

# ENGLISH.

## GENERAL LITERATURE.

### GRADES VIII. AND IX.

Children should gain an intelligent knowledge of the books read, but it is not intended that details should receive so much attention as to mar the joy of reading. The pupils should be trained to appreciate the qualities of good literature, and, above all, to acquire the reading habit. The intelligent use of the dictionary or other books of reference should form a part of the regular training. The books to be read during the year will be selected from the following lists; at least four books per annum are to be chosen, one from each group:—

#### GRADE VIII.

##### *Group 1.*

- “Merchant of Venice” (Shakespeare). Junior School Classics, Blackie or King’s Treasuries, Dent.
- “Julius Caesar” (Shakespeare). Junior School Classics, Blackie or King’s Treasuries, Dent.
- “Twelfth Night” (Shakespeare). Junior School Classics, Blackie or King’s Treasuries, Dent.

##### *Group 2.*

- “Treasure Island” (Stevenson). Cassell.
- Cassell’s “Anthology of English Prose.” Glover.
- “The Heroes” (Kingsley). Nelson’s Classics or King’s Treasuries, Dent.

##### *Group 3.*

- “We of the Never Never” (Gunn).
- “Christmas Carol and Chimes” (Dickens). Nelson’s Classics or A.L. Series.
- “Paving the Way” (Newland).
- “Nomads of the North” or other Curwood Series.

## Group 4.

"Lays of Ancient Rome" (Macaulay). King's Treasuries, Dent, or Blackie's Edition.

"Lady of the Lake" (Scott). King's Treasuries, Dent, or Blackie's Edition.

"Evangeline" (Longfellow).

## GRADE IX.

## Group 1.

"Midsummer Night's Dream" (Shakespeare). Blackie's Edition or Dent.

"As You Like It" (Shakespeare). Blackie's Edition or Dent.

"Henry V." (Shakespeare). Blackie's Edition or Dent.

## Group 2.

"Tale of Two Cities" (Dickens). Nelson's Classics.

"Cricket on the Hearth" (Dickens). Nelson's Classics or Blackie's Edition.

"The Surgeon's Log" (Abraham).

Or any book not studied in Grade VIII.

## Group 3.

"Westward Ho" (Kingsley).

"The Black Arrow" (Stevenson).

"The White Company" (Doyle).

## Group 4.

"The Ancient Mariner" (Coleridge). Blackie or Dent.

"Marmion" (Scott). Blackie or Dent.

"The Idylls of the King" (Tennyson). Macmillan.

## GRADE X.

A course of general reading to include any of the above not already studied, and such books as:—

"Vanity Fair" (Thackeray). Nelson's Classics.

"David Copperfield" (Dickens). Collin's Classics.

"Sesame and Lilies" (Ruskin). King's Treasuries Series, Dent.

## POETRY.

## GRADES VIII., IX., AND X.

1. Selections from "The Chilswell Book of English Poetry" Longmans Green & Company, or

"The Golden Book of English Verse" (Jones), Books I., II., III., Blackie & Son, or

"The Golden Book of Narrative Verse" (Jones), Blackie & Son.

2. Any three (3) suitable Australian Poems.

"Selections from Australian Poets" (Stevens and McKenna).

A certain amount should be memorized, the selection of poems or passages being left to the teacher, although children should be encouraged to commit to memory passages of their own choice. Pupils should be trained to discover and appreciate beauties of thought and expression. Some knowledge of leading authors and their work is desirable.

## COMPOSITION (Oral).

## GRADES VIII., IX., AND X.

1. Conversations on current events, with the object of acquiring information, and of expressing opinion accurately and in good style.
2. Discussion of errors in composition and speech.
3. Dramatization from reading, history, etc.
4. Debates and discussions, and practice in connected and continuous discourse.
5. Practice in courteous forms of speech, and discouragement of slovenly and inelegant expression.

NOTE.—The main purpose of the course should be to give the children the power to express their thoughts in suitable language.

## COMPOSITION (Written).

## GRADE VIII.

1. Extended practice in description, narration, and imaginative composition.
2. Summarizing of matter (e.g., lessons, passages read, etc.), and expansion of summaries.
3. Correspondence, business and private; telegrams, advertisements.
4. To write imaginary conversations.

5. Further exercise in the use of figures of speech, synonyms, etc.
6. Recasting sentences to give practice in developing a wider vocabulary and greater variety of expression.
7. Examination of passages of literary merit, with a view to imitation of style.
8. Original essay work, appreciative or critical, upon subjects previously prepared.

#### GRADES IX. AND X.

As for Grade VIII., with increased attention to:—

1. Appreciative and critical essay work.
2. Essays of greater length.
3. Facility and correctness of expression.
4. More advanced practice in letter writing.

NOTE.—It is essential that a good legible running hand be required in all written exercises.

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### GRAMMAR.

#### GRADES VIII., IX., AND X.

With the exception of general analysis, formal grammar need not be continued. The rules of syntax should be in constant revision in their application to sentence construction, and in the correction of composition.

Simple derivations, prefixes and affixes should be studied, not as dry lists, but in their connection with words in ordinary use.

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### SPELLING.

#### GRADE VIII.

*Whitcombe's Progressive Speller*, Book III.

To page 48, including Latin prefixes and suffixes, but omitting Chapter XIII. (Maori words should not be included in tests).

#### GRADES IX. AND X.

The whole book, omitting Chapter XIII.

Ten minutes each day should be devoted to this subject.