PRIMARY LANGUAGE LESSONS

Part 1

EMMA SERL
Thanks!!

I would like to give a big thanks to those who gave me invaluable feedback. You all helped to make this book better.

Thanks...

to my sister Linda who encouraged me through the whole book and process. Her input was very helpful.

Lori – wonderful idea to add a glossary
Jesse – who caught a number of my typographical errors.

and a special thanks to Shannon who put together the resource list for Primary Language Lessons. She also suggested I add some information on grammar which can be used for older students or just for the teachers benefit. And if that wasn’t enough, she was also behind many of the changes I made so PLL could be more up-to-date and user friendly.
Thank you for purchasing
Primary Language Lessons

This edition of Emma Serl’s, ‘Primary Language Lessons,’ was reformatted and arranged into a workbook by me, Cynthia Albright.

Dictation sheets are found in the Appendix. I made up separate dictation sheets so that there was no need for the student to have to cover up the lesson if the dictation was to be on the same page. It also made it easier for me to give my child the dictation sheet and I could use the book to read the selection aloud.

The Appendix also houses an extra blank sheet for lessons that require more writing room. Instead of adding 20+ blank sheets throughout the book, I just added one at the end that can be copied when needed or a regular sheet of ruled paper can be used in its place. These can then be inserted with the lesson in the student’s notebook.

Because this is to be a more independent workbook, I added lines to the ‘Conversation’ lessons so that the student can write out their answers.

I also added lines for the ‘Narration’ lessons so the student can rewrite the selection in their own words. The lessons will have them narrate oral, and later write down their narration.

Just remember, that any lesson can be done orally. I sometimes have my son answer the questions orally in complete sentences, or I record him telling or retelling a fable or story. It all depends on where your student is at and you would know best.

Don’t let the amount of lines confuse you as to how long an answer should be. It was my intent to have a adequate amount of space for those who write big, like my son for instance, ☺ ☺ ☺ so, they are to answer the questions in complete sentences, but I will leave that one up to you.

Thanks again for your purchase,
The object of this little volume is to lead children of the second (this is the 2nd grade part) and third grades into the habit of speaking and writing the English language correctly. To accomplish this, the author has prepared a drill book which emphasizes the reproduction of many of the short stories current in our literature, and also introduces practice exercises to familiarize the pupils with correct forms. Beginning with simple, graduated exercises, they are continued until a general principle is inductively reached.

It is assumed that the child will learn to speak and write correctly, by imitation, if the proper forms are presented to him. Accordingly much attention is given in this book to expressions frequently misused, as for example, troublesome verb forms. The lessons are designed, as well, to awaken and sustain children's interest in natural objects, and to put them in sympathetic relations with living things.

The author has written from the standpoint of the child, and in language that the child can readily comprehend. The book, too, is so unconventional that the Suggestions to Teachers, which follow, are all that is necessary to guide the novice in the successful use of it.

J.M. Greenwood
Suggestions To Teachers

This book is intended for use with pupils of the second grade.

Assignment of lessons - It is not intended that each lesson shall represent one day's work. The intelligent teacher, knowing the capabilities of her pupils, can best determine the amount of work that should be done. Some of the lessons will doubtless require part of the recitation periods of many days.

Dictation exercises - In giving a dictation exercises, the teacher should read each sentence once. The sentences in the exercises have been made short so that they can be retained easily in the pupil's memory. The results of the pupil's work should be carefully noted by the teacher, attention being called to mistakes in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, or to failure to reproduce the exact words dictated. Careful work in these dictated exercises and frequent drills on the lists containing "troublesome words" are sure to produce good results in written composition.

I added dictation sheets in the Appendix for your convenience.

Selections to be memorized - These selections should be read to the pupils and discussed with them before being memorized. The "November" poem, "The Brown Thrush," and "The Bluebird" should be taught at appropriate seasons of the year.

Drawing - Several exercises are given in drawing. The purpose is not to obtain finely finished pictures, but to secure the representation of ideas. Let the pupils select the central theme of the pictures to be drawn, and then decide on a fitting background and surroundings.

Nature and observation lessons - These lessons should be introduced by oral discussions covering the points indicated by the questions or directions. After the discussion, a pupil should read the question silently, and then give the answer aloud as a complete sentence. As the class progresses, these answers may be written, but they should always be preceded by the oral discussion.

Another option for oral discussions would be to have the student read about the subject from a book such as the ones suggested in the Resource List at the back of the book. You can read the selections together or have the student read the selections to themselves.

I am also adding information on the Primary Language Lessons website.

I included space for answers to be written on all of the Observation Lessons. They are there for your convenience when you decide to include the written portion along with the oral as Serl suggests.

This book in the hands of the pupils makes possible much review work that cannot be given when each lesson must be written on the board by the teacher.
The teacher should keep a record of the most common errors committed by the pupils, and should give frequent drills on sentences containing the correct forms.

I plan on adding supplemental lessons to the Primary Language Lessons website.

The best results in the use of good English comes from continued practice on correct forms rather than from learning of many rules.

Every lesson should be a language lesson. No mistake in grammar, pronunciation, or in the use of a word should pass uncorrected.

**Fill In The Blanks**

For the ‘fill in the blanks’ or ‘copy the sentences filling in...’, I added lines for them to be copied as they would have done in 1911. I also made it so that the word(s) could be written directly in the blank. You can choose which to use.

**Reproduction Oral and Written**

I added lines to all of these lessons also. These narrations are to begin orally, and you may write them down for the student, but as they progresses, the student can write down their narrations.

**Vocabulary**

I added a vocabulary section of words that I thought some students would need defined. It is optional and added for your convenience.

The words are listed by lesson and then alphabetically in the Glossary.

**Teacher Helps**

The Teacher Helps was also added for your convenience. I added a little more detail for the grammar lessons. This might be helpful if you are using this with older students.
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Painting by Edwin Henry Landseer

PIPER AND NUTCRACKERS
LESSON 1
A PICTURE LESSON

What do you see in the picture? ______________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Where are the squirrels? ____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

What are they doing? ________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

What season of the year is it? _________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

What is the bird doing? _______________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Briefly write about some squirrels that you have seen. Where did they live? How
did they prepare for the winter?
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
What is the name of the picture? _______________________________________

What is the last name of the artist who painted the picture? _____________________
LESSON 2

Copy the following:

Two squirrels lived in a hollow tree. They had a pleasant home. The leaves shaded them.
In the fall Jack Frost came. The nuts fell to the ground. The leaves became red and yellow. The days grew colder.
Then the squirrels gathered nuts and seeds and put them away for winter.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Write the first two lines from dictation. (See Appendix)
LESSON 3

Is—Are

Copy these sentences, filling each blank with is or are:

1. Two squirrels __________ in the tree.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

2. A little bird __________ singing to them.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

3. There __________ green leaves around them.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

The blue sky __________ above them.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

4. The blue sky __________ above them.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

5. Nuts __________ ripe and the squirrels __________ happy.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Sample Pages
Copy from any book you are reading two sentences that contain the word is.

1. _________________________________________________________________
2. _________________________________________________________________

Copy from any book you are reading two sentences that contain the word are.

1. _________________________________________________________________
2. _________________________________________________________________
LESSON 4

SELECTION TO BE MEMORIZED

IF I KNEW

If I knew the box where smiles were kept,
   No matter how large the key
Or strong the bolt, I would try so hard,
   'Twould open, I know, for me.
Then over the land and the sea, broadcast,
   I'd scatter the smiles to play.
That the children's faces might hold them fast
   For many and many a day.

If I knew a box that was large enough
   To hold all the frowns I meet,
I would like to gather them, every one,
   From nursery, school and street,
Then folding and holding, I'd pack them in.
   And turning the monster key
I'd hire a giant to drop the box
   To the depth of the deep, deep sea."

—Maud Wyman
LESSON 5

Observation Lesson

Frost

1. When does the frost come? _________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

2. What does the frost do to plants? _________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

3. What plants are killed first by the frost? __________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

4. Which plants last the longest in the fall? _________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

5. What plants and trees cannot grow where you live, on account of the frost?
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
6. What does the frost do to nut burs?


7. What effect has it upon the air?


The moon is round and bright. It shines at night. The sun gives light to the moon. The moon gives light to us. It is not so far away as the stars. The moon and the stars make the night beautiful.

Write selection from dictation. (See Appendix)
We have a secret, just we three,
The robin and I and the sweet cherry tree;
The bird told the tree, and the tree told me,  
And nobody knows it but just us three.

But of course the robin knows it best, 
Because she built the ___ I shan’t tell the rest, 
And laid the four little ___ somethings in it ___ 
I’m afraid I shall tell it every minute.

With what kind of letter is the word I always written?
LESSON 8
Copy these sentences and fill the blanks by referring to Lesson 7.

The robin and I and ______________ ______________ ______________ have a secret.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

The bird told __________ ______________.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

__________ ______________ told me.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
Nobody knows it but ____________________________.

_____________________________ knows the secret best.
LESSON 9
FOR DICTATION
THE CLOUDS

Clouds float in the sky.
They bring the rain and the snow.
Sometimes they hide the sun.
Sometimes they hide the moon and the stars.
The wind blows the clouds.

With what kind of letter does the first word in every sentence begin?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Write selection from dictation. (See Appendix)
LESSON 10

NARRATION—ORAL

THE DOG IN THE MANGER

A dog lay in a manger in which was placed hay for the oxen. At noon the oxen came to eat their dinner. The dog growled and snapped at them, and would not let them have even a mouthful.

“You selfish fellow,” said an ox, “you cannot eat the hay. Why won’t you let us have it?”

Write the fable in your own words.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
WIDE AWAKE

LESSON 11
A PICTURE LESSON

What do you see in the picture? ________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

Where are the kittens? _______________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

If you had three kittens like these, what would you name them? ______________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
What is the name of this picture? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
What is the artist’s name? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
Tell or write a story about the kittens.
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
Read each question silently, and give the answer as a complete statement.

Write answers to the first six questions about the cat.

**Extra Credit:** Answer the rest of the questions.

1. With what is a cat covered?  
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________

2. Of what use is the fur?  
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________

3. When is the fur thickest?  
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________

4. When does a cat shed its fur?  
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________

5. What does a cat eat?  
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
6. Of what use is a cat about a house or barn? ____________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

7. Of what use are the soft cushions or pads on a cat’s feet? ______________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

8. Of what use are the claws? ____________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

9. How many claws has a cat on each forefoot? ____________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

10. How many claws on each hind foot? ____________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

11. Why does a cat need more claws on her forefeet than her hind ones? 
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

12. Where are the claws when not in use? ____________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
13. How does the cat keep them sharp? _________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

14. What is the shape of the center of a cat’s eye when she has been in the dark?
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

15. How does it look when she has been in a strong light? ___________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

16. What kind of teeth has a cat?
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

17. Tell something about a cat’s tongue. _________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

18. Of what are a cat’s whiskers? ____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
19. How does a cat carry her little ones? _________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

20. How does she keep them clean?  ____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

21. Is it easy to teach a cat tricks?  _____________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
LESSON 14
CONVERSATION LESSON
THE CARE OF PETS

1. If you had a pony, how would you take care of him?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

2. What would you give him to eat?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

3. What does a pony need besides food?

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

4. Tell some things that should not be done to a pony.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
5. What could the pony do for you? 
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

6. How would you take care of a canary bird? 
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

7. What could a canary bird do in return for your care? 
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

8. What care does a dog require? 
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

9. What could a dog do for you? 
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

10. Do you know any story about a dog’s helping someone? 
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
11. What tricks can you teach a dog? ___________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

12. What other animals are good pets? __________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

13. Tell how to take care of them.
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

14. How many questions are there in this lesson? _________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

What mark of punctuation is placed after each question? _________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
LESSON 15
FOR COPYING AND DICTATION
To—Too—Two

In the following sentences, underline to, circle O too, and put a box □ around two. Copy the sentences.

1. Two pints make one quart

2. This work is not too hard for me.

3. Mother sent me to the store.

4. She told me to buy some meat and some eggs, too.

Two boys went to the river.

Write the sentences from dictation. (See Appendix)
LESSON 16

Copy these sentences, filling the blanks with to, too, or two.

1. __________ boys were flying a kite.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

2. It is not __________ cold __________ play in the yard.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

3. __________ squirrels live in the old oak tree.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

4. The children like __________ watch them.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

5. Do not go __________ close __________ the edge of the pond.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

6. Mary went __________ church, and her sister went, __________.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

7. The doll cost __________ dollars. I think it cost __________ much.

__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
Copy these sentences, filling the blanks with *to*, *too*, or *two*.

8. It takes _________ to make a quarrel.

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

9. Do not sing _________ loud.

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

10. _________ and _________ are four.

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

11. The sun gives light _________ the moon.

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

12. I saw _________ bright stars in the sky.

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________
A lion who was old and weak could not go out to hunt for food. He went into his den and made believe that he was very sick.

Many animals went into the den to look at him. When they came near, he caught them and ate them.

After a great many had been caught in this way, a fox came along. He sat down outside the den and asked the lion how he was.

The lion said that he was very sick, and he begged the fox to come in and see him.

“So I would,” said the fox, “but I notice that all the footprints point into your den, and that none point out.”
Write the fable in your own words.
LESSON 18

SELECTION TO BE MEMORIZED

LADY MOON

Lady Moon, Lady Moon, where are you roving?
"Over the sea."
Lady Moon, Lady Moon, whom are you loving?
"All that love me."

Are you not tired with rolling, and never
Resting to sleep?
Why look so pale and so sad, as forever
Wishing to weep?

"Ask me not this, little child, if you love me."
You are too bold:
I must obey my dear Father above me
And do as I’m told.

Lady Moon, Lady Moon, where are you roving?
"Over the sea."
Lady Moon, Lady Moon, whom are you loving?
"All that love me."

—Lord Houghton