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GRADED HOME READING BOOKS

THIRD SERIES

THE EMPTY DRUM

No. 4826

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F. I. EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS
THYCAUD—TRIVANDRUM.

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GRADED HOME READING BOOKS

STANDARD IX C

BOOK I

M.I.S M.J.H.S

THE EMPTY DRUM

(LEO TOLSTOY)

EDITED BY

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THE EMPTY DRUM

1. THE BEAUTIFUL GIRL

Emelyan was a Russian workman. He worked hard for his master but was very poor.

One evening when Emelyan was returning from work, he came to a field. While crossing it, he came upon a frog and jumped aside so that he might not kill it. Then he heard a sweet voice calling him from behind.

Emelyan looked round and saw a very beautiful girl behind him. He had never seen her before and was very much surprised to see so beautiful a girl there.

The girl spoke to him and asked, "Why don't you get married, Emelyan?"

"How can I marry?" he said. "I have no house of my own. I have only these clothes and nothing more. I know no girl who would have me as her husband."

"Then take me for a wife," said she.

Emelyan looked at the girl. He had never seen a more beautiful girl.

"I should be glad to marry you," he said. "But where and how could we live?"

"Why are you afraid of that?" said the girl. "We have only to work more and sleep less. Then we can have food and clothing anywhere in the world."

"Very well then," said Emelyan, "let us get married."

So they got married.

But Emelyan had no house of his own and did not know where to take his wife.

"Where shall we go now?" he asked her.

"Let us go to town," she answered. So Emelyan and the girl went to town. She took him to a little hut at the end of it.

"Let us live here," she said. Emelyan agreed and from that day they began to live in the little hut.

Many days went by.

Then one day the king of the land came riding through the town. He passed by Emelyan's hut.

Emelyan's wife was standing at the gate. When she saw the king driving along, she came out to look at him.

The king saw her and was very much surprised at her great beauty.

"Where did this beautiful girl come from?" he asked.

He stopped his horse and went up to her.

"Beautiful girl," he said, "Who are you?"

"I am Emelyan's wife," she answered.

"And who is Emelyan?" he asked.

"A poor workman," she said.

"Why did you, who are so beautiful, marry a poor workman?" the king said. "You ought to be a queen."

"Thank you for your kindness," said the girl. "But I love my husband and he is good enough for me."

So saying she took leave of the king and went back to her hut.

Then the king got upon his horse and rode back to the palace.

TEST:— Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. Emelyan was a —— workman.
(French, English, Russian).

2. He was very ——. (rich, poor, old).

3. One day he saw a beautiful —in the field.
(frog, king, girl).

4. The girl asked him to marry ——.
(her, her sister, her friend).

5. Emelyan married her and she took him to a little —— in the town.
(gardan, hut, temple).

6. One day the —— saw the girl.
(master, king, officer).

7. He saw that she was very beautiful and said she ought to be ——.
(king, queen, rich).

2. THE WICKED KING

Even after returning to the palace, the king could not forget the beautiful girl he had met in front of the hut.

"I must get her for myself," said he.

All night he did not sleep but kept thinking how he could make her his wife. But he could not think of a way of doing it. So he called his officers to him and ordered them to find a way.

The king's servants thought about it for some time. Then they said, "Order Emelyan to come to the palace and work. Give him some hard work to do. Make him work so hard that he will die. Then his wife will be left alone and you can take the beautiful girl for yourself."

The king was pleased with the advice and he followed it. He sent one of his servants to Emelyan and orderd him to come to the palace as a workman. He also said that Emelyan should live at the palace and bring his wife with him.

When Emelyan got the king's order he called his wife and told her about it.

She said, "Go to the palace, Emelyan, and work all day. But come home to me at night."

She said that she would not go with him to the palace.

So Emelyan went to the palace and when the king's officers saw him they asked, "Why have you come alone without your wife?"

"Why should I bring her here?" said Emelyan. "She has a house to live in."

The king was very angry when he saw that Emelyan did not bring his wife with him. He ordered his officers to give him work enough for two.

Emelyan began the work, but he did not hope to finish it; yet he worked hard and, when evening came, lo, it was all done!

The officer saw that Emelyan had completed the work and gave him four times as much work for the next day.

Emelyan returned home for the night. His wife welcomed him home and when he went in he saw that everything was clean and neat. His wife had swept the house; there was

a bright fire and his supper was cooked and ready. His wife was sitting by the table making a shirt and waiting for him to come back. She met him at the door and led him in. Seeing that he was tired she put plates on the table, and gave him food to eat and wine to drink. Then she sat down by his side and asked him about his work.

"Ah," said he, "it is very bad. They give me very heavy work-work which even two men cannot finish. It is clear they want to kill me with work."

She smiled when she heard his words.

"Don't be afraid of the work you have to do," she said. "Don't look before or after to see how much you you have done or how much is left

undone. But keep on working and all will be right in the end."

Emelyan heard what she said and made up his mind to follow her advice.

Then he went to bed and slept peacefully till morning. Early the next morning he took leave of his wife and went to the palace. The officer had given him four times as much work as he had done the day before. But he set himself to work and looked neither before nor after. He went on working without a break and without looking round.

And, lo! by the evening it was all done and before dark he came home for the night.

Again and again the king's officers gave him more work to do;

but Emelyan finished it in good time and went back to his hut to sleep.

A week passed and the king saw that he could not kill Emelyan with hard work. So he changed his plan. Instead of giving him hard work, he tried giving him work that required great skill. He gave him carpenter's work and mason's work. He set him to build a roof and paint the walls. But all this was of no use. Whatever work they gave him, Emelyan finished in good time and went home at night.

So a second week passed.

Then the king was angry with his officers and said, "Why have I made you my officers? Two weeks have gone by, yet you have not done anything. You were trying to kill Emelyan with hard work. But every evening I see

him going home, singing cheerfully. Are you trying to trick me?"

The king's men tried to tell him why they could not kill Emelyan with work.

"We tried our best to tire him out with heavy work," they said, "and we set him hard work to do. But nothing would tire him out. He would finish even the hardest piece of work very easily and by evening it was all done. So we gave him work which required great skill. We thought he would never be able to do it. But he did it very easily. You may give him any work and he will do it. But we do not know how he manages it. He has some magic or his wife has. We are afraid of him and we want to kill him. So we are trying to find out a

piece of work which he can't do. We shall tell him to build a big church in one day. Send for Emelyan and order him to build a big church in front of the palace. Let him finish it in one day. If he does not finish his work in a single day, we shall put him to death."

The king was pleased when they told him their plan. He sent for Emelyan and said, "This is my order. Build a big church in front of my palace. I want you to complete the work before to-morrow evening. If you do it, I shall give you a present. If you don't, I will cut off your head."

When Emelyan heard the king's words he was very sad. He thought that his end was near.

Who can build a big church in a single day?" he said to himself.

"To-morrow evening the king will put me to death."

Sadly he went home to tell his wife about it.

TEST:— Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. The king wished to make the beautiful girl his ——. (friend, wife, minister).
2. His officers advised him to kill Emelyan with ——. (poison, work, the sword).
3. He ordered Emelyan to come to the —— and set him hard work to do.
   (town, palace, hut).
4. His wife advised Emelyan not to look before or after but to keep on working and all would be —— (over, well, wrong).
5. Emelyan did as he was told and — the work in good time.
   (finished, did not finish).
6. The king's —— gave him work that required great skill, but he did it easily.
   (wife, officers, soldiers).
7. Then they advised the king to order Emelyan to build a big — — in a single day.
   (palace, church, school).

3. THREE TASKS

When Emelyan's wife saw him come home sadly, she knew that there was some trouble. So she asked him what the matter was.

"My end is near," said Emelyan. "There is only one way of saving my life. We must run away from here before to-morrow. So get ready, good wife, or I shall lose my life."

"What are you afraid of?" his wife asked. "And why should we run away from here?"

"How can I help being afraid?" said Emelyan. "The king has ordered me to build him a big church to-morrow. I must finish it in a single day. If I don't, he will cut off my head. There is only one thing we can

do now. We must run away while there is yet time."

But his wife would not agree to run away.

"The king has many soldiers," she said, "they will find us out and take us back to him. We cannot escape from him by running away. The only thing we can do is to obey him."

"How can we obey him," he asked, "when he wants me to do something which no man can do?"

"My good man," said his wife, "don't be afraid. Eat your food and go to sleep. Rise up early in the morning and all will be well."

So saying she sent him to bed.

Early next morning she woke him up.

"Go quickly to the palace," she said, "and there you will find the church which the king wants you to build. All you have to do is to fix a few doors and windows. Here are nails. Take them and complete the work before sunset."

Emelyan went to the palace and was surprised to see a big and beautiful church in front of it. It was almost finished. He had only to fix some doors and windows. Emelyan set to work and by evening he fixed them. All was over and the church was finished.

When the king woke up that morning, he looked out through his window and saw the beautiful church in front of the palace. He also saw a man going about fixing the doors and windows.

"Emelyan ! " said he.

The king was not pleased to see the beautiful church. On the country he was very angry. For he saw he could not kill Emelyan and take his wife from him.

Quickly he came out of his room and sent for his officers.

When they came he said, Emelyan has built the church in a day and we cannot put him to death now. Even this work was not too difficult for him. You must therefore think of a cunning plan for killing him or I will put everyone of you to death."

The king's officers were filled with fear when they heard this. So they began to think out a plan. At last they made up their minds to ask Emelyan to make a river round the

palace with ships sailing on it. They advised the king to send for Emelyan and set him this new task.

"If you can build a big church in one night," said the king, "you can make a river on which ships sail. To-morrow everything must be ready. If not, I will see that your head is cut off."

When Emelyan heard these words, he was filled with fear. "How can I make a river with ships sailing on it?" he said to himself. "To-morrow the king will put me to death."

Sadly he went home end when his wife saw him she knew that the king had set him another difficult task.

"Why are you so sad?" she asked. "Has the king given you some other work ? "

Emelyan told her all about it. This time the king wanted him to make a river round the palace with ships sailing on it.

"We must run away from here," said he. "That is the only way to save our lives."

Again his wife would not agree to it.

"How can we escape from the king's soldiers?" she said. "They will catch us wherever we go and take us back to him. We have to obey the king's order."

"How can I make a river round the palace ?" he asked.

"My good man," said she, "don't be afraid. Eat your food and go to sleep. Get up early and everything will be done in good time."

So Emelyan lay down and slept peacefully.

In the morning he woke up and saw his wife by his side.

"Go to the palace," said she, "and you will find a river flowing round it. You will also see ships sailing on it. All is ready. Only a part of the road near the water-front is left. Take your spade and complete the work."

When Emelyan reached the palace, he saw the river with ships sailing on it. Only a few yards of road was left to be made. Taking his spade, he began to make the road.

Soon the king woke up and looked out. Then he saw a river flowing round the palace. Ships were sailing up and down and Emelyan was seen making the road.

The king was filled with wonder when he saw it. But he was not pleased with the river or the ships. He was angry with Emelyan. But he did not know what to do.

"There is no task." said he,"which Emelyan cannot do. He builds churches and makes rivers in a single night. What shall I do with him ? "

As the king did not know what to do, he again sent for his officers and asked their advice.

"Find out some task," he said, "which Emelyan won't be able to do. Now whatever work we give him, he completes it in good time. So I cannot put him to death. Nor can I take his wife from him."

The king's men thought and thought about it. But they could not find out a task to be given to Emelyan.

At last a very cunning officer stood up and said, "I have found out a plan to kill him. You must send for Emelyan and say to him, "Go there, don't know where and bring back that, don't know what!" He wont't be able to go there. For wherever he may go, you can say that it is not the right place. And whatever he may bring, you can say it is not the right thing. Then you can put him to death and take his wife from him."

The king was pleased with the idea.

"That is a fine thought," said he.

He gave a good present to the man and sent him away.

Then he sent an officer to call Emelyan and he came.

"Emelyan," said the king, "I want you to go there and bring me that."

"Where do you want me to go?" asked Emelyan. "And what do you want me to bring ? "

"I don't know where," answered the king,"and I don't know what. But you must go there and bring me that."

Emelyan heard the king's words and did not know what to do.

"My end is come," said he to himself. "I won't be able to go where I don't know, and bring what I don't know. And the king will surely kill me."

Again he went home sadly to tell his wife about it.

TEST:— Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given in brackets. KASSIM - KASSIM

1. When the king asked him to build a church in a day, Emelyan went —— and told his —— about it.
   (away, home, wife, friend).
2. He told her to —but she would not agree.
   (kill him, run away, to go to sleep).
3. She told him not to be ——and all would be well. (angry, afraid, happy).
4. Next morning when he went to the palace, he saw a big —— there.
   (army, church, river).
5. Then the king told Emelyan to make a — with —— sailing on it.
   (lake, river, ducks, ships).
6. Again Emelyan was afraid, but the —— told him to go and sleep well.
   (king, officer, girl).
7. Next morning he saw a big river round the palace and there were —— sailing on it. (ducks, ships, men).
8. At last the king —— told Emelyan to go where he knew not and bring what he knew not. (officer, girl, king).

4. THE OLD WOMAN

Emelyan's wife saw him returning home sadly. At once she asked him what the matter was and he told her what the king had said. His wife became thoughtful.

"Now," said she, "the king knows how to catch you. So we must be very careful."

Then she sat down and thought for a long time.

At last she said, "I shall tell you what to do. You must go to my grandmother, the old woman who is the mother of soldiers. She lives far away but you must find her and request her to help you. Do as she tells you to do. And when you have done it, go back to the palace and I shall be there. I cannot escape from

the king now. He will take me by force. But he can't keep me for long. If you do everything as grandmother tells you, all shall be well again and you will save me from the wicked king."

So his wife got him ready for the journey. She gave him a bag and a spindle. "Give her this spindle," she said, "and she will know that you are my husband. I am sure she will help you."

So saying she took him to the gate and showed him his way.

Emelyan took leave of his wife and went off along the road. He left the town behind and came to a place where he saw some soldiers. They were marching up and down. Emelyan stood watching them for some time.

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spindle—നൂൽനൂൽ.

Then he went up to them and asked, "Brothers, do you know the way to 'there, don't know where' and how I can get that, don't know what?"

The soldiers were filled with wonder at his question.

"Who sent you here?" they asked.

"The king," he answered.

Then the soldiers said that they themselves were in the same difficulty as he was. They were going they knew not where and seeking they knew not what.

"From the day we became soldiers," they said, "we go, we don't know where. But we have not got there yet. We have been seeking we don't know what and we have not yet found it. We cannot help you in any way."

So Emelyan left them and went on his way. All day long he walked and at last he came to a forest. In the forest he saw a hut and in the hut sat an old woman. She was very old. She sat spinning and as she spun she wept. She did not put her fingers into her mouth to wet them. But she put them to her eyes and they became wet with her tears.

When she saw Emelyan, she turned to him and asked, "Who are you, young man, and why have you come here?"

Then Emelyan gave her the spindle and said his wife had sent him to her.

The old woman was pleased when she saw it and began to question him. Emelyan told her his story; how he

met the girl and married her; how they went to live in the town; how he had worked for the king; how he built the church in a day and how he made the river with ships sailing on it and how the king had ordered him to go, he knew not where and bring he knew not what.

The old women heard his story to the very end. Then she stopped weeping.

"The time has come," said she to herself.

Then she turned to Emelyan and said, "All right, my boy, sit down now, and I shall give you something to eat."

Emelyan sat down and ate. Then the old women told him what to do.

"Here," said she, "is a ball of thread, roll it before you and go

where it goes. Follow till you come to the sea. When you get there, you will see a big town. Enter the town and go to the last house at the other end and stay there for the night. Then you must look out for what you seek to find."

"But how shall I know it when I see it?" he asked her.

"When you see something which men obey more than father or mother, know that it is what you seek," she said. "Take it and carry it to the king. When you take it to him, he will say it is not the right thing. But you must answer, 'If it is not the right thing it must be broken.' Then you must beat it and carry it to the river where you must break it to pieces and

throw it into the water. Then you will get your wife back and my tears will be dried."

So saying she gave him the ball of thread and told him to roll it. Emelyan took leave of the old woman and set out.

TEST:— Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. Emelyan's wife told him to go to her ——. (mother, grandmother, grandfather).
2. Emelyan set out and came to a group of—. (merchants, soldiers, workmen)
3. From the time they became soldiers they were going —— and seeking they knew not what. (they knew where, they knew not where).
4. Emelyan came to a forest and saw —— in a hut. (soldiers, his wife, an old woman).
5. He gave her the —— and then she knew that he was the girl's husband. (ball. thread, spindle).

6. He told her his story and she gave him a ——. (ball of wool, ball of thread, piece of thread).
7. She told him to roll it and follow it till he came to the ——. (river, sea, lake)
8. There he would see a town and he was to stay in the —— house at the other end. (first, last, third)

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5. THE DRUM

Emelyan came out of the forest and reached a field. Then he threw down the ball of thread and it began to roll. He followed it and when it came to a stop, he rolled it again. It rolled and rolled until at last it reached the sea.

By the sea there was a big town and there was a road leading to it. Emelyan walked along the road till he

entered the city. He saw many men and women going about. He did not stop to talk to them, but walked on till he came to the other end of the town.

When he came to the last house he stopped. It was a small house and an old man was standing at the door.

It was evening. Emelyan went up to the man and requested him to allow him to stay there for the night. He readily agreed. So Emelyan went in and lay down to sleep.

He slept soundly till morning. Then he woke up and came out.

Then he heard the father of the house calling to his son. "Dear son," said the man, "go out and cut wood for the fire."

"It is too early," said he, "and there is time enough."

A few minutes later, he heard a woman's voice saying, "Get up, my son. It is time to go out and cut wood. Would you allow your old father to go out all alone? It is time to go."

But the son did not get up. He said something and then fell asleep again.

Just then they heard a strange sound from the road side. It came nearer and nearer.

Up jumped the son as soon as he heard it, and quickly ran out into the street.

Up jumped Emelyan too and ran out to see what it was that a son obeyed more than father or mother.

When he came out, he saw a man walking along the street. He was

carrying something which he beat with a stick.

"What is that?" Emelyan asked himself.

He looked at it carefully. He saw that it was round in shape with a skin over both ends.

The man carried it tied round his neck.

Emelyan went up to him and asked what it was called.

"A drum," answered the man.

"Is it empty?" he asked.

"Yes, it is empty," the man answered.

Emelyan was surprised. He asked the man to give it to him. But he would not. So Emelyan left off asking and followed the drummer.

All day long Emelyan followed him and at last the drummer who was tired lay down to sleep.

Then Emelyan took the drum from the sleeping man and ran away with it.

He ran and ran till he came to his own town. He went straight to his hut to see his wife. But the door was and locked and there was no one in the house.

He asked the man who lived next door about his wife. Then he learned that the king had taken her away by force. The day after he went away, the king's men came to take her off to the palace. She was unwilling to go; so they carried her off by force.

Then Emelyan went to the palace and sent word to the king that he had come back.

"Tell the king," said he to the officer on duty, "that the man who went where he knew not has returned and he has brought what he knew not."

The officer went in and told the king that Emelyan had come back, and wanted to see him. The king answered that he could not see him that day.

"Tell him to come to-morrow," said he.

But Emelyan would not go away.

"Tell the king that I am here today," said he, "and I have brought what he wanted. Let him come out to me or I will go in to him."

When the king heard his words, he came out.

"Where have you been?" the king asked.

Emelyan told him the place.

"That is not the right place," said the king. "And what have you brought?"

Emelyan showed him the drum.

But the king said, "That is not the right thing."

"It is the right thing," said Emelyan. "And I got it from the right place."

"I say it is not," said the king again.

"If it is not the right thing," answered Emelyan, "I will break it to pieces and throw it into the river."

So saying he took the stick and began to beat the drum. When the king's soldiers heard the drum, they came running in. They saluted Emelyan and waited for his orders

Thereupon Emelyan walked out of the palace beating the drum as he went along. And all the king's men followed him.

The king looked out through the window and saw his soldiers following Emelyan. At once he cried out to them to turn back and return to the palace. But they did not obey the king's orders and all of them followed Emelyan.

When the king saw that his men did not obey him, he set Emelyan's wife free and told her to go back to her husband. He himself came out and requested Emelyan to give him the drum.

"It can't be done," said Emelyan. "I have to break it to pieces and throw it into the river."

So saying Emelyan went down to the river. As he went along he did not stop beating the drum and all the soldiers followed him. When he came to the river he broke the drum to pieces and threw it into the water.

Then all the soldiers ran away.

Soon Emelyan's wife joined him and he went home with her. After this, the king did not give them any trouble and so they lived happily together.

TEST:— Fill up the blanks choosing rhe right words from those given in brackets:—

1. Emelyan followed the ball till he came to the ——.
   (hill, sea, river).

2. There was a —— by the sea.
   (house, palace, town).

3. He went to the last house at the other end of the town and stayed there for the ——.
   (day, night, week).

4. Next morning he saw the son disobeying his —— but obeying something he heard in the street.
   (orders, father and mother, king).

5. Emelyan went out and saw that it was a ——.
   (drum, horn, bell).

6. He took the drum from the man and went to ——.
   (his wife, the king, the river).

7. The king said that it was not the —— thing.
   (good, right, wrong).

8. Then Emelyan beat the drum and all the king's —— followed him.
(soldiers, sons, dogs).

9. Then the king set free ——.
(Emelyan, Emelyan's wife, his son).

10. Emelyan broke the drum to pieces and threw it into the ——.
(sea, river, well).

11. The —— did not trouble him and his wife afterwards and they lived happily.
(old woman, drummer, king).

FINAL TEST

Complete the following sentences choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. Emelyan was a poor —— who had no house of his own.
(hunter, workman, teacher).

2. One day he came upon a — but it jumped aside to save its life.
(bird, frog, dog).

3. Then he saw a beautiful —— who requested him to make her his ——.

(boy, girl, friend, wife).

4. He married her and she took him to her —— in the ——.

(house, hut, village, town).

5. One day —— saw Emelyan's wife and he wanted to have her for himself.

(the king, a soldier, an officer).

6. So he sent for Emelyan and tried to —— him with hard work.

(help, kill, harm).

7. But Emelyan did not look before or after and —— the work in time.

(finished, did not finish).

8. Then the king told him to build a big ——in front of the palace in a single day.

(palace, city, church).

9. Next day when the king woke up he saw a —— in front of the palace.

(church, hut, tent).

10. Next day he ordered Emelyan to make a —— with ships sailing on it.
(river, canal, sea).

11. Next day when the king woke up he saw the —— flowing round the palace.
(river, canal, sea).

12. Then he asked Emelyan to go —— he knew not and bring —— he knew not.
(when, where, what).

13. Emelyan's wife told him to go to her—— and do as she would tell him.
(mother, grandmother, sister).

14. So he went to the old woman who told him to go to the town by the sea and take what the men —— more than father or mother.
(took, obeyed, wanted).

15. Emelyan went to the palace and saw a man who did not obey his father and mother, but when he heard a —— he obeyed it.
(command, drum, song).

16. Emelyan took the drum to the —— but he was told it was not the right thing.
(woman, king, girl).

17. Then he beat the drum and all the king's —— followed him.
(women, soldiers, dogs).

18. So the king set Emelyan's —— free.
(mother, wife, friend).

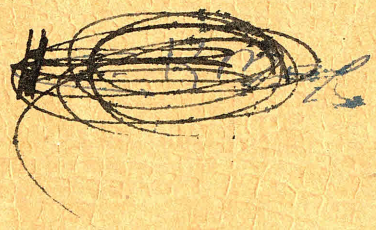
19. Emelyan broke the drum to pieces and threw it into the ——.
(sea, river, tank).

20. Emelyan took —— home and they lived happily together.
(the king, the queen, his wife).

This is a — book
This is a good story

good story

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