

THE WIDE AWAKE CIRCLE BOYS AND GIRLS DEPARTMENT

Advice for Young Writers.

Write plainly on one side of the paper only, and number the pages. Use pen and ink, not pencil. Short and pointed articles will be given preference. Do not use over the word.

though from some irritation or prejudice we think they are not. It is a positive fact that the more disagreeable we make life for those around us, the more disagreeable they can make it for us.

It is a good plan if you are prompted to say anything mean to or of another to think twice and then not say it. Nothing makes a person who says mean things to or of another feel so sorry as to show no anger and to say of them the good things you can say when occasion offers.

It is just as easy to cultivate good habits as it is to cultivate bad ones and how it adds to the sweetness and success of life.

If you can do a favor for anyone without discommoding yourself always be glad to do it. If you think you owe them a grudge, just try once to pay them with kindness and see how much better you feel than you would have had you paid them back in their own coin.

Paying folks back in their own coin is a real bad habit and it makes both parties equally bad and equally senseless. Don't mind if you always do something better for other folks than they have for you.

This is what is called spreading sunshine, and it would do no harm if you should be known as workers for cheerful conditions in all the walks of life.

The Unselfish Robin. By A. Judson Rich. The following incident was inspired by a touching incident in Milton, Mass. A pair of robins had built their nest on a grape vine and all day were kept busy getting worms for their young. A caged mocking bird was suspended from a branch over the parent robins were seen to alight on the cake and drop worms into the prisoner's mouth.

It was a mansion old and fair—Seaward it looked, all clad in vines; Smooth lawns and fragrant blooms were there. Wide-spreading elms and shady hedges.

The aged sire, with whitened locks, And full of sympathy for all, God's creatures, kin, or herds or flocks, Was bound with them in happy thrall.

One day, at early morn, he heard Red Robin sing her matin song, And knew the grand old bird, Who piped and twittered loud and long.

She came again another day, With moss and clay and hair, to build Her nest, in which five eggs to lay. As Nature, God, or instinct willed.

Five tender fledglings filled the nest; The mother brought sweet worms for food. But soon she spied a stranger guest, Which seemed its presence to intrude.

They watched each other—friendship grew. The mocking bird, with notes so shrill, Would greet the robin as she flew 'Till the hungry mouths with food to fill.

One day the robin seemed in haste, And rapid came with worm to feed The open mouths—delicious taste. Then flew to meet her prisoner's need.

Returned and lighted on the cage, Looked down and met an open bill, Looked up, as wise as any sage, That it with sweet bits she could fill.

Often repeated was the act; Robin was proud of her new trust. Was glad to loan to him who lacked, And share in joy her scanty crust.

Good lesson that you taught us, bird— "For me and mine" we must not live. For others we should speak the word, To others of our bounty give.

—Our Dumb Animals.

UNCLE JED'S TALK TO WIDE-AWAKES.

Some grown people act just like bad boys and girls and have such a habit of calling others names that they forget themselves and call their own children brats and other bad names. One thing our Wide-Awakes should do is to avoid calling anyone names and not let the bad names they are called annoy them in the least.

No one can make a bad name hurt us but ourselves. If the name doesn't fit us, why should we mind the insane state of mind which voiced it? Their wicked thought which prompted it is as bad as our naughty act which provoked it. Let the bad names they are called annoy them in the least.

Elizabeth M. O'Rourke, of Providence, R. I.: Thank you for the following prize books which I have received and found to be very interesting. I am glad to see the "Mourning Cloak" standing on the apple core, his long tongue thrust out, sucking the juice from the core.

By SARAH HYMAN, Age 12. The Father of His Country. George Washington, first president of the United States, was born in Westmoreland Co., Va., Feb. 22, 1732, and died at Mount Vernon, Dec. 14, 1799.

When he was 11 years old his father died, leaving him in the care of his mother. He was a very bright boy and was devoted to his studies. At school George was painstaking and careful with his work and excelled in such subjects as reading, writing, and arithmetic.

In 1758, he married a rich young widow, Mrs. Martha Custis, whose property was very large. He then resided at Mount Vernon, made him a man of much wealth.

His bravery, patriotism and military skill, as shown in the last French war, led to his being chosen by the Continental Congress as commander-in-chief of the American troops during the revolution.

By reason of his modesty he shrank from this service, for which he was admirably fitted. He refused to receive any pay during the entire revolution.

It may indeed be truly said that he proved himself indispensable to the success of the American Revolution. He was a man of commanding presence and dignified manner. His success was not in intellectual brilliancy, but in a well-balanced judgment and in the belief that right made might.

By FRANCES FIELDS, Age 13. George Washington. In 1732, when Franklin was at work on his newspaper a boy was born on a plantation in Virginia who was to stand higher even than the Philadelphia printer.

That boy grew up to be chosen leader of the armies of the revolution. He was to be elected the first president of the United States, and before he died he was to be known and honored all over the world.

By MARY BOROVIKA, Age 11. The Snowstorm and Sleighride. The snowstorm began a week ago Wednesday, Feb. 17, and the snow is still on the ground.

Thursday, Feb. 3, Groundhog Day, we did not have any school. There was a heavy snowfall on Monday, 7 in another and 3 in another.

This week Wednesday the school children had a sleighride, but I did not go. The children said some of them went to the woods and down the streets, waiting for the sleigh to come home.

ALICE KINNEY, Age 13. Washington. On Feb. 22, 1732, a boy by the name of George Washington was born in the city of Westmoreland, Virginia.

In 1751 he made a sea voyage to the Barbadoes with his brother, Lawrence, who later soon after having George's heir of his estate at Mt. Vernon.

At the age of 22 he commanded a troop against the French who were at Fort Duquesne (now Pittsburgh) and made them give up. In the war he had four bullets through his coat and two horses were shot under him.

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LETTERS WRITTEN BY WIDE-AWAKES.

On the Ship. One day last autumn my cousin William came over to the suburbs of All Willimantic, where we live. We decided to take our dinner and go up the river on the path. We found a big cedar tree with the branches coming out at the root and laying flat on the ground.

We made up our minds to stay there all day. There was a space about twenty feet in circumference inside the branches. We took jackknives and cut away the smaller branches. We chose the tallest and straightest. Then we climbed up it, making the way clear as we went. At the top William made a seat and place to stand on. We thought this a good place to play ship. The seat was to be the crew's nest. I was left there to keep watch.

William and Ruth went down to fix the bottom of the ship. They made seats in every nook and pretended that stubs of broken branches were cranks, levers and riggers. One shanty with a box on the end made a good rocking chair.

We were hungry by this time, so we ate our lunch. After dinner William was appointed captain, Ruth was mate and I was watchman as before. I kept shouting that I saw a submarine. The William and Ruth would hurry and pull the levers to make the ship dodge and then played until sunset and then went home.

We told mamma about it and she agreed to come and see the speedy, for we had christened our ship. GRACE GODDARD, Age 13. Willimantic.

My First Trip to Watch Hill. My father, sister, mother and I got up early one morning, packed our lunch and had the hired man take us to the Yantic trolley.

We arrived at Watch Hill and soon reached Norwich, from where we took the steamer Block Island.

When we reached the sands my sister and I took off our slippers and stockings and waded about, dug wells in the sand, while my mother went in swimming. Once a big wave almost knocked me down.

After about an hour we came out of the water and ate our lunch. The hired man went and had some ice cream, after which we took the trolley to my grandpa's watch house.

We then took the car to Yantic, where we were met by the hired man, finally arriving home at 9 p. m., after a day of much pleasure. MILDRED GRANDY, Age 10.

A Visit to Slater Memorial. I am going to tell the Wide-Awakes about our visit to Slater Memorial. The sixth grade, Miss Mullin's class, made a special excursion to Slater Memorial on the children were eleven were going some other day.

There were twelve children in the party. We started at the West Side car at quarter past 1 o'clock. I was with the second crowd. We boarded the car at quarter past 2 o'clock. The art association had paid our carriage, which was very kind of them.

At first, the young plant must be nourished by the seed, and on it the germ of the new growth. The simple means provided for scattering seeds over the earth, and thus preventing the soil from becoming sterile. Some seeds are carried by the wind, many are carried from those in which they were produced.

Some seeds are conveyed by streams into which they fall and take root when they reach the water. Some seeds have a shelly or an oily covering that resists the action of the water, and thus they are able to float on the surface of the water. Some seeds are covered with an abundance of hooks, and the stem always turns up.

The dark, damp soil is the working place of the root, while the stem rises the leaves into the light and air, whence they have their part to do in the growth of the plant.

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write and alpher. By the time he was 12 he could write a clear, bold hand. In one of his writing books he copied many good rules. This is one: "Labor to keep alive in your breast the little mark of the deity called conscience." ANNA LAROCHE, Age 12. Versailles.

The Death Cup. The death cup is the most poisonous of all the flowers. It is found in summer and autumn throughout the greater part of the United States, growing upon the ground in the woods at medium and lower elevations. The stem is white. When young it is solid, but afterwards it becomes somewhat hollow and pithy. The base is surrounded by a characteristic cup-shaped appendage, the remnant of which covers the entire plant when young. The length varies from 3 to 5 inches. The leaves are generally smooth and satiny, but it may sometimes bear fragments of the outer covering, or the veins of the leaves are prominent. Several varieties of the plant exist, the one most common having a white or yellowish base and green or greenish leaves. The general shape is that of a bell, and grows in a room. It is also like that of the fly Amanita, which is, perhaps, more commonly known. From the former it is at once distinguished by its basal cup-shaped appendage. We played until sunset and then went home.

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