

All is well that ends well.

*Proverbs, Counsels, and Maxims
from The American Spelling Book by Noah Webster*

If a Pig Wore a Wig

If a pig wore a wig
What could we say?
Treat him as a gentleman
And say, "Good day."

If his tail chanced to fail,
What could we do?
Send for a tailoress
To get one new.

– Christina G. Rossetti

Familiar Lessons on Animals

A dog growls and barks; a cat mews and purrs; a rooster crows; a hen clucks and cackles; a bird chirps and sings; an ox lows; a bull bellows; a lion roars; a horse neighs; a donkey brays; a whale spouts. Birds fly in the air by the help of wings; snakes crawl on the earth without feet; fishes swim in water, by means of fins; beasts have feet, with hoofs or claws, to walk or run on land.

All animals are fitted for certain modes of living. The birds which feed on flesh, have strong claws, to catch and hold small animals, and a hooked bill to tear the flesh to pieces; such is the vulture and the hawk. Fowls which feed on insects and grain have mostly a short straight bill, like the robin. Those which live on fish, have long legs for wading or long bills for seizing and holding their prey, like the heron and the fish hawk. Fowls which delight chiefly to fly in the air, and light and build nests on the trees, have their toes divided, by which they cling to the branches and twigs; those which live in and about water

have webbed feet, that is, their toes united by a film or skin, so that their feet serve as oars or paddles for swimming.

See the dog, the cat, the wolf, the lion, the panther and mountain lion; what sharp claws and pointed teeth they have, to seize little animals, and tear them in pieces! But see the gentle cow and ox, and timid sheep—these useful animals are made for man;—they have no claws, nor sharp teeth;—they have only blunt teeth in the under jaw, fitted to crop the grass of the field;—they feed in quiet, and come at the call of man. Oxen submit to the yoke and plow the field, or draw the cart;—the cow returns home at evening, to fill the farmer's pails with milk, the wholesome food of men;—and the sheep yields her yearly fleece, to furnish us with warm garments.

from the American Spelling Book by Noah Webster

Hope well and have well.

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Familiar Lessons on Time

Henry, tell me the number of days in a year. Three hundred and sixty-five.—How many weeks in a year? Fifty-two.—How many days in a week? Seven.—What are they called? Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: Sunday is the Sabbath, or day of rest, and called the Lord's day, being devoted to religious duties.—How many hours are there in a day? Twenty-four—How many minutes in an hour? Sixty, and sixty seconds in a minute. Time is measured by clocks and watches, dials and glasses. The light of the sun makes the day, and the shade of the earth makes the night. The earth is round, and rolls round from west to east once in twenty-four hours. The day time is for labor, and the night for sleep and repose. Children should go to bed early.

Charles, how is the year divided? Into months and seasons.—How many are the months? Twelve calendar months, and nearly thirteen lunar months. What are the names of the calendar months? January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December, January begins the year and the first day of that month is called New Year's day. Then people express to each other their good wishes, and little boys and girls expect gifts of little books, toys and plums.—What is the lunar month? It is the time from one change of the moon to another, which is about twenty-nine days, and a half.

John, what are the seasons? Spring, summer, autumn or fall and winter. The spring is so called from the springing or first shooting of the plants: when they put forth leaves and blossoms, all nature is decked with blooms and perfumed with fragrant odors. The spring months are March, April, and May. The summer months are June, July, and August, when the sun pours his

Lesson 2

heating rays on the earth, the trees are clothed with leaves and fruit; and the ground is covered with herbage; The autumnal months are September, October, and November; which are also called Fall, from the fall of the leaves. Now the fruits are gathered, the greenness of the plants decays; the leaves of the forest turn red or yellow, and fall from the trees, and nature is stripped of her green robes. Then comes dreary winter. In December, January, and February, frost binds the earth in chains, and spreads an icy bridge over rivers and lakes; the snow, with her white mantle, encloses the earth; no birds fill the air with the music of their notes; the beasts stand shivering in the stall; and men crowd around the fire-side, or wrapped in wool and fur, prepare to meet the chilling blasts.

from the American Spelling Book by Noah Webster

Look ere you leap.

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Questions

Can you put the spider's web back in its place,
that once has been swept away?

Can you put the apple again on the bough,
which fell at our feet today?

Can you put the lily cup back on the stem,
and cause it to live and grow?

Can you mend the butterfly's broken wing,
that you crushed with a hasty blow?

Can you put the bloom again on the grape,
or the grape again on the vine?

Can you put the dewdrops back on the flowers,
and make them sparkle and shine?

Can you put the petals back on the rose?
If you could, would it smell as sweet?

Lesson 3

Can you put the flour again in the husk,
and show me the ripened wheat?

Can you put the kernel back in the nut,
or the broken egg in its shell?

Can you put the honey back in the comb,
and cover with wax each cell?

Can you put the perfume back in the vase,
when once it has sped away?

Can you put the corn silk back on the corn,
or the down on the willow flower—say?

You think that my questions are trifling, dear?
Let me ask you another one:

Can a hasty word ever be unsaid,
or a deed unkind, undone?

— Kate Lawrence
from Our Boys: Entertaining Stories by Popular Authors
1904

Soon hot, soon cold.

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The Fox and the Ducks

On a summer day, a man sitting on the bank of a river, in the shade of some bushes, watched a flock of ducks on the stream.

Soon a branch with leaves came drifting among them, and they all took wing. After circling in the air for a little time, they settled down again on their feeding ground.

Soon another branch came drifting down among them, and again they took flight from the river; but when they found the branch had drifted by and done them no harm, they flew down to the water as before.

After four or five branches had drifted by in this way, the ducks gave little heed to them. At length, they hardly tried to fly out of their way, even when the branches nearly touched them.

Lesson 4

The man who had been watching all this, now began to wonder who had set these branches adrift. He looked up the stream, and spied a fox slyly watching the ducks. "What will he do next?" thought the man.

When the fox saw that the ducks were no longer afraid of the branches, he took a much larger branch than any he had yet used, and stretched himself upon it so as to be almost hidden. Then he set it afloat as he had the others.

Right among the flock drifted the sly old fox, and, making quick snaps to right and left, he seized two fine young ducks, and floated off with them.

The rest of the flock flew away in fright, and did not come back for a long time.

The fox must have had a fine dinner to pay him for his cunning, patient work.

from McGuffey's Second Eclectic Reader

Mix a Pancake

Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
Pop it in the pan.

Fry a pancake,
Toss a pancake,
Catch it if you can.

– Christina G. Rossetti

All cannot hit the mark.

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The Sheep and the Pig

Once there was a big fat sheep.

One morning the farm girl said, "Eat, Sheep, for soon we shall eat you."

This scared the big sheep. So he went to see the pig.

"Good day, Pig," said the sheep, "and thanks for our last merry meeting."

"Good day, Sheep," said the pig, "and the same to you."

"Do you know, Pig, why they make you fat?"

"No, not I," said the pig.

"Then I will tell you," said the sheep. "They are going to eat you."

This scared the pig.

"Let us go to the woods," he said. "We can build a

house to live in. Then we shall have a home. A home is a home, be it ever so lowly."

The pig said he would go, so off they went.

When they had gone a bit of the way they met a goose.

"Good day, good sirs," said the goose, "and thanks for our last merry meeting."

"Good day, Goose," said the pig.

"Good day, Goose," said the sheep.

"Whither away so fast today?" said the goose.

"We go to the woods to build us a house. A man's house is his castle."

"May I go with you?" asked the goose.

"What can you do, Goose?" asked the sheep.

"I can get moss to make the house warm."

Yes, they would let him go.

When they had gone a bit of the way, a hare ran out of the woods.

Lesson 5

“Good day, good sirs,” said the hare, “and thanks for our last merry meeting.

Whither away so fast today?”

“Good day to you,” said the sheep.

“We go to the woods to build us a house. There is no place like home.”

“Oh!” said the hare, “I have a house in every bush.

But I will go with you.”

“What can you do?” said the pig.

“You cannot build a house.”

“Yes, I can,” said the hare.

“I have teeth to gnaw pegs, and I have paws to drive them. I shall be the carpenter. Good tools make good work.”

So they all set off together. Good company is such a joy.

When they had gone a bit of the way, they met a cock.

“Good day, good sirs,” said the cock, “and thanks for our last merry meeting. Whither away so fast today?”

“Good day, to you, Cock,” said the sheep. “We go to the woods to build us a house.”

“What can you do, Cock?” asked the pig.

“Oh,” said the cock, “I will be the clock. I will crow in the morning.”

“Yes,” said the pig, “sleep is a great robber. He steals half our lives. We need you, Cock.”

from The American Spelling Book by Noah Webster

Soft and fair goes far.

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Robinson Crusoe

Written Anew for Children by James Baldwin

I Wish to be a Sailor

MY name is Robinson Crusoe. I was born in the old city of York, where there is a broad river, with ships coming and going.

When I was a little boy, I spent much of my time looking at the river.



How pleasant was the quiet stream, flowing, always flowing, toward the far-away sea!

I liked to watch the ships as they came in with their white sails spread to the wind.

I liked to think of the strange lands which they must have visited, and of the many wonderful things they must have passed.

I wished to be a sailor. I thought how grand it must be to sail and sail on the wide blue sea, with the sky above and the waves beneath. Nothing could be pleasanter.

My father wanted me to learn a trade. But I could not bear the thought of it. I could not bear the thought of working every day in a dusty shop.

I did not wish to stay in York all my life. I wanted to see the world. I would be a sailor and nothing else.

My mother was very sad when I told her.

A sailor's life, she said, was a hard life. There were many storms at sea, and ships were often wrecked.

Lesson 6

She told me, too, that there were great fishes in the sea, and that they would eat me up if I fell into the water.

Then she gave me a cake, and kissed me. "How much safer it is to be at home!" she said.

But I would not listen to her. My mind was made up, and a sailor I would be.

When I was eighteen years old, I left my pleasant home and went to sea.

from Robinson Crusoe Written Anew for Children

Hold fast when you have it.

*Proverbs, Counsels, and Maxims
from The American Spelling Book by Noah Webster*

I Make My First Voyage

I SOON found that my mother's words were true.
A sailor's life is indeed a hard life.



There was no time for play on board of our ship. Even in the fairest weather there was much work to be done.

On the very first night the wind began to blow. The waves rolled high. The ship was tossed this way and that. Never had I seen such a storm.

Lesson 7

All night long the wind blew. I was so badly frightened that I did not know what to do. I thought the ship would surely go to the bottom.

Then I remembered my pleasant home and the words of my kind mother.

“If I live to reach dry land,” I said to myself, “I will give up this thought of being a sailor. I will go home and stay with my father and mother. I will never set my foot in another ship.”

Day came. The storm was worse than before. I felt sure that we were lost. But toward evening the sky began to clear. The wind died away. The waves went down. The storm was over.

The next morning the sun rose bright and warm upon a smooth sea. It was a beautiful sight.

As I stood looking out over the wide water, the first mate came up. He was a kind man, and always friendly to me.

“Well, Bob,” he said, “how do you like it? Were you frightened by that little gale?”

"I hope you don't call it a little gale," I said. "Indeed it was a terrible storm."

The mate laughed.

"Do you call that a storm?" he asked. "Why, it was nothing at all. You are only a fresh-water sailor, Bob. Wait till we have a real storm."

And so I soon forgot my fears.

Little by little, I gave up all thoughts of going home again. "A sailor's life for me," I said.

My first voyage was not a long one.

I visited no new lands, for the ship went only to London. But the things which I saw in that great city seemed very wonderful to me.

Nothing would satisfy me but to make a long voyage. I wished to see the whole world.

from Robinson Crusoe Written Anew for Children

The Broken Doll

All the bells were ringing,
All the birds were singing,
When Molly sat down crying
 For her broken doll.

O you silly Moll!
Sobbing and sighing
 For a broken doll,
When all the bells are ringing,
And all the birds are singing.

– *Christina G. Rossetti*

Bad news will come too soon.

*Proverbs, Counsels, and Maxims
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I See Much of the World

IT was easy to find a ship to my liking; for all kinds of trading vessels go out from London to every country that is known.

One day I met an old sea captain who had been often to the coast of Africa. He was pleased with my talk.

“If you want to see the world,” he said, “you must sail

Lesson 8

with me." And then he told me that he was going again to Africa, to trade with the black people there. He would carry out a load of cheap trinkets to exchange for gold dust and feathers and other rare and curious things.

I was very glad to go with him. I would see strange lands and different people. I would have many a stirring adventure.

Before ten days had passed, we were out on the great ocean. Our ship was headed toward the south.

The captain was very kind to me. He taught me much that every sailor ought to know. He showed me how to steer and manage the vessel. He told me about the tides and the compass and how to reckon the ship's course.

The voyage was a pleasant one, and I saw more wonderful things than I can name.

When, at last, we sailed back to London, we had gold enough to make a poor man rich.

I had nearly six pounds of the yellow dust for my own share.

I had learned to be a trader as well as a sailor.

It would take too long to tell you of all my voyages. Some of them were happy and successful; but the most were unpleasant and full of disappointment.

Sometimes I went to Africa, sometimes to the new land of South America. But wherever I sailed I found the life of a sailor by no means easy.

I did not care so much now to see strange sights and visit unknown shores.

I cared more for the money or goods that I would get by trading.

At last a sudden end was put to all my sailing. And it is of this that I will now tell you.

from Robinson Crusoe Written Anew for Children

Give an inch and take a mile.

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I Undertake a New Venture

I HAD grown very tired of being a sailor. I was so tired of it that I made up my mind to try something else.



It happened that I was then in Brazil. I bought some land there and began to open a plantation. The ground was rich, and it would be easy to raise tobacco and sugar cane.

But I needed many things. I must have plows and hoes and a sugar mill. Above all I must have men to do the work on the plantation.

But neither men nor tools could I get in Brazil.

I sent to London for the tools. I tried to buy some slaves of the planters near me, but they had not enough for themselves.

“We will tell you what to do,” they said. “We will fit out a trading vessel for Africa. We will put aboard of it everything that you need. As for your part, you shall be the manager of the business; and you shall do the trading for us. You need not put in a penny of your own.”

“But how is that going to help me?” I asked.

“Listen, and we will tell you,” they said. “With the goods which we send, you will buy as many black slaves as the ship will hold. You will bring them here, and we will divide them equally. You shall share with us, just as though you had paid the money.”

Lesson 9

The plan pleased me very much. I figured that each one of us would have thirty or forty slaves.

It was very foolish of me to go to sea again; but the offer was so good that I could not say No.

The ship was soon fitted out for the voyage. Her load was not very heavy. But there were plenty of goods such as were most fit for trade.

There were boxes of red and blue beads, of bits of glass, and of other trinkets. There were also knives and hatchets and little looking-glasses. We reckoned that each one of these would buy a slave.

The ship was to carry fourteen men besides the captain and myself. She was as fine a little vessel as ever sailed from the coast of Brazil.

from Robinson Crusoe Written Anew for Children

A good man is a wise man.

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I Am Shipwrecked

AT length all things were ready for the voyage, and I went on board the ship.



It was just eight years to the day since I had left my father and mother and my pleasant home in good old York.

I felt that I was doing a foolish thing; but I did not dare to say so.

Lesson 10

The wind was fair. The sails were spread. Soon we were out to sea.

For several days the weather was fine. The ship sped swiftly on her way, and every one was happy and hopeful.

Then a great storm came up from the southeast. I had seen many a fierce storm, but never one so terrible as this.

We could do nothing but let the ship drive before the wind. Day after day we were tossed by the waves; and day after day we expected the ship to go down.

The storm grew fiercer and fiercer. The men gave themselves up as lost.

But on the twelfth day the wind went down. The waves were not so strong. We began to hope for our lives.

Early the next morning a sailor cried out, "Land! land!"

I ran out of the cabin to look. But at that very moment the ship struck upon a great bank of sand over which the fierce sea was rolling.

She stopped short. She could not move. The great waves dashed over her deck. All of us would have been washed overboard if we had not hurried back to the cabin.

“What shall we do?” cried the men.

“We can do nothing,” said the captain. “Our voyage is at an end, and there is no longer any hope for our lives. We can only wait for the ship to break in pieces.”

“Yes, there is one chance for our lives.” cried the mate “Follow me!”

In the lull of the storm we rushed again to the deck. One of our boats was still there.

We slung her over the ship’s side. We jumped aboard of her. We cut her loose, and floated away upon the wild sea.

No boat could live in such a sea as that. But we saw land ahead of us; and perhaps some of us might be cast alive upon the beach.

Lesson 10

This was our only hope.

The raging waves carried us nearer and nearer to the shore.

We could see the breakers dashing upon the great rocks. The land looked more frightful than the sea.

Then all at once, a huge wave upset the boat. We had no time to speak or think. We were thrown out into the raging sea. We were swallowed up by the waves.

from Robinson Crusoe Written Anew for Children