

A Snake!

Book 7



An updated reprint of

‘Nature Knowledge The Newton Readers Book 1’

Reading Made Simple

The Newton Readers Book 1 (Published by Blackie and Son Ltd. in the 1800's) was an early reader many years ago, which imparted nature knowledge to children as they learned to read. It must be one of the greatest advantages of learning to read, that the world of knowledge is opened to the young mind, which is ready to absorb all manner of fascinating facts, so taught in an interesting manner. Few copies of this book remain in existence. I can find no record of the subsequent books.

In order to preserve the book for future generations, I have reprinted this first book in sections to make it more accessible for the early reader, and given it a more updated feel with a colour frontage while keeping the original line drawings alongside the text. I have modified the text only slightly where it was necessary, due to the age of the original publication, whilst by no means detracting from its charm. I have not added more pictures to the text as I believe that children should be taught to focus on the words for meaning, and to avoid seeing all literature as entertainment.

You will find that the stories depict the age in which they were written and as such also impart historical knowledge to the reader, which the wise parent/teacher can use profitably

All rights reserved.

1st edition © Copyright J. Arrowsmith 2017

Published by:

Reading Made simple,

Rowdean, West Beeches Rd. Crowborough, UK. TN6 2AG

A SNAKE!

1. The next day was to be the last that Dick was to spend at the farm. After breakfast he said to Jack, "Do let us go down to that pond again, for I should so much like to look at the little tadpoles again."
2. "Come along then," said Jack, "and we will take a jar with us, so that you may be able to carry some tadpoles home."
3. So off the boys went to the pond, running through the long grass.
4. All at once Dick saw Jack stop, and heard him shout to him to come quickly. When he came up, Jack pointed to something in front and said, "There's a snake, Dick; we will try to catch it."
5. As soon as Dick heard the word "snake", he wanted to run away, for he had heard

dreadful tales
about snakes.

6. But Jack told him
there was nothing
to fear, and he
chased the grass-
snake until he
caught it.



7. Dick stood a long way off, and he saw the
snake, which was nearly a yard long, coiling
itself round his cousins' arm. He heard it
hissing loudly. "Won't it bite?" he asked.

8. "No, it is only a grass-snake; and grass-
snakes hardly ever bite. Even if they do bite,
they cannot hurt, for their teeth are so small."

9. "But snakes sting, don't they?"

"No, grass-snakes have no sting; and if you
keep them in a case, they become quite tame.
Come and look at our snake, Dick. Look at the

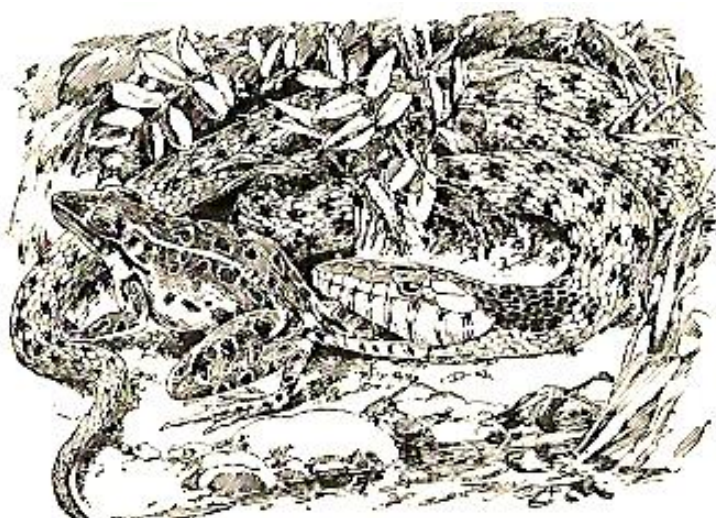
shining scales that cover its body. Its eyes, too, are very bright; but it cannot close them, for it has no eyelids."



Head and Tail of Common Snake.

10. "How funny, Jack! Then it must sleep with its eyes open?"

"Yes, its eyes are always open."



Snake Swallowing a Frog.

"What do snakes eat , Jack?"

11. "They live chiefly on frogs. They swallow them whole, for their teeth are not large

enough to bite their food in pieces.”

12. “Then I should think they can only eat small frogs?” said Dick.

13. “Oh, no!” said Jack. “A snake can swallow a frog that is much thicker than its own body. Its mouth opens very wide and its neck stretches as the frog goes down.



14. “I will put the snake down now, and you will see how easily it glides along among the grass.”

15. Jack put the snake down and off it went among the grass, though it had no legs. It was soon out of sight. “I shall very likely see it again one day, said Jack, “for the snakes come to our dunghill every summer to lay

their eggs.

“A snake lays about twenty eggs. They are white, and much larger than sparrows’ eggs; and they are all stuck together.”

16. The boys passed the day happily together, but next morning Dick had to say good-bye and return to his own home.

A Snake!

Can you remember?

Tell me about the snake's:

Teeth

Grass-snakes have very small teeth. They seldom bite, and they swallow their prey whole.

Scales

Their body is covered with shining scales.

Eyes

Grass-snakes have bright eyes, but being without eyelids they cannot close their eyes.

Legs

Snakes have no legs, but they can move very easily and quickly among the grass.

Eggs

They lay about twenty eggs. The eggs are white, are larger than sparrows' eggs, and are all stuck together.

Food

Grass-snakes live chiefly on frogs. A snake can swallow a frog much thicker than its own body.