

McGuffey's Third Eclectic Reader
Revised Edition

Lesson VII: The Truant

- 1) James Brown was ten years old when his parents sent him to school. It was not far from his home, and therefore they sent him by himself.
- 2) But, instead of going to school, he was in the habit of playing truant. He would go into the fields, or spend his time with idle boys.
- 3) But this was not all. When he went home, he would falsely tell his mother that he had been to school, and had said his lessons very well.
- 4) One fine morning, his mother told James to make haste home from school, for she wished, after he had come back, to take him to his aunt's.
- 5) But, instead of minding her, he went off to the water, where there were some boats. There, he met plenty of idle boys.
- 6) Some of those boys found that James had money, which his aunt had given him; and he was led by them to hire a boat, and to go with them upon the water.
- 7) Little did James think of the danger into which he was running. Soon the wind began to blow and none of them knew how to manage the boat.
- 8) For some time, they struggled against the wind and the tide. At last, they became so tired that they could row no longer.
- 9) A large wave upset the boat and they were all thrown into the water. Think of James Brown, the truant, at this time!
- 10) He was far from home, known by no one. His parents were ignorant of his danger. He was struggling in the water, on the point of being drowned.
- 11) Some men, however, saw the boys, and went out to them in a boat. They reached them just in time to save them from a watery grave.
- 12) They were taken into a house, where their clothes were dried. After awhile, they were sent home to their parents.
- 13) James was very sorry for his conduct, and he was never known to be guilty of the same thing again.
- 14) He became regular at school, learned to attend to his books, and, above all, to obey his parents perfectly.