

Nature and Science Reader Book 2

Outdoor Visits



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by

Edith Patch & Harrison Howe







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A LETTER TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS

Dear Boys and Girls:

In this book, you will read how Nan and Don visited animals and plants that live outdoors.

The animals and plants in this book live in different parts of our country. Most of them live in the North and in the South, too. You can visit many of the same kinds.

There are many kinds of animals and plants that are not in this book. You can visit those, too.

There are two ways to use this book. One way is to see how many things you can find that are like those in the book. It will be fun to find the same kinds of birds and the same kinds of flowers.

The other way is to see how many things you can find that are different from those in the book. You will like to find animals and plants that Don and Nan did not go to visit.

So you can have a good time with the different visits, too.

When you visit people in their homes, you are not rude to them. You have good manners. When you visit plants and animals, you should be kind to them, too. You should have outdoor good manners.

Boys and girls with good manners do not harm what they find outdoors. They leave most flowers growing and do not break their stems. They leave the birds as happy as they find them. They help keep all the outdoor places lovely.

We wish you many pleasant visits!

Your friends,
Edith M. Patch,
Harrison E. Howe.

FALL VISITS

A PLEASANT GAME

In summer, Don and Nan played outdoors most of the time. In September, they went to school.

“Outdoors was one of our homes in summer,” said Nan. “We lived there almost every day.”

“Now school is one of our homes,” said Don.

“Yes,” said Nan, “when we go outdoors now, we go for visits. We call on little animals.”

“We call on plants, too,” said Don. “And each visit is a pleasant game.”



GOLDENROD HONEY

Don liked yellow flowers, so he went to visit some goldenrod.

Many insects visited the flowers, too. Don watched them come and go.

He saw the big black and yellow bumblebees. He heard the happy humming sound they made with their wings.

The bumblebees had a good time when they visited goldenrod flowers. They found nectar there to drink. The nectar was like sweet water, and the bumblebees came for it.

Honeybees came to the goldenrod to drink the sweet nectar, too.



Honeybees change nectar to honey. They make goldenrod honey every fall and keep some for winter. There are no flowers for them to visit in winter. When they are hungry, they eat some of their honey for food. Goldenrod honey is good for bees.



Don liked goldenrod honey, too. His mother gave him some to eat with bread.

His mother told him, “Goldenrod honey is darker than clover honey. Some people like it much better than any other kind.”



A ROUND GOLDENROD GALL

When Don went to visit goldenrod plants, he found a gall on a stem.

The gall was a part of the stem that had grown large and round. It was the home of a little insect.

The insect that lived in this gall was a baby fly. It was white. It had no wings or legs. A baby fly is called a maggot.

When the maggot was hungry, it ate some of the inside part of the gall. The gall was its home and its food, too.

The maggot ate gall food and grew fat. Then it rested without food.



The young gall insect was quiet all winter. In the spring, its six legs and two wings grew.

Then it was not a maggot anymore. It was a grown fly with dark wings.

The grown fly could not eat the same kind of food the maggot did.

The gall was not a good home for a grown fly, so the fly came out and flew away.

There was a little round hole in the gall where the fly came out.

When the fly with the pretty dark wings was ready to lay her eggs, she went to some goldenrod stems. She put each egg in a good place on a green, growing stem.

Then the goldenrod stem began to grow in a queer way. It grew like a big round ball around the egg.

There was a baby maggot in the egg. When the maggot hatched, it was in a round gall. The gall was its good home and its food, too.



THE YELLOW SPIDER

A yellow spider lived among the flowers on a goldenrod plant.

Don went to visit her one day.

He did not find her at first, and he thought she was not at home.

The spider was about the same color as the goldenrod. She hid among the yellow flowers and did not move. She was hard to see while she was so quiet.

At last, Don saw the yellow spider. Then he laughed and said, "How do you do, Mrs. Spider? I came to see you, and I thought you were not at home."

After a time, a fly came to visit the goldenrod. It was a pretty fly with yellow stripes on its body. The fly was hungry and came to eat some pollen and drink some nectar.

The fly did not see the spider, but the spider saw the fly.

When the fly came near enough, the spider jumped and caught it.

Don jumped, too, when the spider did. He was surprised to see a quiet spider move so quickly.

The goldenrod plants had no flowers in the springtime. So this spider lived among other kinds of flowers then.

For a while, the spider lived among white flowers. She was not a yellow spider then. She was white.

The spider could change her color so she would be the same color as her home. She could be white among white flowers and yellow among yellow flowers.



This spider was shaped somewhat like a crab, and her name was Crab Spider. She had four long legs and four short legs. She could walk sidewise and backward more quickly than forward.

Don told Nan about his visit.

He said, “I saw a spider that looked like a little yellow crab.”



BLUE CHICORY

Nan liked blue flowers, and she often visited chicory plants.

Once, she went to call on chicory in the afternoon. The flowers were not open then.

So she went about eight o'clock one Saturday morning. The flowers were open. They opened about five o'clock and stayed open until ten or twelve o'clock.

Nan told her uncle about visiting the chicory. "Uncle Tom," she said, "I went to see some chicory flowers in the morning. They were open and looked as lovely as blue daisies."