

Lesson 1

1. Words to Read and Know

valley merry posies lambkin
cottage palace echoes squealed

2. Reading Aloud

Exercise A

1. We heard the echoes of the merry children in the playground laughing and squealing.
2. They were startled by the echoes of their footsteps in the empty palace.
3. The young prince coughed in the empty palace and heard an echo.
4. The pigs squealed when they were led to the trough where they ate their slop.
5. The windows of the old man's cottage let in a cold draught.
6. Were the oxen feeding at the trough in the stable?
7. We heard the merry laughter of the children playing in the meadow.
8. The young man coughed and then presented the pretty posy to his loved one.

9. There was not enough food for our trip along the rough road and had only a few draughts of cold water left to drink.
10. Tim had a tough time getting his car through the unpaved roads of the valley.

Exercise B

1. Where did the young man buy the pretty posy for the girl?
2. In the valley we hear the echo of our laughter.
3. After drinking several draughts of sweet lemonade, we said we had enough.
4. The pig squealed and ran past the lambkins and the ewe in the field.
5. The merry singers laughed and laughed, and when they had enough to eat and drink, they sang another song.
6. Their habitation, a merry little cottage, was in the valley.
7. Sam and Tim led the lambkin to the barn to be with the ewe.
8. The oxen were at the trough, and the lambkins were in the field.
9. The farmer said he had rather live in a humble cottage in the valley than live in a king's palace.

10. When we asked him the tough question, he just laughed.

3. Reading Selections

A Train Ride

One early morning two young men were seated next to each other on a train. The train went through a long, deep valley into the city where both of them worked. The one said to the other if he could find a job closer to where he lived, he would not have to take the train every morning. And if the job paid him more, he might be able to buy a house. He didn't want a palace. No, he would be happy with a little cottage on a little land.

In that same train behind the men was a boy named John, who was going with his mother and his baby sister into the city. They were going to see his aunt on his day off from his school work. John was telling his mother all about the new bicycle that his friend had just gotten for his birthday. It was the best bike in the neighborhood, he said. "I wish I had one like it." The mother smiled and said, "You and your bicycles, John! You were happy with the last one your father gave you, and now you want a new one?"

"But if I had this kind of bike, I'd be happy. They're so much better." The mother said, "I know, John. That is what you said when your father bought your last bike. Nothing makes you happier than a shiny new bike, whether it is better or not."

As the mother said this, John's little baby sister squealed with delight. She was playing with her fingers, while looking at her mother. John asked his mother, "What makes Anna so happy?" His mother said, "Nothing. She just is. It's the way we all should be—like little babies in a mother's arms."

Reading Questions A

1. Why does the one man want another job?
2. Why does John want a new bike?
3. Does the mother think that new bicycles are better than old ones?
4. Why is John's baby sister so happy?



Merry Little Alice
By Christina Rossetti

Dancing on the hilltops,
Singing in the valleys,
Laughing with the echoes,
Merry little Alice.

Playing games with lambkins
In the flowering valleys,
Gathering pretty posies,
Helpful little Alice.

If her father's cottage
Turned into a palace,
And he owned the hilltops
And the flowering valleys,
She'd be none the happier,
Happy little Alice.



Reading Questions B

1. What does Alice NOT do in the poem?
 - a) cry
 - b) laugh
 - c) sing
 - d) dance
2. Alice is _____.
 - a) mad
 - b) sad
 - c) very rich

- d) merry
3. Alice's father has a ____.
- a) palace
 - b) cottage
 - c) valley
 - d) hilltop
4. Would Alice be happier if her father were rich?
- a) yes
 - b) no
5. The words *She's be none the happier* mean ____.
- a) she would not be happier
 - b) none would be happier than she would be
 - c) she is not happy

4. Poetics: Syllables

In this lesson you read a poem by Christina Rossetti. Have you ever read a poem before? If so, you know that poems are different from regular kinds of writing in that they look different. You may know already that regular kinds of writing, like stories, are divided into paragraphs. Poems are often broken up in blocks called *stanzas*. The poem that you read has three stanzas.

Another difference you maybe did not see (or hear) is that poems have a “beat” or rhythm to them. Words are made up of syllables, which are the “beats” of a word. The best way to hear the beat is to say the word out loud. Say the words “laugh” and “games.” Do you hear the “beats”

of the words? If you do, you hear that *laugh* and *games* have only one “beat” or *syllable*. Say the words “simple” and “cottage.” How many syllables do each of them have? They have two. You would break up *simple* and *cottage* this way: *sim-ple*, *cot-tage*. A line (called a hyphen) has been put in the middle of the words to show the word’s two syllables.

Notice that a syllable has to have at least one vowel. (The vowels are the sounds of *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, and sometimes *y*.) The syllable may or may not have a consonant. (A consonant is the sound of any other letter, such as *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, and so on.) Unlike other writers, poets are very careful about how many syllables they will put in a line of poetry.

Exercise A

Underline the number of syllables of each of the words printed in bold below.

EXAMPLE.

understand one two three

Answer: three

1. cottage one two three

2. on one two three

3. the one two three

4. palace one two three

5. happier one two three

6. little one two three

7. if one two three
 8. singing one two three
 9. in one two three
 10. gathering one two three

Exercise B

Can you tell how many syllables there are in the lines of the first stanza of Christina Rossetti’s poem? Underline the number of syllables of each of the words. The first one has been done for you.

Dancing on the hilltops	3	4	5	<u>6</u>	7
Singing in the valleys	3	4	5	6	7
Laughing with the echoes	3	4	5	6	7
Merry little Alice	3	4	5	6	7

5. Phonics and Vocabulary: gh

- enough tough laugh rough
 cough trough draught laughter

Exercise A

Circle the word that fits the sentence, and then write it below.

1. Max and Grant do not want to eat any more salad.
They have had ____.

rough tough enough

2. Father chewed and chewed on the ____ meat.

enough tough laugh

3. Why he did ____? I didn't think it was funny.

enough rough laugh

4. Your hands feel like sandpaper! Why are they so ____?

enough rough laugh

5. When I heard him ____, I thought he was getting a cold.

enough cough laugh

6. The farmer poured the slop in the ____ for the pigs to eat.

enough trough laugh

7. The thirsty workers came in and took a long ____ of cold lemonade.

tough cough draught

8. We heard the ____ of the children in the backyard.

laughter enough trough

9. When you have had ____ to eat, you can leave the table.

enough rough laughter

10. The merry boys ___ at their grandfather's jokes.
enough cough laughed

Exercise B

Write down the word in which the *gh* has sounds like *f*.

1. tough thought

2. bought enough

3. rough though

4. sought laugh

5. drought cough

6. Grammar and Punctuation: End Marks

A punctuation mark helps us read and understand a sentence. Although there are many punctuation marks that can be used, the first that you must learn are the end marks, which include the period, the exclamation point and the question mark. The punctuation marks are written for you below:

- . (period)
- ! (exclamation point)
- ? (question mark)

A period is used at the end of a sentence that is not a question. A period, you will notice, looks like a dot, which is placed on the line. For sentences that show strong feeling, an exclamation point is used. The exclamation point is made up of a line and a dot. Questions end in question marks, shown above.

Exercise A

Put a mark at the end of the sentence that matches what is being said.

1. We own two poodles
2. Will Emmett come
3. Did Ned see Fred at the store
4. Watch out for that broken glass
5. I don't know his name
6. That thunder was loud

7. Are Sarah and Emma coming to our birthday party
8. After two weeks of rain, the sun is out
9. Be quick or you'll miss the concert
10. Have you heard the news about Sam

Exercise B

Put a mark at the end of the sentence that matches what is being said.

1. Look at that beautiful bird
2. Sam did not need help with planting the tree
3. Have you heard that Jimmy lost his first tooth
4. The tiger was pacing in its cage
5. What a wonderful story that is
6. That was an interesting play
7. Is Laurie's grandmother coming to the party
8. He did not like the book
9. Run after him
10. I thought that John was sitting in the living room

Afternoon on a Hill

By Edna St. Vincent Millay

- I will be the gladdest thing
Under the sun!
I will touch a hundred flowers
And not pick one.