answers in complete sentences. |
| 1. | In what town or city do you live? |
|  |  |
| 2. | Name some of the occupations of the people. |
|  |  |
| 3. | What animals are found where you live? |
|  |  |
| 4. | What grains are raised near where you live? |
|  |  |
| 6. | What vegetables are raised near where you live? |
|  |  |
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|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE |
| 7. | What trees grow in the neighborhood? |
|  |  |
| 8. | What berries grow in the neighborhood? |
| 9. | Write the names of three or more cultivated flowers. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 10. | Write the names of three or more wild flowers. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 11. | What animals are raised in this part of the country? |
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| LANGUAGE EXERCISES |
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## LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE

|  | Lesson 33. (continued). |
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|  | THIRD READER GRADE |


| LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE |  |
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|  | Lesson 34. (continued) |
|  | A STORY ABOUT KITES. |
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## LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE


Q. - What kind of bird is it? A. - A pretty bird.
Q. - What kind of child is it?
A. - A good child.
Q. - What kind of dog is it? A. - A cross dog.

The words "pretty," "good," and "cross," tell the kind. Such words are called adjectives.


|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | WORDS TO SHOW WHAT KIND. |
|  | Lesson 36. - Think of objects what have the quality named below, and describe them; thus, |
| 1. | mellow, hard |
| 2. | clear, muddy |
| 3. | heavy, light |
| 4. | narrow, wide |
| 5. | high, low |
| 6. | long, short |
| 7. | dull, sharp |
| 8. | thick, thin |
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|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | WORDS TO SHOW WHAT KIND. |
|  | Lesson 37. - Think of a particular "day," "tree," etc., so that you may describe a real object; thus, |
|  | Last Monday was a warm, sunny day. |
| 1. | Use cloudy, stormy, in describing a day. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 2. | Use old, barren, in describing a fruit tree. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 3. | Use polite, agreeable, in describing a girl |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 4. | Use large, light, airy, in describing a room. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 5. | Use active, strong, brave, in describing a dog. |
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|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | WORDS THAT EXPRESS ACTION. |
|  | Lesson 39. - (continued) |
| 4. | have eaten |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 5. | gave |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 6. | have given |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 7. | took |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 8. | have taken |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| 9. | threw |
|  |  |
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| LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE |
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| WORDS THAT EXPRESS ACTION. |


|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | WORDS THAT EXPRESS ACTION. |
|  | Lesson 40. - Sit and Set. |
|  | Sit and set are words which are often wrongly used. <br> Sit means to place one's self on a chair or other seat; as, Mary sits by the window. <br> Set means to put something in any place; as, He set the lamp on the table. <br> Explain why "sit" is used instead of "set" in the following sentences. |
| 1. | Sit on the chair. |
| 2. | Where shall I sit? |
| 3. | They sit in the shade. |
|  | Explain why "set" is used instead of "sit" in the following sentences. |
| 1. | Set the glass down. |
| 2. | Where shall I set the basket? |
| 3. | He set the chair by the window. |


|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | WORDS THAT EXPRESS ACTION. |
|  | Lesson 41. - The following are forms of "sit" and "set." Write sentences showing their correct use. |
| 1. | sit |
| 2. | sat |
| 3. | has sat |
| 4. | have sat |
| 5. | set |
| 6. | set |
| 7. | has set |
| 8. | have set |
|  |  |
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| LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | WORDS THAT EXPRESS ACTION. |
|  | Lesson 41. - (continued) |
|  | Will you sit with me? <br> I will sit in this chair. <br> The pitcher sits on the table. <br> Clara and Anna sit together. <br> Do the girls sit in the shade? <br> She set the pitcher on the table. <br> Did you set the vases on the mantel? <br> The girl set the tub in the corner. <br> Have you set the baskets on the floor? <br> Edith sets the table every morning. |
| Lesson 42. - Complete the following sentences. |  |
| 1. | Does the castor ___ on the table or on the shelf? |
| 2. | _ the chair near the window and ___ in it. |
| 3. | the lamp on the table. Let it $\qquad$ there. |
| 4. | You $\qquad$ the baby on the floor and she has $\qquad$ there for half an hour. |
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|  | OUR WANTS. |
| 1. | Nesson 45. - Write answers to these questions. |
|  |  |
| 2. | Which is the most useful metal? |
|  |  |
| 3. | Name five articles made of it. |
|  |  |
| 4. | Which are called the precious metals? |
|  |  |
| 5. | What metals are made into money? |
| 7. | How are metals usually obtained? |
| 6. | Name three beautiful articles made of metals. |
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## LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE

## QUOTATIONS.

|  | Lesson 47. - (continued) |
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## LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE

## STORIES FOR REPRODUCTION.

Lesson 48. - The Fox and the Grapes.

A hungry fox saw some fine grapes hanging above his head. He tried for a long time to get them, but could not succeed.
"I have no doubt they are sour," said he, and went away.

What do you call a story of this kind? What is a fable?
Write in your own words the story of "The Fox and the Grapes."
*To the Parent: Oral reproduction should precede the written. The child should be able to tell the story well before he is asked to write it.

|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE |
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|  | LESSONS FOR REPRODUCTION. |
|  | Lesson 49. - The Lion and the Mouse. |
|  | A lion lay down to rest under a shady oak. While he slept a mouse ran over his face and waked him. The lion laid his paw on the mouse and was about to kill him in anger. But the mouse begged so hard for his life that the lion let him go. <br> Not long after, the lion was caught in a net. The mouse, hearing his roars, came and gnawed the ropes and set the lion free. |
|  | What does this story teach? Are not the strong often dependent upon the weak? |
|  | Write the story of "The Lion and the Mouse." |
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|  | LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE |
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| Lesson 52. - The Cow |  |
| stout, clumsy body |  |
| broad head |  |
| short, strong legs |  |



## LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE

Lesson 54. - Read the story carefully, then write it in your own words.
Soon after a snow-storm, a little boy began to shovel a path through a great snow-bank before his grandmother's door. He had nothing but a sall shovel to work with.
"How do you expect to get through that drift?" asked a man passing by.
"By keeping at it," Said the boy cheerfully.
"By keeping at $\mathrm{it}^{\prime}$ " is the secret of mastering almost every difficulty.

Read and memorize.
If by easy work you beat, Who the more will prize you?
Gaining victory from defeatThat's the test that tries you!


| LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE |  |
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|  | Lesson 55. - (continued) |
|  | Tell the story orally in as few words as possible. |
|  | Write the story in your own words, without using quotation marks. |
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## LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE

|  | Lesson 57. - Write the following letters, filling the blanks with the proper <br> words. |
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|  | Dear Mama, |
|  | I will tell you how all is going on at home. Papa says |
|  | he thinks I keep the house tidy. |
|  | Every morning I dress sister Mabel. Before I begin to |
|  | practice on the piano, I sweep the porch and help Mary |
|  | with the dishes. The vase on the mantel is always kept |
|  | Your affectionate daughter, |
|  | full of fresh flowers. |
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## LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE

|  | Lesson 60. - Letter Writing |
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|  | Write a short letter to your mother telling her how much you |
| appreciate all that she does for you. |  |

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE

## DICTATION EXERCISES FOR PARENTS TO READ ALOUD

Dictation lesson 6:
Ida, bring me your book.
Why are you so happy, O birdie?
Reindeer and seals live in cold countries.
Some ferns, mosses, and grasses grow near.
What beautiful sunsets we have!

Dictation lesson 8:
John lives on Charles Street.
Coffee is brought from Brazil.
We sailed up the Hudson River.
New York is the largest city in the United States.
America was discovered by Christopher Columbus

Dictation lesson 13:
I School begins at 9 o'clock A. M. and closes at 4 P. M.
Capt. And Mrs. Fay live at 112 Regent St.
St. James Chapel is on Forest Ave.

George Washington was the first President of the United States. He was born Feb. 22, 1732, and died Dec. 14, 1799.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE



Dictation lesson 30:
Everything that lives, eats, feels, and can move about is called an animal. Anything that grows from the ground is called a plant. Anything that does not live, and is dug out of the earth, is called a mineral. Some minerals, such as gold, silver, iron, lead, and tin, are called metals.

## LANGUAGE EXERCISES THIRD READER GRADE

Dictation lesson 47:
"Whose slate have you?" said John.
"James's," replied Thomas.
"There are two slates here," said Frank.
"Their frames are broken," answered Thomas.
"Good-bye, little bird," said Grace as it flew away.
The teacher shook hands with Anne and said, "Good morning. How are you today?
are you today?

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## LANGUAGE EXERCISES <br> THIRD READER GRADE


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