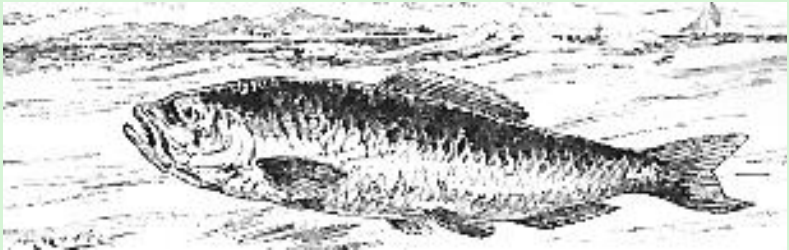


The Herring

Book 8



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

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How to help your student with harder words in the text.

There are a few words, that the early phonic reader may not yet have encountered. I explain below how to approach them. Teacher/parent - read this page first yourself so that you are equipped to help. If you know that your student cannot sound any words in the book, then simply supply them to keep the sense of the passage. Most of these harder words do belong to a phonic family, but you don't want to spoil the flow by using them as a teaching point while they are reading the text. If you feel it is appropriate, then you may use the notes below to draw the student's attention to a few.

breathe 'ea' family saying 'ee' with a silent final 'e'.

blood 'oo' make an 'u' sound - like 'o' saying 'u' in son.

opened This word is in the powerful 'o-e' family.

THE HERRING

1. Mary was fond of going to the kitchen to watch the dinner being cooked. One day, when they were to have fish, Mrs Williams was in the kitchen, and Mary asked her to tell her something about the fish.

2. “These are herrings,” said her mother.



The Herring

“They are caught in the sea, where thousands of them swim about together.”

3. “I could not live in the sea,” said Mary.

“That is true,” said her mother, “for you could not breathe under the water as fishes do.

When you breathe you take air into your

lungs, but fishes have no lungs.”

4. Then do they not breathe at all?” asked Mary.

“Oh yes,” replied her mother; “they must have air, but they get the air from the water, for there is always some air in the water. Look at these large holes at the back of the fish’s head. If I lift up the covers over them, you can see the red gills by which the fish breathes.

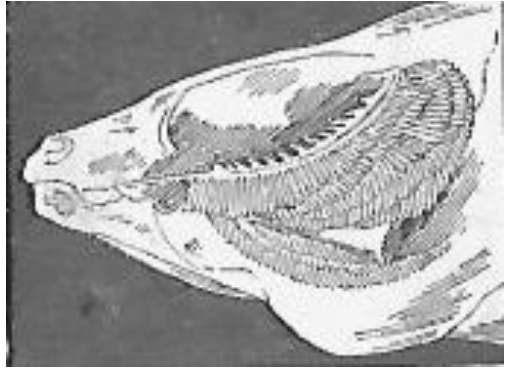
5. “Have you ever seen a living fish in the water, Mary?”

“Oh yes!” said Mary, “I have seen Auntie’s goldfish swimming about in a large glass. All the time I was watching them they were drinking.”

6. “They were not really drinking, Mary,” said her mother. “The water which they took into their mouths passed out again through the

gills.

7. “The gills are red, for there is a great deal of blood in them. When water passes through the gills,



Gill of Fish

the air, which is in it,

goes from the water into the blood. Animals which have lungs breathe as you do; but those which have gills can only take air from water.”

8. Mrs Williams then began scraping the herring.

“What are you doing, mother?” asked Mary who was watching her.

“I am scraping off the skin,” she replied.

“See, it is covered all over with scales.”

“Has the herring any teeth?” asked Mary

next.

9. “Yes, I will show them to you,” replied her mother. She then opened the fish’s mouth and Mary saw a large number of very small and sharp teeth.



Open Mouth of Herring

10. “The fish cannot bite its food into pieces as you do; the teeth are not large enough for that. They are only useful for catching and holding things on which it feeds.”

11. Mary then looked at the fins by which the fish swam. There was one fin on the top of the back; one below near the tail; one on each side near the head; and two very close together below the middle of the body.

12. She saw, too, that the tail was really a fin;

and her mamma told her that all these fins were used for swimming.

The Herring

Can you remember?

Where are herrings caught?

Herrings are caught in the sea, where they swim about in thousands together.

Tell me about the herring's scales.

The herring is covered all over with scales.

Tell me about the herring's gills.

Fishes have no lungs, so they do not breathe as we do. they pass the water through their gills and the air in the water passes from the water into the blood in the gills.

Tell me about the herring's teeth.

The herring has a great many small sharp teeth. With these it can hold the things on which it feeds, but cannot chew them.

Tell me about the herring's fins.

The herring has a number of fins. The fins are used for swimming.