GRADED HOME READING BOOKS

SECOND SERIES

BELLEROPHON

Approved, Vide D. P. I's Order
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GRADED
HOME READING BOOKS

STANDARD VIII
BOOK V

ISLAM HIGH SCHOOL
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BELLEROPHON

362

Edited by
A. SANKARA PILLAI M. A., M. Ed.

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FOREWORD

'Bellerophon' is the fifth of a series of six Greek stories told in simple English for the use of Standard VIII pupils as home reading books. Only the words and sentence patterns used in the Detailed English Texts for Standard V to VII are used in this book. Special care has been taken to see that the number of new words, introduced is limited to two or three in a page of about two hundred words. Whenever the meaning of a word is not clear from the context, it is given at the foot of the page. Peculiarities, if any, in its pronunciation are also indicated by giving other known words having the same sound.

Self-administering tests are given at the end of every chapter. Readers are requested to test themselves before they proceed to the next section.

A final test covering the whole book is given at the end. Teachers are requested to check the library work of the pupils by

making them write down the answers in their library note books, Only new type tests have been given, most of them being multiple choice tests.

BELLEROPHON

I. THE LETTER

Long, long ago there lived in Greece a king called Glaucus. He was the king of Corinth. In olden days Corinth was a great and famous city.

Glaucus had two sons. Both of them were very strong and brave. They could run and jump better than other boys of their age. They were good at riding and swimming too.

The elder of the two brothers was named Bellerophon. He was a very handsome boy with golden hair and deep blue eyes. All those who saw him loved him dearly.

Bellerophon and his brother were very fond of hunting. One day they went to hunt. Soon they

saw a deer and ran up to kill it. It ran as fast as it could. But Bellerophon and his brother ran faster and soon they came near it. Bellerophon was on one side of the deer and his brother was on the other side. When he came quite near the animal Bellerophon took his spear and threw it at the deer.

Just then the deer turned round and the spear struck his brother who was standing on the other side.

"Oh," cried the boy as he fell down.

The spear had passed through his heart and came out on the other side.

In a few minutes the boy died.

"Alas!" cried Bellerophon, "What have I done?"

He was filled with sorrow for killing his brother.

Spear—കുന്തം

"I wish I could kill myself," said he as he looked at his brother lying dead before him.

In those days the Greeks would not allow a man who had killed another to live with them. They thought that he should make himself pure before he could go home and live with his people.

So Bellerophon could not return to his father and he could not go back to Corinth. He made up his mind to leave the city and go away.

"I must find out a man who can purify me," said he to himself.

He asked the people whom he met whether they knew of any one who could purify men like him.

"There is a man in Argos who can purify you," they said.

"He is the king of Argos and his name is Proetus."

Purify—ശുദ്ധമാക്കുക

Then Bellerophon went to Argos to meet Proetus. Proetus was a good man who always helped those who came to him for help. When he saw the handsome boy and heard his sad story, he was very much pleased with him.

"Bellerophon," said he, "I shall gladly purify you and wash away your sin."

He made Bellerophon live with him for a few days and washed away his sin. When he became pure, Bellerophon thanked Proetus and asked him to allow him to return home. But the king requested him to stay with him for a few days more.

"Stay with me," said he, "and be my guest. You are like a son to me and I love you as I love my own child."

So Bellerophon stayed in the palace as the guest of the king.

King Proetus had a beautiful wife who was very wicked and cunning. Bellerophon was the most handsome man she had ever seen. When she saw him she fell in love with him.

"I love Bellerophon," said she to herself, "and wish to marry him. I must ask him to run away with me."

One day when Bellerophon was sitting alone in his room, the queen went to him.

"Dear Bellerophon," said she, "I love you and wish to be your wife. Come, we shall run away from here to my father's land and live as man and wife."

Bellerophon was a good man who would do no wrong to anyone. He would never do any harm to Proetus who had done him great

good. Above all he was the king's guest; so he had to see that no wrong was done to him.

"Good queen," said Bellerophon, "it is not right for me to run away with you. Your husband, the king, is my friend and well-wisher. So I cannot make you my wife."

But the queen would not agree. Again she requested him to marry her.

"Don't be afraid of Proetus," said she, "we shall run away to Lycia where my father, Iobates is king."

It was not fear but honour that made Bellerophon say 'no' to the queen.

"I can't make you my wife," he said again, "and I won't."

The queen got angry when she heard his answer. At once

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above all—സർവ്വോപരിയായി

her love changed into anger. "I will see that Bellerophon is killed," said she to herself.

Then she went to the king weeping.

"Why are you weeping?" he asked.

"Your friend, Bellerophon asked me to run away with him, and be his wife," said she. "But I said 'no'. Then he got angry and said he would kill you and me."

The king believed his wife and got angry with Bellerophon.

"I will kill him," said the king.

"But he is your guest," said the queen, "and you must not kill your guest."

"I won't kill him myself," said Proetus, "but I will send him to Lycia and ask your father to kill him."

"That is a good idea," said the queen.

Next morning the king sent for Bellerophon and said, "Dear friend, I want to send a letter to the queen's father. He is king of Lycia. Won't you take my letter to him ?"

"Yes," said Bellerophon, "I will go to Lycia and give him your letter."

In those days there was no paper and people used wooden tablets to write on. Proetus took a tablet and wrote that Iobates must put to death the man who brought him the letter. Then he covered it up with another tablet and tied them firmly together.

He gave the letter to Bellerophon and said, "Lycia is far away, you have to go over land and sea to reach that place. Keep the letter safe and give it to the king."

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tablet—എഴുത്തുപലക.

Bellerophon took the letter and set off at once.

TEST. Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. Bellerophon was the son of the king of ——.

   (Lycia, Corinth, Argos)

2. One day he went out hunting and killed his —— by mistake.

   (dog, deer, brother)

3. So he left Corinth and went to king ——.

   (Iobates, Proetus)

4. The king purified him, but the —— wanted him to marry her.

   (queen, princess, goddess)

5. Bellerophon refused, so she told the king to —— him.

   (help, kill, beat)

6. The king gave Bellerophon a —— and told him to take it to Iobates.

   (horse, letter, cup)

7. He wrote that Iobates should ——— Bellerophon.

   (kill, honour, carry off)

2. THE CHIMAERA

Lycia was far away from Argos and Bellerophon travelled a long way before he came to the sea. Then he found a ship ready to sail.

"Where are you going?" he asked the captain.

"To Lycia," answered he.

So he got into the ship and set sail. After a few days they came to the land of king Iobates.

At once Bellerophon set out to meet the king. The captain showed him the palace.

"That beautiful building is the king's palace," said he.

Bellerophon went in. The king was sitting in the hall and he was very much pleased when he saw the brave young man.

"He looks like a hero," said the king to himself, "and he is as handsome as a god."

He received Bellerophon kindly and asked him to sit down.

"Welcome," said he. "Be my guest."

In those days the Greeks did not ask their guests who they were. They received the guest warmly and feasted him for many days.

In honour of his guest Iobates gave a sheep as an offering to the gods. Then there was feast. Bellerophon sat down with the king and they ate together.

Nine days went by like this. Iobates was very much pleased with his guest and began to love him as he loved his own son.

On the tenth day when the feast was over, he called his guest and

asked, "Friend, tell me who you are and why you have come to me."

"My name is Bellerophon," answered he. "My father is the king of Corinth and I have come with a letter from Proetus whose queen is your daughter."

The king was very much pleased when he heard that Bellerophon had come with a letter from his son-in law.

"How is Proetus?" he asked.

"He is quite well," answered Bellerophon and gave him the letter.

Iobates untied the tablet and read the letter. He was very much troubled when he learned that he had to put Bellerophon to death.

"He must have done some great wrong," said he to himself. "That is why Proetus wants me to kill him."

Yet when he looked upon the honest face of Bellerophon he felt sorry for him.

"He looks honest," said he, "and I don't think he has done any wrong."

Yet he made up his mind to do as Proetus had wished. But he did not want to kill him in his sleep.

"He looks like a hero," said the king. "Let him die fighting bravely."

At that time there lived in Lycia a fearful animal called the Chimaera. She had the head of a lioness, the body of a sheep and the tail of the crocodile. She was so strong that she could kill an elephant in one blow. When she breathed out, fire came out of her nose and whosoever went near was burnt to death.

The Chimaera lived on a mountain at night. But in the day time she came down and ate up

everything. She killed men and animals and ate them up. The fire that came out of her nose and mouth burnt up the plants and trees. All the people were afraid of the Chimaera and many of them ran to other parts of the country.

"I'll send Bellerophon to kill the Chimaera," said the king to himself. "He won't be able to kill her. But she will kill him."

Then he turned to Bellerophon and said, "Friend, you are strong and brave. Can you fight against the Chimaera and kill her?"

"Yes," said Bellerophon because he was a true hero who wished to do great deeds.

"Are you not afraid to die?" the king asked.

"No," he answered. "I want to do great deeds and I am ready to die for others."

The king was pleased with the answer.

He gave him a spear and a sword and sent him off to kill the Chimaera.

"May the gods help him," said Iobates to himself. "He is a brave young man and I don't want him to die."

Yet he did not call him back or do anything to help him.

Meanwhile the gods learned that Bellerophon had agreed to go and kill the Chimaera. They love the brave and are always ready to help them.

Of all the gods and goddesses, it was Pallas Athene who helped heroes most. When she understood that Bellerophon had set out to meet the Chimaera she said, "He is a brave man; but he can't kill her without the help of the gods. So I must send him all help. I must

not allow him to die. There are very few brave men in the world and Bellerophon is one of them."

Athene knew that if Bellerophon went near the Chimaera, she would burn him to death. He must get away quickly to save his life.

"I will send him the flying horse," said Athene. "Then he will be able to get away quickly before the fire burns him."

The gods had a flying horse which was called Pegasus. It was the most beautiful horse in the world and could run faster than any other horse. It had wings like a bird and could fly faster than all birds.

So the gods sent for Pegasus and sent him to Bellerophon.

"Let the hero get upon the flying horse," said they, "and kill the Chimaera."

Then Pallas Athene ordered Pegasus to go down to the earth and help Bellerophon to kill the Chimaera. At once Pegasus set off to meet Bellerophon.

TEST. Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. Bellerophon went to Lycia to give the letter to——.
   (the queen, Proetus, Iobates)
2. The king received him kindly and was——with him.
   (pleased, displeased)
3. When he read the letter, he sent Bellerophon to kill the——.
   (lion, sheep, Chimaera)
4. The——wanted to help him.
   (queen, king, gods)
5. They sent the flying——to help him.
   (car, eagle, horse)
6. The name of the flying horse was——.
   (the Chimaera, Athene, Pegasus)
7. The goddess who helped heroes most was——.
   (Juno, Venus, Athene)

3. THE FLYING HORSE

Bellerophon left the palace and walked towards the mountain on which the Chimaera lived. Soon he came to an open field. Few plants grew there and even the grass was burnt black.

"The fire from the Chimaera's mouth has burnt up the grass," said Bellerophon to himself.

He had heard many stories of the Chimaera. They showed that if a man went near her he would be burnt to death.

"How can I go near her?" he asked himself.

He sat down and began to think about it.

Just then he heard a sound from above and looked up.

"A big bird!" said he.

It came flying towards him. When it came near, he saw it well. It had four legs and two ears. It had also a tail.

"It is a horse," said he, "but it has wings."

It was a flying horse!

Bellerophon had heard of the flying horse. It was the horse of the gods.

"Pegasus," said he.

Pegasus flew up to where Bellerophon sat. But it did not come down to the earth. It flew round and round without stopping.

Bellerophon was very much pleased when he saw the beautiful horse. He stood up and called out to it softly. "Come, come," said he.

But the horse flew round and round.

"Pegasus, Pegasus," he cried softly.

The horse heard its name and came nearer.

"Pegasus, Pegasus," he called out again.

The horse came up to where he stood.

Bellerophon touched the horse softly and stroked its back. Then the horse stood still and allowed him to come nearer.

Bellerophon stroked Pegasus lovingly and then got upon his back. He was the first man to ride on the flying horse!

When he got upon his back, Pegasus began to fly. But the horse would not go as he wanted. When he wished to go quickly, it would go slowly. When he wanted to turn right, he would turn left. He could not make the horse understand what he wanted.

"Pegasus is a fine horse," said he to himself. "He loves me and

I love him. But I do not know how to make it do as I wish."

So he got down from the horse and began to walk. Pegasus followed him. Sometimes he ran by his side. Sometimes he flew through the air. But he was always with Bellerophon and would never leave him.

Bellerophon travelled like this for sometime. Then he saw a man coming towards him. He was an old man and when he saw the flying horse, he asked, "How did you get this beautiful horse?"

Then Bellerophon told him the whole story.

"Pegasus is the finest horse in the world," said he. "But I do not know how to ride on him. I cannot control him."

"Pray to Pallas Athene," said the old man, "and she will tell you what to do. There is a temple of the

goddess in this part of the country. It is not far away from here. Go to the temple and pray to Athene. Sleep the night in the temple. Then the goddess will come to you in a dream and tell you what to do."

"Will you please, take me to the temple?" Bellerophon asked.

"Gladly," said the man and he took him to the temple of Athene.

It was an old but beautiful temple. Bellerophon went in and prayed to the goddess.

"O Pallas Athene," said he, "you are the goddess of wisdom. Tell me what I should do to control the horse."

When he had prayed to the goddess, he lay down on the floor and slept.

The horse which came with him, did not go into the temple. It slept outside.

As Bellerophon lay fast asleep, he had a dream. The goddess came to him and said, "Bellerophon, I am pleased with you. You are a brave hero and I am the friend of heroes like you. Tell me what help you want from me and I shall be glad to help you."

Bellerophon told the goddess to teach him how to control the horse.

Thereupon the goddess showed him a long ribbon and said, "Put this into the mouth of the horse and hold the two ends in your hand. In this way you can control him."

Then she showed him how to do it. She taught him how to control ths horse and make it turn right or left as he wished.

"Well," said she, "take the ribbon. I have brought it for you."

Bellerophon thanked the goddess and took it from Athene.

Then the goddess blessed him and said, "Go and kill the Chimaera. Then the gods will be pleased with you and all men will look upon you as a great hero."

With these words Athene went away and Bellerophon did not see her again. Then he woke up and saw that he had a ribbon in his hand.

It was a long piece and it was very strong.

"I'll put this into the mouth of Pegasus," said he to himself, "and hold the ends in my hand."

Then he came out of the temple. Pegasus was standing at the gate.

"Come," said he to the horse.

He came running up to him. He stroked his back and put the ribbon in its mouth. Then he jumped upon his back and held the two ends in his hand.

Then the horse began to fly up in the air.

"I can control Pegasus by pulling the ribbon," said Bellerophon.

It was true. When he pulled the ribbon, the horse slowed down. He could turn him left or right by pulling it.

It was the first bridle that man ever used. It was first used by Bellerophon. Pallas Athene made it and gave it to the hero.

Even to this day man controls the horse with the bridle.

TEST. Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in brackets.

1. ——came out of the mouth of the Chimaera.
   (Water, Air, Fire)
2. It——up everything.
   (took, burnt, killed)
3. The——made up their minds to help Bellerophon.
   (kings, princes, gods)

4. They sent him the——horse.
   (swimming, sleeping, flying)
5. His name was——.
   (Athene, Pegasus, Pony)
6. But Bellerophon did not know how to——him.
   (take, control, call)
7. An old man told him to pray to——.
   (Zeus, Proetus, Athene)
8. He went to the——of Athene and prayed.
   (palace, temple, church)
9. Athene came to him in his——.
   (house, dream, play)
10. She gave him a——.
    (flower, bridle, chain)
11. With it Bellerophon controlled the——.
    (dog, horse, cow)

4. THE HERO

When Bellerophon rose up high in the sky on the back of Pegasus, he saw the sun rising up in the eastern sky. It was a clear day and there was no cloud in the sky.

But far away he saw a cloud of smoke. He turned that side and saw that it came from the mountain on which the Chimaera lived.

He made the horse fly towards the mountain. By this time it was broad daylight and he could see the fearful animal on the mountain. She had the head of a lion and fire came out of her nose and mouth.

"There stands the Chimaera," said he. "It is a fearful animal."

He turned the horse that side and made it fly towards it. When Pegasus came to the mountain, he flew round and round. Bellerophon

saw the Chimaera well. He saw that it had the body of a sheep.

"I will take my bow," said he, and, "shoot an arrow at her body."

So saying he took his bow and shot an arrow at the Chimaera. It passed through the body and gave her great pain.

The Chimaera grew angry when she saw Bellerophon. At once she bagan to throw out fire to burn him to death. But he made the horse fly away quickly from there and so the fire did not reach him.

When he had got off safely, he took another arrow and shot it at her. Again it passed through her neck and she cried with great pain. But she did not die.

Thereupon he took a third arrow and shot it through her heart. It killed the Chimaera and in a moment she fell dead on the ground.

For some time Bellerophon did not know that she was dead. He made the horse fly round and round. He saw that the Chimaera did not move and came near. At last he found that she was dead.

Then he came down to the mountain and went to the place where she lay. Then he drew his sword and cut off the head of the Chimaera.

He covered up the head with a piece of cloth and set out upon his way home again.

Pegasus carried him quickly to Lycia. As the people were returning home after their work in the fields, they saw a man on a flying horse coming towards them.

"The flying horse!" they cried.

When Pegasus came near they saw that the man on the horse was Bellerophon.

"He is Bellerophon," they cried.

When Bellerophon reached the palace, they ran to Iobates and told him that he had come back.

"He has come flying on the back of a flying horse," they said.

Iobates was filled with wonder when he heard the story. At once he came out to see Bellerophon.

When the hero saw the king, he showed him the head he had brought with him.

"Look," said he taking off the cloth that covered the head.

Iobates saw the fearful head of the Chimaera.

"How fearful!" he cried.

At once Iobates knew that Bellerophon was a hero whom the gods loved.

"The gods love him," said he to himself. "They have given him the flying horse."

Then Belleropeon told the king the whole story. When Iobates heard it he said, "Pallas Athene is his friend. So I cannot kill him and no man will be able to do him harm."

So he made up his mind to become Bellerophon's friend.

Then he told him about Proetus' letter.

"He wanted me to kill you," said Iobates. "That was why I sent you to the Chimaera."

Then he turned to the brave hero and begged him to forgive him.

"Forgive me," said Iobates, "I am sorry for what I have done."

Bellerophon was pleased with the king and forgave him freely.

The king had another daughter. She was very beautiful. He gave her to Bellerophon as his wife.

The people thanked Bellerophon for killing the Chimaera.

"You have saved us from the fearful animal," they said and gave him many rich presents. They requested him to stay in Lycia with his wife. The king gave him a beautiful palace to live in. He gave him fields and gardens and Bellerophon lived happily with his wife in Lycia. He took good care of the flying horse. Pegasus was dearer to him than life.

"He is my dearest friend," said Bellerophon.

TEST. Fill up the blanks choosing the right words from those given in the brackets.

1. Bellerophon flew to the——on which the Chimaera lived.
   (field, palace, mountain)
2. He shot three——at her.
   (guns, bows, arrows)
3. When the Chimaera was killed, he cut off her——.
   (head, tail, ear)
4. King Iobates was—— with him when he came back with the head.
   (pleased, angry, displeased)
5. He gave Bellerophon his——as his wife.
   (sister, daughter, niece)

FINAL TEST

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

1. Bellerophon was the great —— hero who killed the Chimaera.
   (Roman, Indian, Greek)
2. Chimaera was a fearful animal with the head of the ——, the ——of the crocodile and — of the sheep.
   (lion, body, tail)
3. She lived on a——, but came down and ate up the men and animals of the villages nearby.
   (hill, mountain, river)
4. Bellerophon was the son of a king; but he killed his —— by mistake.
   (father, mother, brother)
5. King Proetus purified him; but he sent the hero to Lycia with a——.
   (present, letter, flying horse)
6. Proetus wrote to Iobates to ——Bellerophon.
   (help, sent away, kill)

7. So Iobates sent him to kill ——.

(Proetus, the Chimaera, the lion)

8. The gods helped him by giving him ——.

(a sword, the flying horse, an arrow)

9. Pallas Athene taught him how to control the horse and gave him the ——.

(spear, sword, bridle)

10. Bellerophon flew to the mountain on the back of —— and killed the Chimaera.

(a lion, Pegasus, an eagle)

11. He flew back to Lycia with the Chimrera's ——.

(boby, tail, head)

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