

McGuffey's Readers

Learning to read
"The McGuffey Way"
offers your student:

*Phonics Foundations,
Moral Growth,
and
Rich Vocabulary*



IT'S TIME FOR THE CLASSICS AGAIN

How would McGuffey teach reading if he were here today? His first concern would be that the content should promote moral growth and excellence of mind in habits, attitudes, and literary tastes. And Bible selections would be at the top of his reading list.

McGuffey also believed in phonics for beginning reading. Methods and timing should be adapted to the individuality of each child. Parents should not send their dearest treasure off to school too early in life, but should proceed at the child's own pace. This preserves the vigor of his mental action.

McGuffey believed in memorizing as a way to develop habits of attention that promote understanding and mastery of ALL learning, even those studies which are not memorized.

McGuffey believed that an obvious result of a cultivated mind is a wide vocabulary. And the best way to cultivate a wide vocabulary is to learn words in their context, as in studying the important ideas and noble thoughts presented in the Readers.

These principles produce the education that shaped American character, particularly in the West, for over one hundred years. It's the kind of education the majority of Americans want and need today.

About the Author:

William Holmes McGuffey (1800-1873) was a "born" educator. Beginning by teaching his younger brothers and sisters, William McGuffey accepted his first teaching position at 13 in a one-room school with 48 students. After graduating from Washington College and being ordained as a Presbyterian minister, he taught moral philosophy at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio for almost ten years. It was during this period that McGuffey wrote and compiled the Readers that made him famous. Later McGuffey rose to the rank of university president, serving Cincinnati College and Ohio University. He spent the final third of his life teaching moral philosophy at the University of Virginia.

PRIMER - Phonics in Song

Begins with the alphabet. Moves to simple one-syllable words such as cat and fox, then on to more difficult one-syllable words such as horse and spring. Illustrated with the charming original drawings.

PICTORIAL PRIMER

Begins with the alphabet. Early lessons have simple three- and four-word sentences of one line each. Progresses to longer sentences and full paragraphs. Original illustrations throughout. Both this primer and the one above can be used in first and second grades.

FIRST READER

Most words are phonetically regular. A few have silent letters. The words get as hard as "would" and "stalked" and "engaged." Includes stories of children who want to please God and who love to learn. Use in the second and third grades.

SECOND READER

Begins with one- and two-syllable words and progresses to more difficult words - covering about third grade through fifth grade reading levels. Contains stories on the Bible, American history, manners, animals, courage, honesty, God, and the love of reading.

THIRD READER

Develops thinking skills and the richer vocabulary of grades six through eight. Contains famous authors such as Addison, Irving, and Byron. Readings address questions such as how we know the Bible is from God; character building topics such as work versus idleness; and topics of science and nature. This book is an education in itself and not merely a Reader. After mastering this, the student is reading better than most high school students.

FOURTH READER

Develops advanced vocabulary and thinking skills. Introduces some of the greatest English authors - Webster, Jefferson, Shakespeare, Johnson, Schiller and others. Students will read of Napoleon and Wilberforce, of Jesus and the Apostle Paul. They will ponder death, good and evil, the Bible, eternity, duty, and God. Elocution helps included. May be used at high school level, although some schools use it with good readers in junior high.

PROGRESSIVE SPELLER by Alexander H. McGuffey (brother of William McGuffey). Called "Progressive" because it begins with basic phonics and progresses to advanced vocabulary worthy of a graduate student. As such, it is the only spelling book you will ever need.

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PARENT-TEACHER GUIDE by Ruth Beechick (Please Note: This Parent-Teacher Guide has been written Expressly for Mott Media's republication of the 1830's McGuffey Readers.) For the first time ever - a comprehensive guide for using the McGuffey Readers. Includes general helps for teaching reading and specific ideas for each lesson. Not too little, not too much, but just right.

McGUFFEY AND HIS READERS by John II. Westerhoff III Learn about William McGuffey and the impact his readers had on the piety, morality and education in 19th century America.

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