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E L E M E N T A R Y            S C H O O L

R E A D    A L O U D    B O O K

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S T O R I E S   A N D   P O E M S

F R O M

T H E            N E W   E N G L A N D

P R I M E R



F i r s t            E d i t i o n

2001

*Dedicated to the Puritans of New England, who labored to establish a shining city upon a hill, and who have left us such a glorious legacy to build upon through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Compiled and edited by J. Parnell McCarter**

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**The Puritans' Home School Curriculum**

**[www.puritans.net](http://www.puritans.net)**

# I N S T R U C T I O N S      T O      T H E      T E A C H E R

This is to be used as a read aloud book of poems and stories and prayers. It contains moral instruction in order to mold the child's character, while also teaching the child the joy and skill of reading and listening.

Let the child see the words as you read them. For some words, phrases, and sentences let the child read.

Then discuss with the child what has been read.

## R E A D I N G 1

Here is a poem telling us what good children do:

Good children must,  
Fear God all day, Love Christ alway,  
Parents obey, In secret pray,  
No false thing say, Mind little play,  
By no sin stray, Make no delay,  
In doing good.

What does this poem say good children do?

What does this poem say good children do not do?

## R E A D I N G 2

God gave His people the Ten Commandments so we would know how to live like He wants. Jesus Christ said the Sum of these ten Commandments is to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Here is a poem to help us remember the Sum of these ten Commandments:

WITH all thy soul love God above,  
And as thyself thy neighbor love.

Jesus Christ also taught how we can easily know if we are loving our neighbor. It is called our Savior's Golden Rule. It says we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Here is a poem on our Savior's Golden Rule:

BE you to others kind and true,  
As you'd have others be to you:  
And neither do nor say to men,  
Whate'er you would not take again.

## R E A D I N G 3

MR. JOHN ROGERS, minister of the gospel in London, was the first martyr in Queen MARY's reign in England. A martyr is a person who is killed by someone bad because they are a Christian. Mr. Rogers was burned many years ago, in 1554 A.D. His wife with nine small children, and one at her breast following him to the stake; with which sorrowful sight he was not in the least daunted, but with wonderful patience died courageously for the gospel of JESUS CHRIST.



Some few days before his death, he wrote the following advice to his children:

GIVE ear my children to my words  
Whom God hath dearly bought,

Lay up his laws within your heart,  
and print them in your thoughts.

I leave you here a little book  
for you to look upon,

That you may see your father's face  
when he is dead and gone:

Who for the hope of heavenly things,  
While he did here remain,

Gave over all his golden years  
to prison and to pain.

Where I, among my iron bands,  
inclosed in the dark,

Not many days before my death,  
I did compose this work:

And for example to your youth,  
to whom I wish all good,

I send you here God's perfect truth,  
and seal it with my blood.

To you my heirs of earthly things:  
which I do leave behind,

That you may read and understand  
and keep it in your mind.

That as you have been heirs of that

that once shall wear away,

You also may possess that part,  
which never shall decay.

Keep always God before your eyes  
with all your whole intent,

Commit no sin in any wise,  
keep his commandment.

Abhor that arrant whore of ROME,  
and all her blasphemies,

And drink not of her cursed cup,  
obey not her decrees.

Give honor to your mother dear,  
remember well her pain,

And recompence her in her age,  
with the like love again.

Be always ready for her help,  
and let her not decay,

Remember well your father all,  
who would have been your stay.

Give of your portion to the poor,  
as riches do arise,

And from the needy naked soul,  
turn not away your eyes:

For he that doth not hear the cry  
of those that stand in need,

Shall cry himself and not be heard,  
when he does hope to speed.

If GOD hath given you increase,  
and blessed well your store,

Remember you are put in trust,  
and should relieve the poor.

Beware of foul and filthy lust,  
let such things have no place,

Keep clean your vessels in the LORD,  
that he may you embrace.

Ye are the temples of the LORD,

for you are dearly bought,

And they that do defile the same,  
shall surely come to nought.

Be never proud by any means,  
build not your house too high,

But always have before your eyes,  
that you are born to die.

Defraud not him that hired is,  
your labour to sustain,

But pay him still without delay,  
his wages for his pain.

And as you would that other men  
against you should proceed,

Do you the same to them again,  
when they do stand in need.

Impart your portion to the poor,  
in money and in meat

And send the feeble fainting soul,  
of that which you do eat.

Ask counsel always of the wise,  
give ear unto the end,

And ne'er refuse the sweet rebuke  
of him that is thy friend.

Be always thankful to the LORD,  
with prayer and with praise,

Begging of him to bless your work,  
and to direct your ways.

Seek first, I say, the living GOD,  
and always him adore,

And then be sure that he will bless,  
your basket and your store.

And I beseech Almighty GOD,  
replenish you with grace,

That I may meet you in the heavens,  
and see you face to face.

And though the fire my body burns,



contrary to my kind,

That I cannot enjoy your love  
according to my mind:

Yet I do hope that when the heavens  
shall vanish like a scroll,

I shall see you in perfect shape,  
in body and in soul.

And that I may enjoy your love,  
and you enjoy the land,

I do beseech the living LORD,  
to hold you in his hand.

Though here my body be adjudg'd  
in flaming fire to fry,

My soul I trust, will straight ascend  
to live with GOD on high.

What though this carcase smart awhile  
what though this life decay,

My soul I hope will be with GOD,  
and live with him for aye.

I know I am a sinner born,  
from the original,

And that I do deserve to die  
by my fore-father's fall:

But by our SAVI0UR'S precious blood,  
which on the cross was spilt,

Who freely offer'd up his life,  
to save our souls from guilt;

I hope redemption I shall have,  
and all who in him trust,

When I shall see him face to face,  
and live among the just.

Why then should I fear death's grim look  
since CHRIST for me did die,

For King and Caesar, rich and poor,  
the force of death must try.

When I am chained to the stake,

and fagots girt me round,

Then pray the LORD my soul in heaven  
may be with glory crown'd.

Come welcome death the end of fears,  
I am prepar'd to die:

Those earthly flames will send my soul  
up to the Lord on high.

Farewell my children to the world,  
where you must yet remain;

The LORD of hosts be your defense,  
'till we do meet again.

Farewell my true and loving wife,  
my children and my friends,

I hope in heaven to see you all,  
when all things have their end.

If you go on to serve the LORD,  
as you have now begun,

You shall walk safely all your days,  
until your life be done.

GOD grant you so to end your days,  
as he shall think it best,

That I may meet you in the heavens,  
where I do hope to rest.

OUR days begin with trouble here,  
our life is but a span,

And cruel death is always near,  
so frail a thing is man.

Then sow the seeds of grace whilst young,  
that when thou com'st to die,

Thou may'st sing forth that triumph song,  
Death where's thy victory.

## R E A D I N G 4

Everybody has a name. Some names are men's names and some names are women's names. Can you spell your name? Here are some other names:

### Men's Names

Adam, Abel, Abraham, Amos, Aaron, Abijah, Andrew, Alexander, Anthony, Bartholomew, Benjamin, Barnabas, Benoni, Barzillai, Caleb, Caesar, Charles, Christopher, Clement, Cornelius, David, Daniel, Ephraim, Edward, Edmund, Ebenezer, Elijah, Eliphalet, Elisha, Eleazer, Elihu, Ezekiel, Elias, Elizur, Frederick, Francis, Gilbert, Giles, George, Gamalial, Gideon, Gershom, Heman, Henry, Hezekiah, Hugh, Ian, John, Jonas, Isaac, Jacob, Jared, Job, James, Jonathan, Israel, Joseph, Jeremiah, Joshua, Josiah, Jedediah, Jabez, Joel, Judah, Lazarus, Luke, Mathew, Michael, Moses, Malachi, Nathaniel, Nathan, Nicholas, Noadiah, Nehemiah, Noah, Obadiah, Ozias, Paul, Peter, Philip, Phineas, Peletiah, Ralph, Richard, Samuel, Sampson, Stephen, Solomon, Seth, Simeon, Saul, Shem, Shubal, Timothy, Thomas, Titus, Theophilus, Uriah, Uzzah, Walter, William, Xerxes, Xenophon, Zachariah, Zebdiel, Zedekiah, Zadock, Zebulon, Zebediah,

### Women's Names.

ABigail, Anne, Alice, Anna, Bethiah, Bridget, Cloe, Charity, Deborah, Dorothy, Dorcas, Dinah, Damaris, Elizabeth, Esther, Eunice, Eleanor, Frances, Flora, Grace, Gillet, Hannah, Huldah, Hepzibah, Henrietta, Hagar, Joanna, Jane, Jamima, Isabel, Judith, Jennet, Katharine, Katura, Kezia, Linda, Lydia, Lucretia, Lucy, Louis, Lettice, Mary, Margaret, Martha, Mehitabel, Marcy, Merial, Patience, Phylis, Phebe, Priscilla, Rachel, Rebecca, Ruth, Rhode, Rose, Sarah, Susanna, Tabitha, Tamefin, Ursula, Zipporah, Zibiah

R E A D I N G 5

Jesus Christ not only taught us to pray, but He taught us how to pray. He gave us a prayer as a model. This is the Lord's Prayer. This is how the Lord's Prayer reads:

The LORD's Prayer.

OUR Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. AMEN.

God is Our heavenly Father, so we pray to Him.

God is holy, so we say 'hallowed be thy name.'

We want all the world and everything in the world to obey God, so we say 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is heaven.'

We depend upon God for everything, even the food we eat, so we say 'Give us this day our daily bread.'

We need God to forgive our many sins and help to forgive others, so we say 'And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.'

We need God's help to keep us from sinning more, so we say 'And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.'

We know God is wonderful, so we say 'For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever.'

And we end all our prayers by saying, 'Amen.'

## R E A D I N G 6

The Christian church needed to explain to people what it believes, based upon what the Bible teaches. So the leaders in the church have written creeds and confessions. One of the first Christian creeds is called 'the Apostles Creed', because it says what the Apostles of Jesus Christ taught. Here is the Apostle's Creed:

### The APOSTLES' CREED.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, which was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he arose again from the dead, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father, Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge both the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

AMEN.

This Creed tells how we believe there is one God in three persons.

It tells how we believe the three persons are the Father, the Son (who is Jesus Christ our Lord), and the Holy Ghost.

It tells how we believe Jesus died on the Cross for our sins, then rose from the dead, and then ascended to heaven.

It tells how we believe Jesus will one day return and judge the world on the Day of Judgment.

It tells how we believe God has a Church of Christians on this earth.

It tells how we trust God forgives our sins through Jesus Christ.

It tells how we believe God will raise our bodies on the Day of Judgment and give all Christians everlasting life in heaven with Him.

## R E A D I N G 7

Here is A DIALOGUE between CHRIST, YOUTH, and the Devil. Listen to their dialogue and then tell me what got the youth in trouble:

YOUTH

Those days which God to me doth send,  
In pleasure I'm resolv'd to spend;  
Like as the birds in th' lovely spring,  
Sit chirping on the bough, and sing;  
Who straining forth those warbling notes,  
Do make sweet music in their throats,  
So I resolve in this my prime,  
In sports and plays to spend my time.  
Sorrow and grief I'll put away,  
Such things agree not with my day;  
From clouds my morning shall be free;  
And nought on earth shall trouble me.  
I will embrace each sweet delight,  
This earth affords me day and night:  
Though parents grieve and me correct,  
Yet I their counsel will reject.

Devil.

The resolution which you take,  
Sweet youth it doth me merry make.  
If thou my counsel wilt embrace,  
And shun the ways of truth and grace,  
And learn to lie, and curse and swear,  
And be as proud as any are;  
And with thy brothers wilt fall out,  
And fisters with vile language flout:  
Yea, fight and scratch, and also bite,  
Then in thee I will take delight.  
If thou wilt but be rul'd by me,  
An artist thou shalt quickly be,  
In all my ways which lovely are,  
Ther'e few with thee who shall compare.  
Thy parents always disobey;  
Don't mind at all what they do say:  
And also pout and sullen be,  
And thou thalt be a child for me.  
When others read, be thou at play,  
Think not on God, don't sigh nor pray  
Nor be thou such a silly fool,  
To mind thy book or go to school;  
But play the truant; fear not I  
Will straitway help you to a lie,  
Which will excuse thee from the same,  
From being whipp'd and from all blame;

Come bow to me, uphold my crown,  
And I'll thee raise to high renown.

YOUTH.

These motions I will cleave unto,  
And let all other counsels go;  
My heart against my parents now,  
Shall harden'd be, and will not bow:  
I won't submit at all to them,  
But all good counsels will condemn,  
And what I list that do will I,  
And stubborn be continually.

CHRIST.

Wilt thou, O youth make such a choice,  
And thus obey the devil's voice !  
Curst sinful ways wilt thou embrace,  
And hate the ways of truth and grace ?  
Wilt thou to me a rebel prove ?  
And from thy parents quite remove  
Thy heart also ? Then shalt thou see,  
What will e'er long become of thee.  
Come, think on God, who did thee make,  
And at his prefence dread and quake,  
Remember him now in thy youth,  
And let thy soul take hold of truth:  
The Devil and his ways defy,  
Believe him not, he doth but lie:  
His ways seem sweet, but youth beware,  
He for thy soul hath laid a snare.  
His sweet will into bitter turn,  
If in those ways thou still wilt run,  
He will thee into pieces tear,  
Like lions which most hungry are.  
Grant me thy heart, thy folly leave,  
And from this lion I'll thee save;  
And thou shalt have sweet joy from me,  
Which shall last to eternity.

YOUTH.

My heart shall cheer me in my youth,  
I'll have my frolicks in good truth,  
What e'er seems lovely in mine eye,  
Myself I cannot it deny.  
In my own ways I still will walk,  
And take delight among young folk,  
Who spend their days in joy and mirth,  
Nothing like that I'm sure on earth:  
Thy ways, O Christ ! are not for me,  
They with my age do not agree.  
If I unto thy laws should cleave,

No more good days then should I have.

CHRIST.

Woul'st thou live long and good days see  
Refrain from all iniquity:  
True good alone doth from me flow,  
It can't be had in things below.  
Are not my ways, O youth ! for thee,  
Then thou shalt never happy be;  
Nor ever shall thy soul obtain,  
True good, whilst thou doth here remain.

YOUTH.

To thee, O Christ, I'll not adhere,  
What thou speak'st of does not appear  
Lovely to me I cannot find,  
'Tis good to set or place my mind  
On ways whence many forrows spring,  
And to the flesh such crosses bring,  
Don't trouble me, I must fulfil,  
My fleshly mind, and have my will.

CHRIST.

Unto thyself then I'll thee leave,  
That Satan may thee wholly have:  
Thy heart in sin shall harden'd be,  
And blinded in iniquity.  
And then in wrath I'll cut thee down,  
Like as the grass and flowers mown;  
And to thy woe thou shalt espy,  
Childhood and youth are vanity;  
For all such things I'll make thee know  
To judgment thou shall come also.  
In hell at last thy soul shall burn,  
When thou thy sinful race hast run.  
Consider this, think on thy end  
Lest God do thee in pieces rend.

YOUTH.

Amazed, Lord ! I now begin,  
O help me and I'll leave my sin:  
I tremble, and do greatly fear,  
To think upon what I do hear.  
Lord ! I religious now will be,  
And I'll from Satan turn to thee.

Devil

Nay, foolish youth, don't change thy mind,  
Unto such thoughts be not inclin'd.



Come, cheer up thy heart, rouse up, be glad:  
There is no hell; why art thou sad ?  
Eat, drink, be merry with thy friend,  
For when thou diest, that's thy last end.

YOUTH.

Such thoughts as these I can't receive,  
Because God's word I do believe;  
None shall in this destroy my faith,  
Nor do I mind what Satan saith.

Devil.

Although to thee herein I yield  
Yet e'er long I shall win the field  
That there's a heaven I can't deny,  
Yea, and a hell of misery:  
That heaven is a lovely place  
I can't deny; tis a clear case;  
And easy 'tis for to come there,  
Therefore take thou no further care,  
All human laws do thou observe,  
And from old customs never swerve;  
Do not oppose what great men say,  
And thou shalt never go astray.  
Thou may'st be drunk, and swear and curse,  
And sinners like thee ne'er the worse;  
At any time thou may'n repent;  
'Twill serve when all thy days are spent.

CHRIST.

Take heed or else thou art undone;  
These thoughts are from the wicked One,  
Narrow's the way that leads to life,  
Who walk therein do meet with strife.  
Few shall be saved, young man know,  
Most do unto destruction go.  
If righteous ones scarce saved be,  
What will at last become of thee !  
Oh ! don't reject my precious call,  
Lest suddenly in hell thou fall;  
Unless you soon converted be,  
God's kingdom thou shalt never see.

YOUTH.

Lord, I am now at a great stand:  
If I should yield to thy command,  
My comrades will me much deride,  
And never more will me abide.  
Moreover, this I also know,  
Thou can'st at last great mercy show.

When I am old, and pleasure gone,  
Then what thou say'st I'll think upon.

CHRIST.

Nay, hold vain youth, thy time is short,  
I have thy breath, I'll end thy sport;  
Thou shalt not live till thou art old,  
Since thou in sin art grown so bold.  
I in thy youth grim death will send,  
And all thy sports shall have an end.

YOUTH.

I am too young, alas to die,  
Let death some old grey head espy.  
O spare me, and I will amend,  
And with thy grace my soul befriend,  
Or else I am undone alas,  
For I am in a woful case.

CHRIST.

When I did call, you would not hear,  
But did to me turn a deaf ear;  
And now in thy calamity,  
I will not mind nor hear thy cry;  
Thy day is past, begone from me,  
Thou who didst love iniquity,  
Above thy soul and Saviour dear;  
Who on the cross great pains did bear,  
My mercy thou didst much abuse,  
And all good counsel didst refuse,  
Justice will therefore vengeance take,  
And thee a sad example make.

YOUTH.

O Spare me, Lord, forbear thy hand,  
Don't cut me off who trembling stand,  
Begging for mercy at thy door,  
O let me have but one year more.

CHRIST.

If thou some longer time should have,  
Thou wouldst again to folly cleave:  
Therefore to thee I will not give,  
One day on earth longer to live.

Death.

Youth, I am come to fetch thy breath,  
And carry thee to th' shades of death,

No pity on thee can I show,  
Thou has thy God offended so.  
Thy soul and body I'll divide,  
Thy body in the grave I'll hide,  
And thy dear soul in hell must lie,  
With Devils to eternity.

The conclusion.

Thus end the days of woeful youth,  
Who won't obey nor mind the truth;  
Nor hearken to what preachers say,  
But do their parents disobey.  
They in their youth go down to hell,  
Under eternal wrath to dwell.  
Many don't live out half their days,  
For cleaving unto sinful ways.