

# COROMANDEL SUPPLEMENTARY READERS

## READER II

By

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## PREFACE

This is the second of a series of Supplementary Readers based mainly on the vocabulary of Coromandel Reader I.

Anyone who has experience of such work should know how difficult it is to produce interesting reading matter with the help of such a limited vocabulary. In each lesson, a few new words have had to be used, and these will be found underlined.

These lessons are not intended to be taught in detail, but the teacher must satisfy himself that the pupils understand what they read; for this purpose, a few questions have been given at the end of each lesson. The teacher may give other questions if he likes. The answers must be in the form of full sentences; there is no harm if a pupil repeats the very words of the lesson, provided he does so with a full comprehension of their meaning.

The pupils who have mastered the vocabulary of Reader I should be able to enjoy the study of these Supplementary Readers.

A. R.

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## 1. THE FOX WITHOUT A TAIL

One day a fox was going about in a wood. There was a trap in his way, and he got into it. In trying to get out of it, he lost his tail.

For some days he hid himself from the other foxes. He thought they would laugh at him when they saw him without his tail.

But how long could he hide himself? He thought of a clever way to hide his shame. He called together all the other foxes in the wood, and said to them: "Do you know how happy I am without my tail? Of what use is a tail to a fox? If you are wise, you will all give up your tails."

A wise old fox was there. He said to the fox who had lost his tail: "We can see how you are trying to hide your shame. We know how glad you will be to get your tail again if you can! Thank you, dear sir, we do not want to give up our tails."

### QUESTIONS

1. How did the fox lose his tail?
2. Why did he hide himself?
3. What did he say to the other foxes?
4. What did the wise old fox say to him?

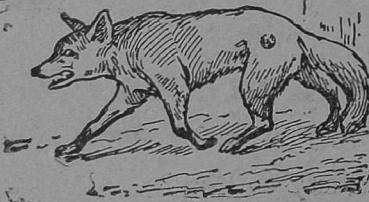
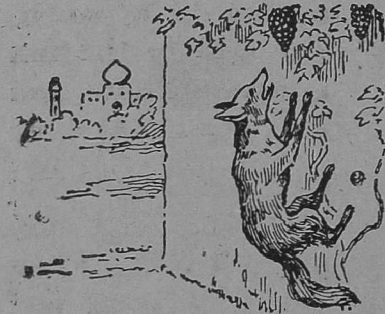
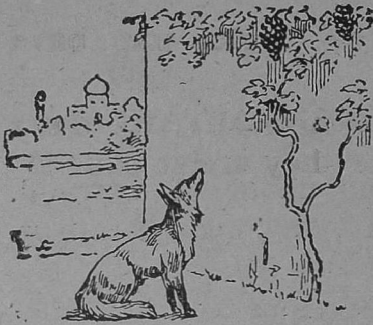
## 2. SOUR GRAPES

A fox was one day going along through a village. It was a very hot day, and he was very thirsty.

As he was going along, he saw a big bunch of grapes hanging above him. He wanted to get at those grapes and eat them. "Oh, what lovely grapes!" he said to himself, "How nice they look!"

But the bunch of grapes was so high above him. He jumped up as high as he could, but could not get at the grapes. He jumped over and over again, but the grapes were too high for him and he could not get at them at all.

He was so thirsty, and he wanted so much to



have the grapes, but he could not have them.

Then at last he said to himself: "I don't want these grapes at all, for they are so sour!"

#### QUESTIONS

1. Why was the fox very thirsty?
2. What did he see as he went along?
3. What did he do to get at the grapes?
4. Why could he not get at them?
5. What did he say to himself at last?

### 3. THE LION AND THE MOUSE

A big lion was one day sleeping in a wood. A little mouse was playing near where the lion was sleeping. The mouse was running here and there, and jumping from place to place.

It did not know that the lion was sleeping so near. It jumped and fell on the lion. The lion at once caught it and was about to kill it. Then the poor mouse said to the lion: "Great sir, please don't kill me. If you let me go now, I may do you good some day."

The lion laughed and said to the mouse: "You little mouse, what good can you do me? But I will let you go, without killing you."

The very next day, the lion was caught in a net. When the mouse knew it, it went up to the lion at once. Then it began to bite the net with its small teeth. After some time, the lion could come out of the net. So he learnt that even the little mouse could do him some good.

#### QUESTIONS

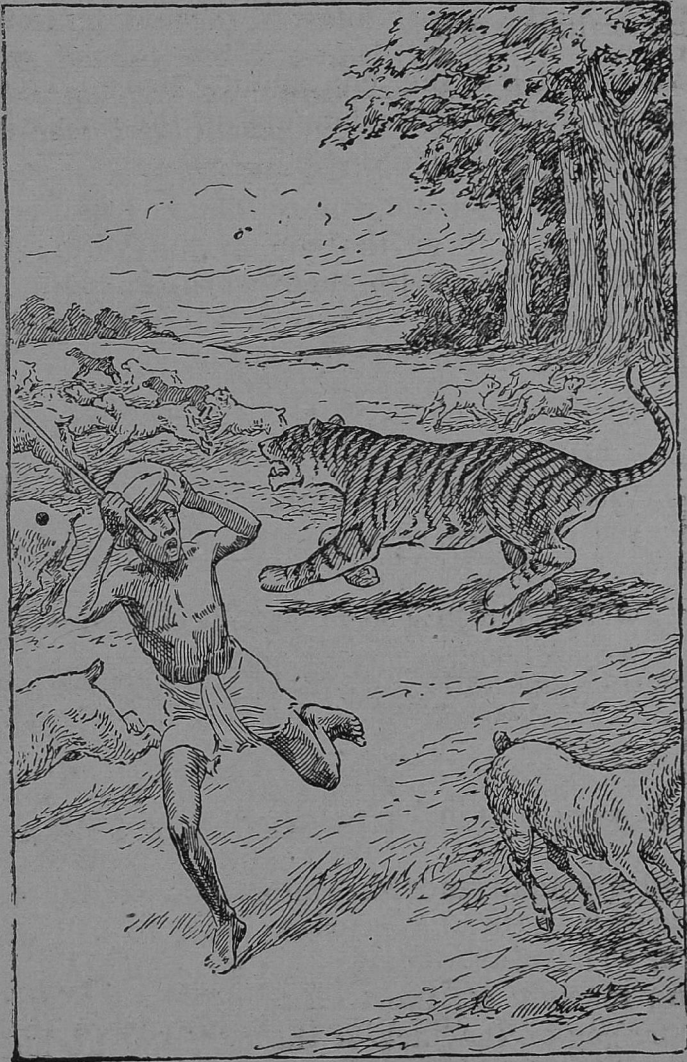
1. Where was the little mouse playing?
2. Why was the lion about to kill the mouse?
3. What did the mouse say to the lion then?
4. What did the mouse do when the lion was caught in a net?
5. What did the lion learn?

#### 4. TIGER! TIGER!

Once a boy was looking after some sheep near a wood. Some men were working in the fields near by.

The boy thought himself very clever. He said to himself: "Now I will do something that will make these men run up to me for nothing."

So he began to cry "Tiger! Tiger!" The men heard his cries, and ran up to him from their work. Seeing them, the boy began to laugh.





Seeing that there was no tiger, the men went back to their work.

After a time the boy again cried "Tiger! Tiger!" and he again laughed at the men when they ran up to him.

But soon a tiger did come. The boy now cried "Tiger! Tiger!" at the top of his voice; but the men went on with their work, and did not run up to him again. The tiger killed the foolish boy, and ate up some of the sheep too.

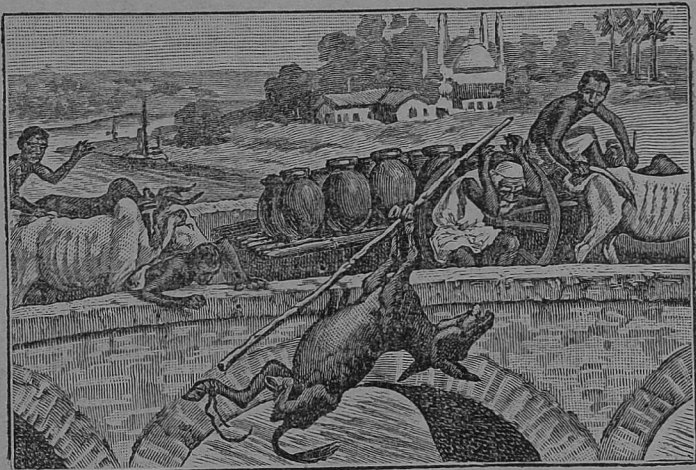
#### QUESTIONS

1. What were the boy and the men doing?
2. What did the men do when the boy cried 'Tiger'?
3. What did the boy do then?
4. What did the boy do when the tiger did come?
5. Why did not the men run up to him?
6. What did the tiger do?

#### 5. THE OLD MAN, HIS SON, AND THE ASS

And old man and his young son were taking an ass along to the nearest town to sell him there. The man thought that his son was too young to walk all the way to the town. So he put the boy on the back of the ass, and he himself walked by his side.

As they went along, they passed by some old men who stood talking. One of the old men said to the others : " Did I not tell you how bad our boys of today are ? " " You young rascal !" they cried to the boy, " How can you ride on the ass when your old father is walking by your side ? "



Hearing this, the old man told the boy to get off the ass, and he himself got on the ass's back. The boy was now walking along by the side of the ass, and the old men were pleased.

After some time, they had to pass by some young men who stood on the road. " Oh, look at this old man ! " they cried, " How can he let his boy walk and have a ride himself ? "

Hearing this, the old man told the boy to get on the ass's back behind him. So now they were both having a ride, and the poor ass walked along with both father and son on his back.

As they went on, they soon came to a place where some young women stood talking. The young women began laughing on seeing both father and son on the ass's back. "Oh!" they cried, "look at this poor ass, with two riding on his back! What a shame!" Then they said to the old man: "Why don't you two carry the poor animal?"

The foolish old man said, "All right, we will do so." So they both got off the ass's back. Then they tied up the feet of the animal, and with the help of a stick took him up on their shoulders.

The ass did not like being carried with his head down and his legs up. On the way they had to carry him over a bridge. Just then he began to tick; so he fell off the stick and fell into the water.

The foolish old man lost his ass by trying to please all.

#### QUESTIONS

1. Where was the old man taking his ass, and who was on the ass's back?
2. Why did the old man tell the boy to get off the ass's back?

3. How did both father and son happen to be on the ass's back later ?
4. What did the young women say ?
5. How did the father and the son carry the ass ?
6. How did the ass fall down into the water ?
7. Why did the old man lose his ass ?

## 6. A WISE KING

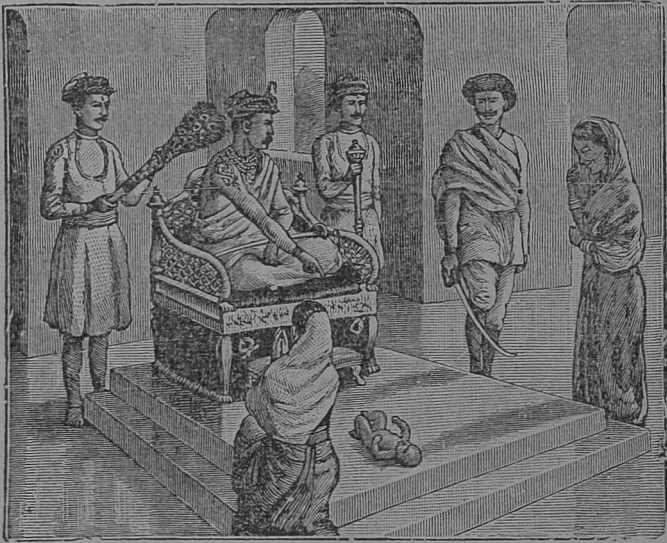
There lived two women in a town. One was rich, and other was poor. The rich woman had no child, but the poor woman had a little child.

The poor woman was working in the house of the rich one. The rich woman wanted to have the child for herself, it was such a sweet little child ; but the poor woman loved her child very much, and did not want to give it up.

The rich woman was very angry with the poor woman, and drove her out of her house. She kept the child for herself, saying that it was her child.

The mother went to the king and told him of what had happened. The king sent for the rich woman and the child. When the king asked her about the child, she told him that the child was hers.

The poor woman was saying that the child was hers, and the rich woman was saying that it was hers. There was no one who could tell the king whose child it was. The king did not know to which woman to give the child. He was a wise man. He thought for a minute, and then said to the woman: "Both of you want



the child, but both can't have it. The only thing to do is to cut the child in two; each of you may have half the child."

Then he called for a knife to cut the child in two. At once the child's mother cried to the king: "Oh, king, please don't cut the child.





to eat with me tomorrow. Will you please lend me two silver plates ? ”

The rich man said : “ All right ; I'll lend you two silver plates, but I must have them back soon ”. The poor man took the plates away, saying that he would give them back in three days.

On the third day, he brought back the plates with two little plates too. The rich man asked him why he had brought those little plates too. The man then said : “ Oh, don't you know ? These are the babies of the two big plates.

The rich man thought to himself : “ The man is a fool. Why should I not take the little plates ? ” And so he took the little plates with his big plates.

After some days the poor man came again to the rich man to ask for some plates. The greedy man was quite glad to lend him all his silver plates. He gave them all to the other man, and said : “ Do bring me all the little baby plates, won't you ? ”

After some days, the poor man came again, but he had no plates with him. “ Where are my plates ? ” asked the rich man. “ Oh, sir ! ” said the other in a sad voice, “ I don't know what to say. Your plates are all dead ! ” “ Dead ? ” cried the rich man, “ Don't be so foolish ! You

and I can die, but who ever heard of plates dying?" Then the clever rascal said: "But, sir, your plates are not like other plates. If they can have babies, can't they die too?"

So the greedy man lost all his silver plates, and the clever rascal had them all.

#### QUESTIONS

1. What do you know of the two men of this story?
2. What did the poor man bring with the rich man's plates?
3. What did he say about the little plates?
4. What did the greedy man say when lending all his plates?
5. What did the rascal say about the plates?

### 8. THE SUN AND THE WIND

One day the sun and the wind were quarrelling with each other. The sun said he was the stronger of the two, and the wind said he was the stronger.

When they were quarrelling over this they saw a man going along the road. Then the sun said: "I think I know a way of telling which of us is stronger. This man has his shirt on. Let us see which of us can make him take off his shirt."

"All right," said the wind, and he at once began to blow as hard as he could. But the man only kept his shirt close to his body with both hands.

The sun now began to shine with all his warmth. After some time the man felt the warmth so much that he had to take off his shirt. Then the wind had to admit that the sun was stronger than he.

### QUESTIONS

1. What did the sun and the wind quarrel about?
2. How did they want to show which of them was stronger?
3. What did the wind do; and what did the man do then?
4. Why did the man take off his shirt?
5. What had the wind to admit?

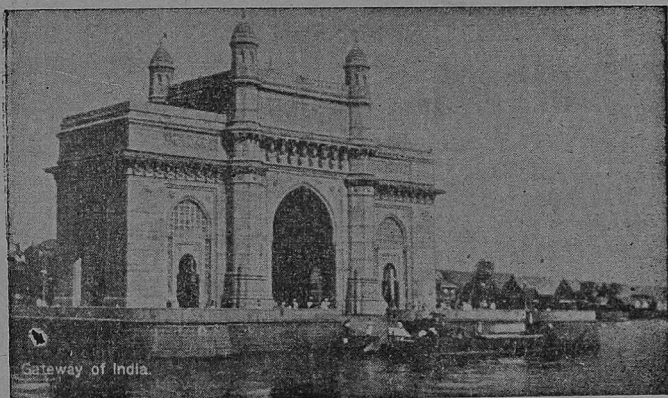
## 9. A VISIT TO BOMBAY

Dear boys and girls, you would all like to go on a visit to Bombay, would you not?

Bombay is the second largest city in all India. Calcutta is the only city which is larger than Bombay.

Bombay is called "The Gateway of India." It is called so because people from Europe who come to India in ships get into the country here.

Bombay has a beautiful harbour; you can see many big ships here at all times.



Near the harbour is a big hotel called the Taj Mahal Hotel. Here you can see rich men from all over the world.

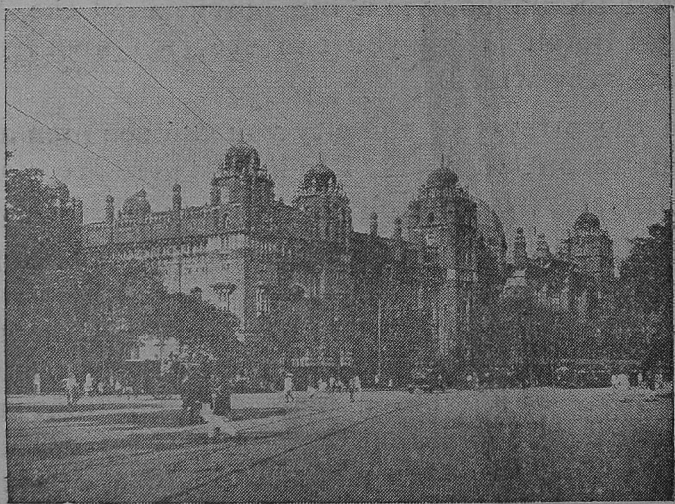
In the streets of the city you can see men and women from all parts of India. There are many Madrassis living in Bombay.

In Bombay there are many big buildings. One of these is the Victoria Terminus where we from Madras get out of our train. Here are the offices of the G.I.P. (Great Indian Peninsular) Railway. Some other beautiful buildings are the Municipal Building, the General Post Office, the University Hall, the Prince of Wales Museum, and the offices of the B.B. & C.I. (Bombay, Baroda, and Central India) Railway.





Victoria Terminus



[Photo: "*Illustrated Weekly of India.*"]  
General Post Office, Bombay

Bombay has many large cotton mills. In these cotton is spun into yarn, and the yarn is woven into cloth. Cloth from the Bombay mills is sent to all parts of the country. Thousands of men and women work in these mills.

There are many other things to be seen in Bombay. We will see them at the time of our next visit to the city.

#### QUESTIONS

1. Which city in India is larger than Bombay?
  2. Why is Bombay called the Gateway of India?
  3. What is the name of the big hotel near the harbour?
  4. Where do we get out of our train when we go to Bombay from Madras?
  5. Give the names of some of the most beautiful buildings of Bombay.
  6. What do the cotton mills do?
  7. How many men and women work in the mills?
-

## 10. THE CITY OF PALACES

Last month I went on a visit to Calcutta. My uncle lives there with his family. I shall tell you about some of the things I saw there.

Calcutta is called the City of Palaces, because of its many big and beautiful buildings. It is the biggest city in all India. Even Bombay is smaller than Calcutta.

Calcutta was the capital of India till 1912. In 1912 Delhi was made the capital of India.



You know how the city of Madras grew round For St. George. In the same way, the city of Calcutta grew round Fort William, which was built in the eighteenth century. Fort William is a big fort. and you can see it when you go to Calcutta.

The open space round the fort is called the Maidan. You can see many men and women enjoying the cool air of the Maidan in the evenings. Sometimes you can also enjoy the football and hockey matches played there.

Calcutta gets its name from the temple of the goddess Kali. This temple is at Kalighat on the river Hooghly, which is a branch of the river Ganges or Ganga. The temple of Kali is visited every day by many men and women who go there to worship to goddess.

Not far from the temple of Kali is the Zoo. Animals and birds of all kinds are kept here, and a visit to the Zoo is always liked by children. You can enjoy a ride on an elephant here.

In Bombay harbour we saw many ships. In the Calcutta harbour too we can see ships coming and going with goods of all kinds.

The General Post Office, the Senate House, and the Victoria Memorial are some of the beautiful buildings I saw in Calcutta. The most

beautiful of these is the Victoria Memorial. This is on the Maidan, and built of white marble.

I enjoyed my visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens very much. There I saw a very big banyan tree. It is about two hundred years old, and you have to walk a thousand feet to go round it.

I saw many other things in and near Calcutta. I shall tell you about them when we meet next.

#### QUESTIONS

1. Why is Calcutta called the City of Palaces ?
2. When was Fort William built ?
3. What do you know about the Maidan ?
4. Where is the temple of Kali ?
5. What can you see in the Zoo ?
6. What can you say of the Victoria Memorial ?
7. What do you know of the great banyan tree in the Botanical Gardens ?



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