

BLACKIE'S
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STORY-READERS
FOR INFANTS



The Games We Play



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THE GAMES WE PLAY

Illustrated by

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LONDON AND GLASGOW



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The Games We Play

1. "How jolly!" the children cry, as they come running out of the school gate into the road.

2. "Snow! Snow! and it's deep too! Now for a game of snow-balls. Come on!" cries Willy Brown. He is the little boy in green.

3. At once the children set to work making big snow-balls as fast as they can.

4. Only Amy King sees no fun in the game. The rest say she is

too proud to play with them. Is she really?

1. With her hands in her muff, and her skates on her arm, she walks away home.

2. But Jane Smith cannot let her pass without one shot at her. Amy does not like to feel the snow-ball on her face. It is too cold and wet.

3. Willy Brown and Joe Ray are having fine fun. How they pelt each other with snow!

4. "Mind your head, Willy!" cries Joe. "Here comes a good one."

5. But, as he speaks, he slips on his back, and off comes his cap.

Oh! how all the children laugh at him.

1. In a moment, Willy is standing over Joe, with a big snow-ball in his hand, ready to throw it at him.

2. But Joe rolls over in the snow, and Willy throws the ball but misses him.

3. Then they go at it again, very hard.

4. Look at little Sam! He has not a snow-ball ready, and here is Tom going to throw one at him.

5. He puts his little hands up to his head; but the ball misses him after all.

1. He is very glad, and runs away laughing.

2. Little Jim's hands are so cold that he has to blow hard to make them warm again.

3. By the side of the road three of the boys are making a snowman.

4. Look at the pipe in his mouth and the torn old hat on his head!

5. He has little black beads for eyes, and he is very fat. Oh dear! What a funny old man he looks!

6. Then they throw snow-balls at him, to try to knock off his hat.

7. But his hat is very firmly on.

1. "Come and have a shot," they cry to the others. Then Willy knocks the pipe out of his mouth.

2. They are all very happy.

3. Winter may be a happy, jolly time for boys and girls who have good warm boots and clothes to wear.

4. But we must think also of the poor children who have very few clothes to wear and little to eat.

5. For them, the summer-time is far better. Then it is warm and bright, and they are not cold or sad.

6. All little children, and big

folks too, like the warm sun, and the green fields, and the pretty wild flowers.

1. These are for the poor child as well as for the rich.

2. And then, think of all the nice games that can be played in summer-time!

3. What fine fun it is to roll a hoop!

4. How fast it goes down the hill! And how we must run to keep up with it!

5. Most of the little boys and girls have wooden hoops; but, you see, Willy Brown has an iron one.

6. "I am getting a big boy now,

Mother," he said; "I want a big boy's hoop."

1. So his mother gave him an iron hoop, when he was seven years old.

2. Joe Ray puts his hoop over Kate Smith's head. Away she runs, with Joe holding on to the hoop behind.

3. But a race is the thing the children like best of all. Willy Brown runs so fast that he thinks no one can beat him in a race.

4. "I will race you all," he cries. "Come along."

5. "Do try to beat Willy," says Amy King to Tom and Sam. "I am sure you can if you try."

1. "I will give you a start of ten yards, and then beat you. Will you try, Tom?" asks Willy gaily.

2. Off comes Willy's coat. He does not say a word, but he pulls in his belt a hole or two. He means to win.

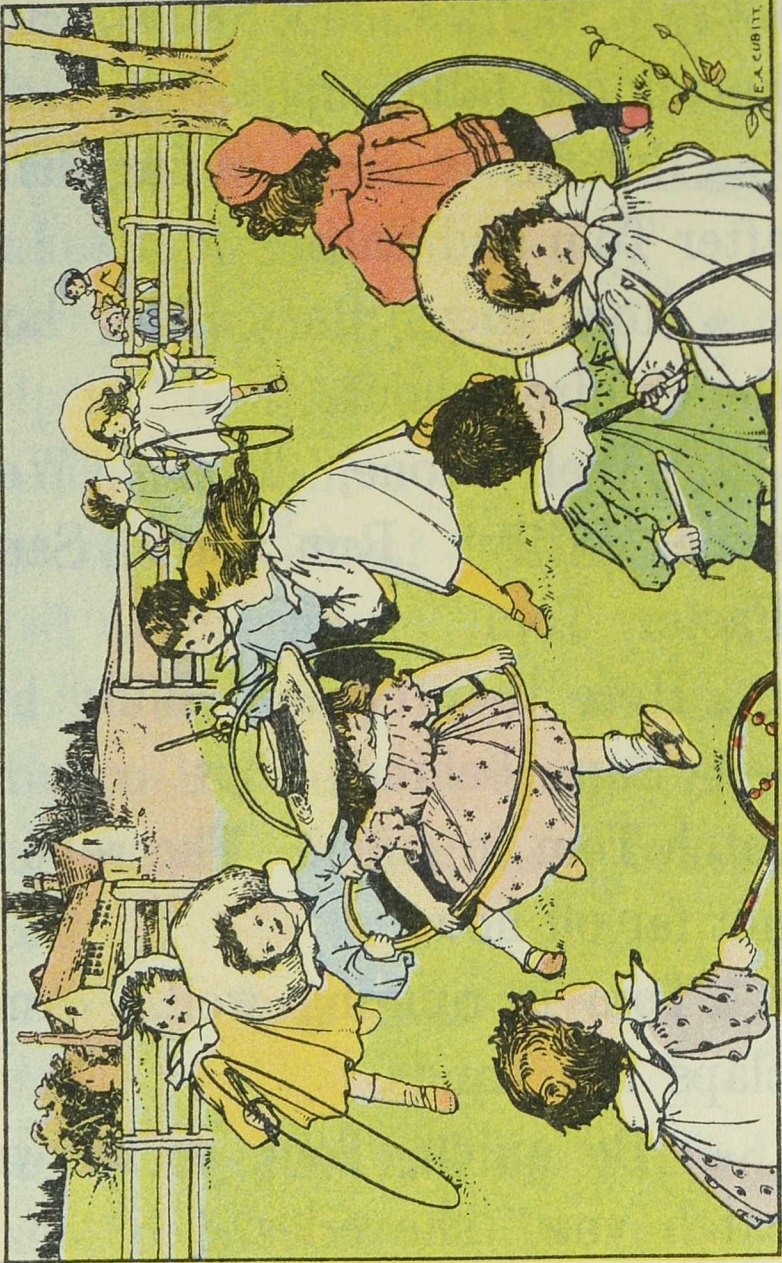
3. The three boys go to the starting-place. Two of their chums hold out a rope at the other end of the field.

4. The boy who gets to this rope first wins the race.

5. "Are you ready?" cries Joe loudly.

6. "One, two, three—off!"

7. Tom is the first to get



away. Willy's foot slips, and he almost falls.

1. But he is soon racing hard after Tom and Sam.

2. How they run! And how the children shout:

3. "Well done, Tom! Well done, Willy! Run hard, Sam! Faster, Tom!"

4. Here they come! Willy has left Sam behind; but can he catch Tom in time? The rope is not far off now.

5. Tom is running well. Amy claps her hands.

6. "Be quick, Tom, or he will catch you," she cries.

7. He hears the children shout:

“Tom wins! Tom wins!” but he hears Willy panting at his heels.

1. Now the cry: “Willy wins!” makes him dash on.

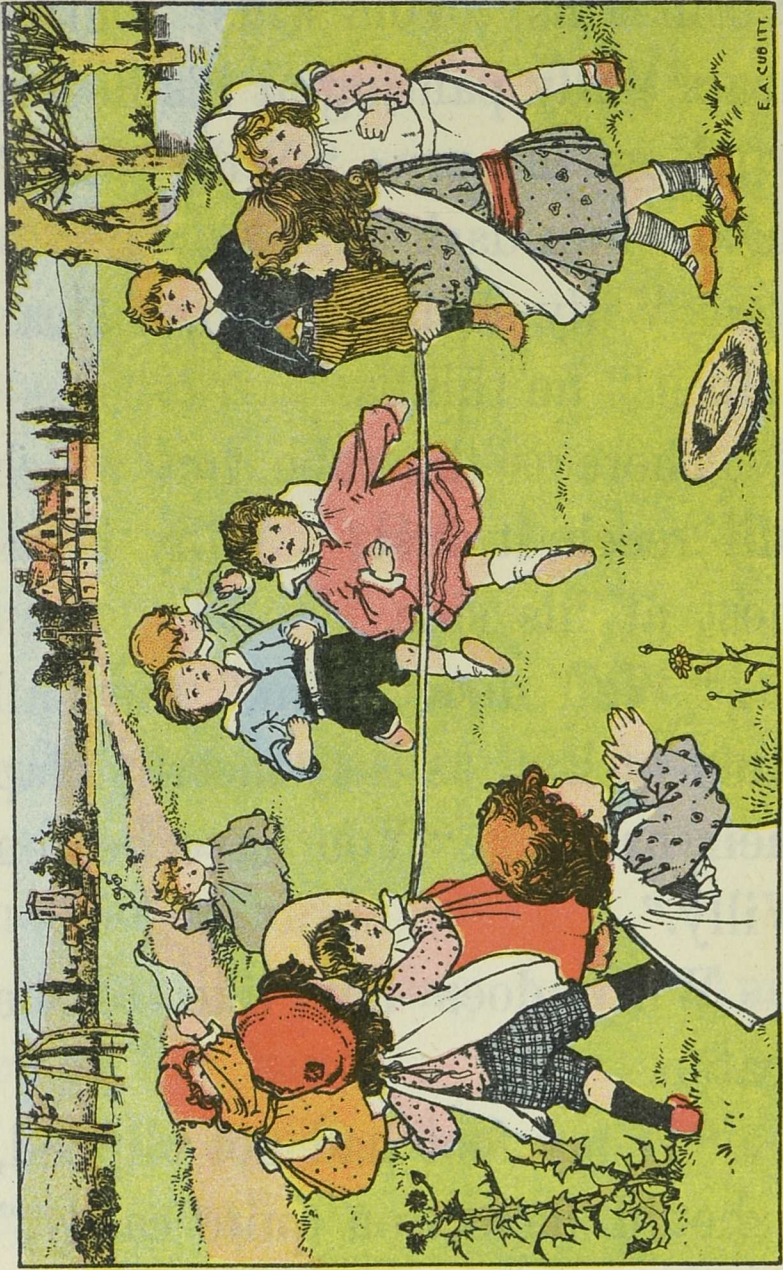
2. “Willy shall not win, if I can help it!” he thinks.

3. There is the rope, but which will reach it first? Willy is almost at his side.

4. “Well done, Tom!” they all shout at last, as they merrily clap their hands. “You have beaten Willy.”

5. Willy does not like to be beaten.

6. “If my foot had not slipped, I should have won quite easily,” he says.



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1. The children are now tired of running about. They need to rest.

2. They sit down on the grass and play a game of guesses. Sam is very good at this game.

3. After a while they get tired of resting, and Tom asks:

4. "What shall we do now?"

5. "Let us go to fish in the pond," cries Joe.

6. "Oh yes, that will be fine! Won't it?"

7. So they all set off to the pond in the next field. The little girls go too.

8. There are fish in this pond. And, as you know, all little boys like to fish.

1. Once upon a time, Joe got a fish on his hook.

2. You should hear him talk about that fish.

3. "Oh! it was a big one! You never saw such a fish," he will tell you.

4. As he talks, you feel that the fish in the shops must be very, very small.

5. Yet, here is Joe with his fish. Is it so very big?

6. It must have been a very greedy and silly fish for Joe to catch it.

7. He had only a pin with a worm on it.

8. Willy is sitting on the rail

with little Kate. May stands by his side. She, too, is fishing.

1. How it is that they never fall into the pond, I do not know. The rails are quite close to the edge. But the children take great care.

2. Jane Smith is waiting by the rail. She has a can in her hand. Will this be big enough to hold all the fish Willy will catch? I think it will. Don't you?

3. Farmer Black's milking-pail has been left in the field by the milkmaid.

4. She has also left the little chair, and the stool she sits on to milk the cows.

1. The very little children must not go near the pond; so Joe and Willy fill the pail with water for them.

2. There are no fish in it, but little black things, which are called tadpoles, swim in the pail.

3. How happy these little ones are, as they fish in it!

4. Brownie, the hen, comes down with her fluffy chicks to watch the fishing.

5. They do not go near the pond, for they do not like the water.

6. It is only ducks and ducklings which are fond of the pond.

1. But it is about time for the girls and boys to be going home now.

2. As they go along the road, they meet a man with a brown bear.

3. He leads it by a rope and it does not try to run away.

4. At first, some of the children are afraid.

5. "Will it eat us?" cries little May.

6. "Let us hide till it goes past," says Kate.

7. Willy laughs at this. He has seen one of those dancing bears before, and he is not at all afraid.

1. And teacher has told him about the wild brown bear, and how she plays with her little cubs.

2. He knows that the bear will not harm them, if they are kind to it.

3. "Let us see your bear dance, and I will give you a penny," Willy says to the man.

4. So the man stops. He speaks to the bear, and up it gets on its hind-legs.

5. Then he gives it a pole, and the bear begins to dance about, as the man sings. How funny it looks!

6. The bear looks tired, but he

goes on dancing. Then he stops and holds out a little tray for Willy's penny.

1. Willy puts a penny in the tray, and says to the man: "Thank you so much!"

2. The man smiles, and looks round to see if anyone else will give him another penny.

3. After watching the bear for a little while, the children go home.

4. On the way they talk of the games they have played and of the fun they have had.

5. They have had a very happy day.

6. But home is a long way off,

and the little children are very tired after such a lot of running about.

1. So Willie, who is a big boy, takes little Mary on his back.

2. And Tom Jones, who is also a big boy, takes little Gracie.

3. Then all the others join hands and walk in a row.

4. Willie and Tom walk in front, and they sing:

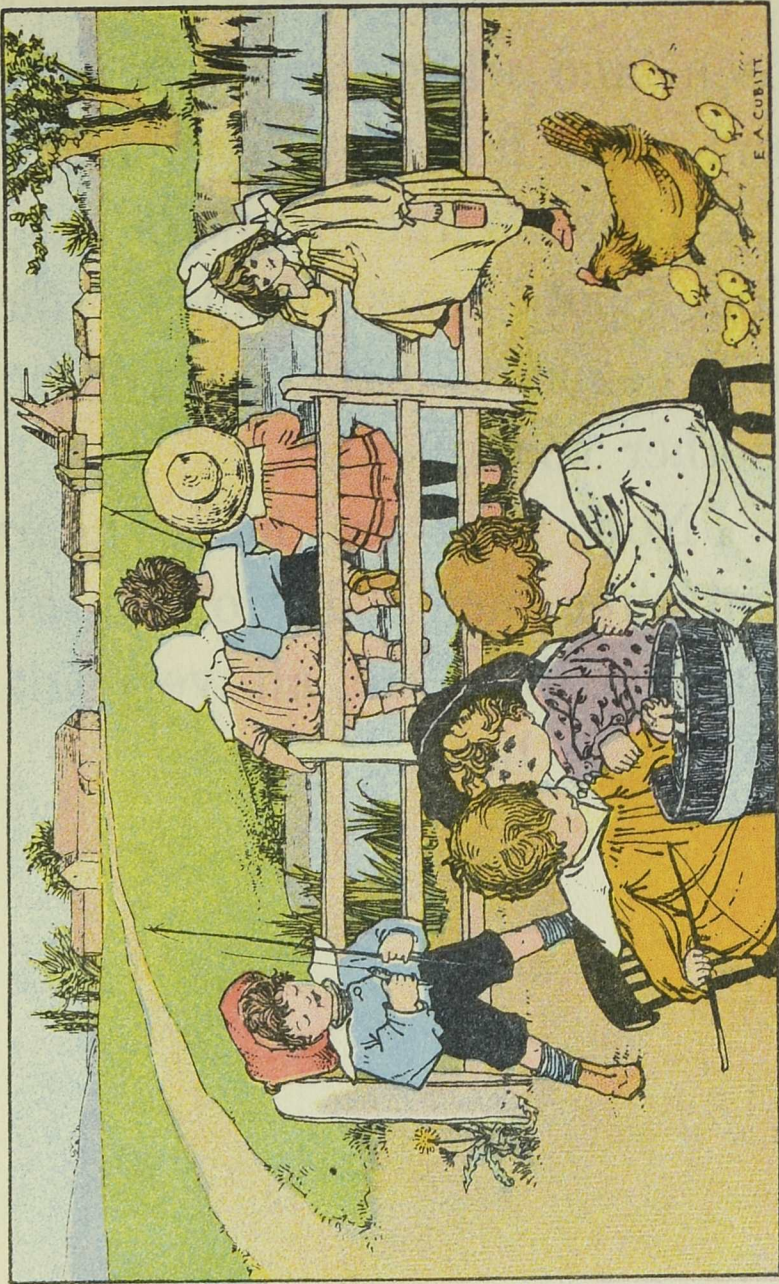
Pick-a-back, pick-a-back,

See us ride along;

Pick-a-back, pick-a-back,

We sing a merry song.

5. When they get near home Amy's mother comes out to meet them.



1. They tell her where they have been, and what they have done, and what fun they have had.

2. Then Willie Brown's little dog Spot hears Willie's voice and begins to bark, and Willie's mother comes out.

3. Now they are home again, and after such a day of fun and playing they are all very glad to get to bed.

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