

The Great Stone Face

Sight Word Eliminator I

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Story by Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1804-1864

7,579 words; 77 paragraphs; 290 sentences; 21.6 words per sentence; 4.4 characters per word;
9.8 Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level; 62.6 Flesch Reading Ease.

ONE AFTERNOON, **** sun *** going down, * mother **** little boy sat ** *** door
** ***** cottage, talking ***** Great Stone Face. **** lift ***** eyes, **
***** ** *** plainly ** ** seen, though miles away, **** sunshine brightening *** **
features.

**** Great Stone Face?

Embosomed amongst * family ** lofty mountains, ***** * valley ** spacious **** **
contained **** thousand inhabitants. **** * ***** good people dwelt ** log huts, **** **
black forest *** around ****, ** *** steep *** difficult hill-sides. Others *** ***** homes **
comfortable farm-houses, *** cultivated *** rich soil ** *** gentle slopes ** level surfaces **
*** valley. Others, again, **** congregated ***** populous villages, ***** wild, highland
rivulet, tumbling down ***** birthplace ** *** upper mountain region, **** caught ***
tamed ** human cunning, *** compelled ** turn *** machinery ** cotton factories. **
inhabitants ** ***** valley, ** short, **** numerous, *** ** ***** modes ** life. *** ** **
****, grown people *** children, *** * kind ** familiarity ***** Great Stone Face, although
**** possessed *** gift ** distinguishing ***** grand natural phenomenon ***** perfectly ****
***** ** ***** neighbors.

*** Great Stone Face, ****, *** * work ** Nature ** *** mood ** majestic playfulness,
formed ** *** perpendicular side ** * mountain ** ***** immense rocks, ***** ** **
thrown together ** ***** * position **, **** viewed ** * proper distance, precisely ** resemble
*** features ** *** human countenance. ** seemed ** ** * enormous giant, ** * Titan, ***
sculptured *** own likeness ** *** precipice. ***** ** *** broad arch ** *** forehead, *
hundred feet ** height; *** nose, ***** long bridge; *** *** vast lips, ***** , ** *****
***** spoken, ***** rolled ***** thunder accents ***** one end ** *** valley **
*** ***** . True ** ** , ***** ** *** spectator approached too near, ** lost *** outline ** **
gigantic visage, *** ***** discern ***** * heap ** ponderous *** gigantic rocks, piled **
chaotic ruin one upon another. Retracing **** steps, however, *** wondrous features *****
again ** seen; *** *** further ** withdrew ***** , *** ***** * human face, ***** **
*** original divinity intact, *** ***** appear; until, ** ** grew dim ** *** distance, ***** **
clouds *** glorified vapor ** *** mountains clustering ***** **, *** Great Stone Face seemed
positively ** ** alive.

** ** * happy lot ** children ** grow ** ** manhood ** womanhood **** ** Great Stone Face ***** eyes, ** ** ** features **** noble, ** ** expression ** ** once grand ** sweet, ** ** ** glow ** * vast, warm heart, **** embraced ** mankind ** ** affections, ** ** room ** ** . ** ** education **** ** look ** ** . According ** ** belief ** ** people, ** valley owed **** ** ** fertility ** ** benign aspect **** ** continually beaming **** ** , illuminating ** clouds, ** infusing ** tenderness **** ** sunshine.

** ** began **** saying, * mother **** ** little boy sat ** **** cottage door, gazing ** ** Great Stone Face, **** talking **** . ** child's name ** Ernest.

"Mother, **** ** , while **** Titanic visage smiled ** ** , " * wish **** ** **** speak, ** ** looks ** very kindly **** ** voice **** needs ** pleasant. ** * **** ** ** * man **** **** * face, * should love **** dearly."

"** ** old prophecy should **** ** pass," answered ** mother, " * **** ** * man, **** **** ** , **** exactly **** * face ** **** ."

"**** prophecy ** ** mean, dear mother?" eagerly inquired Ernest. "Pray tell ** **** **** **!"

** ** mother told ** * story **** ** own mother ** told ** ** , **** ** herself ** younger **** little Ernest; * story, ** ** things **** ** past, **** ** **** yet ** ** ; * story, nevertheless, ** very old, **** ** ** Indians, ** formerly inhabited **** valley, ** heard ** **** ** forefathers, ** whom, ** **** affirmed, ** **** ** murmured ** ** mountain streams, ** whispered ** ** wind among ** tree-tops. ** purport ** , **** , ** **** future day, * child should ** born hereabouts, **** ** destined ** become **** greatest ** noblest personage ** **** ** , ** whose countenance, ** manhood, should bear ** exact resemblance ** ** Great Stone Face. ** * few old-fashioned people, ** young ones likewise, ** ** ardor ** **** hopes, still cherished ** enduring faith ** **** old prophecy. ** others, **** ** seen **** ** world, ** watched ** waited till **** ** weary, ** ** beheld ** man **** ** * face, nor ** man **** proved ** ** ** greater ** nobler **** ** neighbors, concluded ** ** ** nothing ** ** idle tale. ** ** events, ** great man ** ** prophecy **** ** yet appeared.

"O, mother, dear mother!" cried Ernest, clapping ** hands above ** head, * ** hope **** * shall live ** **** **!"

*** mother **** ** affectionate **** thoughtful woman, **** felt **** ** ** wisest **** ** discourage ** generous hopes ** ** little boy. ** **** ** **** , "Perhaps **** ** ."

*** Ernest never forgot ** story **** ** mother told ** . ** ** always ** ** mind, whenever ** looked upon **** Great Stone Face. ** spent ** childhood ** ** log-cottage

***** born, ***** dutiful ***** mother, ***** helpful ***** things, assisting
 ***** little hands, ***** loving heart. ***** manner, ***** happy
 yet often pensive child, ***** grew ***** mild, quiet, unobtrusive boy, ***** sun-browned *****
 labor ***** fields, ***** intelligence brightening ***** aspect ***** seen *****
 lads ***** taught ***** famous schools. Yet Ernest ***** teacher, save *****
 ***** Great Stone Face became one ***** . ***** toil ***** day ***** , ***** gaze *****
 ***** hours, until ***** began ***** imagine ***** those vast features recognized ***** , ***** gave *****
 ***** smile ***** kindness ***** encouragement, responsive ***** own look ***** veneration. *****
 ***** take upon us ***** affirm ***** ***** ***** mistake, although ***** Face ***** ***** looked *****
 ***** kindly ***** Ernest ***** ***** ***** world besides. ***** secret ***** , ***** ***** boy's
 tender ***** confiding simplicity discerned ***** ***** people ***** ***** ; ***** thus ***** love,
 ***** ***** meant ***** ***** , became ***** peculiar portion.

***** ***** , ***** went ***** rumor throughout ***** valley, ***** ***** great man, foretold
 ***** ages long ago, ***** ***** bear ***** resemblance ***** ***** Great Stone Face, ***** appeared *****
 last. ***** seems ***** , ***** years ***** , ***** young man ***** migrated ***** ***** valley ***** settled
 ***** ***** distant seaport, ***** , ***** getting together ***** little money, ***** ***** set *****
 shopkeeper. ***** name-***** ***** ***** never learn whether ***** ***** ***** real one, ***** ***** nickname
 ***** ***** grown ***** ***** ***** habits ***** success ***** life--***** Gathergold. Being shrewd *****
 active, ***** endowed ***** Providence ***** ***** inscrutable faculty ***** ***** develops itself *****
 ***** world calls luck, ***** became ***** exceedingly rich merchant, ***** owner ***** ***** whole fleet *****
 bulky-bottomed ships. ***** ***** countries ***** ***** globe appeared ***** join hands ***** ***** mere
 purpose ***** adding heap ***** ***** heap ***** ***** mountainous accumulation ***** ***** one man's
 wealth. ***** cold regions ***** ***** north, almost within ***** gloom ***** shadow ***** ***** Arctic
 Circle, sent ***** ***** tribute ***** ***** shape ***** furs; hot Africa sifted ***** ***** ***** golden sands
 ***** ***** rivers, ***** gathered ***** ***** ivory tusks ***** ***** great elephants ***** ***** ***** forests; *****
 East came bringing ***** ***** rich shawls, ***** spices, ***** teas, ***** ***** effulgence ***** diamonds,
 ***** ***** gleaming purity ***** large pearls. ***** ocean, ***** ***** ***** behindhand ***** ***** ***** earth,
 yielded ***** ***** mighty whales, ***** ***** Mr. Gathergold might sell ***** ***** oil, ***** make ***** profit *****
 ***** . ***** ***** ***** original commodity ***** ***** ***** might, ***** ***** gold within ***** grasp. ***** ***** might ***** *****
 ***** ***** , ***** ***** Midas ***** ***** fable, ***** ***** whatever ***** ***** ***** finger immediately
 glistened, ***** grew yellow, ***** ***** ***** changed ***** once ***** sterling metal, ***** , ***** ***** suited *****
 still better, ***** ***** piles ***** coin. ***** , ***** ***** Mr. Gathergold ***** become ***** very rich ***** *****
 ***** ***** ***** taken ***** ***** hundred years ***** ***** ***** count ***** wealth, ***** ***** bethought himself ***** *****
 native valley, ***** resolved ***** ***** ***** thither, ***** end ***** days ***** ***** ***** ***** born. ***** *****
 purpose ***** view, ***** sent ***** skilful architect ***** build ***** ***** ***** ***** palace ***** should ***** fit ***** *****
 man ***** ***** vast wealth ***** live ***** .

***** ***** ***** above, ***** ***** already ***** ***** rumored ***** ***** valley ***** ***** Mr. Gathergold *****
 turned ***** ***** ***** ***** prophetic personage ***** long ***** vainly looked ***** , ***** ***** ***** ***** visage
 ***** ***** perfect ***** undeniable similitude ***** ***** ***** Great Stone Face. People ***** ***** ***** ***** ready
 ***** believe ***** ***** ***** ***** needs ***** ***** fact, ***** ***** ***** beheld ***** ***** splendid edifice ***** ***** rose,

*** enchantment, *** site *** father's old weather-beaten farm-house. *** exterior *** marble, *** dazzlingly white *** seemed *** though *** whole structure might melt away *** sunshine, *** those humbler ones *** Mr. Gathergold, *** young play-days, *** fingers ***re gifted *** touch *** transmutation, *** accustomed *** build *** snow. *** richly ornamented portico, supported *** tall pillars, beneath *** lofty door, studded *** silver knobs, *** kind *** variegated wood *** brought *** beyond *** sea. *** windows, *** floor *** ceiling *** each stately apartment, *** composed, respectively, *** one enormous pane *** glass, *** transparently pure *** finer medium *** vacant atmosphere. Hardly anybody *** permitted *** interior *** palace; *** reported, *** good semblance *** truth, *** far *** gorgeous *** outside, inasmuch *** whatever *** iron *** brass *** houses, *** silver *** gold ***; *** Mr. Gathergold's bed-chamber, especially, *** glittering appearance *** ordinary man *** able *** close *** eyes ***. *** hand, Mr. Gathergold *** inured *** wealth, *** perhaps *** closed *** eyes unless *** gleam *** certain *** find *** beneath *** eyelids.

*** due *** mansion *** finished; next came *** upholsterers, *** magnificent furniture; *** whole troop *** black *** white servants, *** harbingers *** Mr. Gathergold, *** own majestic person *** expected *** arrive *** sunset. *** friend Ernest, meanwhile, *** deeply stirred *** idea *** great man, *** noble man, *** man *** prophecy, *** ages *** delay, *** length *** manifest *** native valley. *** knew, boy *** thousand ways *** Mr. Gathergold, *** vast wealth, might transform himself *** angel *** beneficence, *** assume *** control *** human affairs *** wide *** benignant *** smile *** Great Stone Face. Full *** faith *** hope, Ernest doubted *** people *** true, *** behold *** living likeness *** those wondrous features *** mountain-side. While *** boy *** still gazing *** valley, *** fancying, *** always *** Great Stone Face returned *** gaze *** looked kindly *** rumbling *** wheels *** heard, approaching swiftly along *** winding road.

"Here *** comes!" cried *** group *** people *** assembled *** witness *** arrival. "Here comes *** great Mr. Gathergold!"

*** carriage, drawn *** four horses, dashed round *** turn *** road. Within *** thrust partly *** window, appeared *** physiognomy *** little old man, *** skin *** yellow *** own Midas-hand *** transmuted *** low forehead, small, sharp eyes, puckered *** innumerable wrinkles, *** very thin lips, *** still thinner *** pressing *** forcibly together.

*** very image *** Great Stone Face!" shouted *** people. "Sure enough, *** old prophecy *** true; *** here *** great man *** last!"

, * greatly perplexed Ernest, **** seemed actually ** believe **** here *** ** likeness ***** spoke **. ***** roadside ***** chanced ** ** ** old beggar-woman *** two little beggar-children, stragglers **** **** far-off region, ***, ** *** carriage rolled onward, held *** ***** hands *** lifted ** ***** doleful voices, **** piteously beseeching charity. * yellow claw- *** very same ***** ** clawed together ** ***** wealth--poked itself **** ** coach-window, *** dropt **** copper coins upon ** ground; ** ****, though *** great man's name seems ** ***** **** Gathergold, ** might just ** suitably ***** **** nicknamed Scattercopper. Still, nevertheless, **** ** earnest shout, *** evidently ***** ** good faith ** ever, *** people bellowed, "**** ** very image ** **** Great Stone Face!"

*** Ernest turned sadly ***** ** wrinkled shrewdness ** ***** sordid visage, *** gazed ** *** valley, *****, amid * gathering mist, gilded ** **** last sunbeams, ** ***** still distinguish those glorious features ***** ** impressed themselves ***** ** soul. ***** aspect cheered ***. ***** ** benign lips seem ** say?

"** ***** **! Fear ***, Ernest; *** man ***** **!"

*** years went **, *** Ernest ceased ** ** * boy. ** *** grown ** ** * young man ***. ** attracted little notice ***** ** inhabitants ** **** valley; **** ***** saw nothing remarkable ** **** ** life, save *****, ***** labor ** **** day **** ****, ** still loved ** ** apart *** gaze *** meditate upon ** Great Stone Face. According ** ***** idea ** **** matter, ** **** * folly, indeed, *** pardonable, inasmuch ** Ernest *** industrious, kind, *** neighborly, *** neglected ** duty *** **** sake ** indulging ***** idle habit. ***** knew *** ***** Great Stone Face *** become * teacher ** ****, **** ***** ** sentiment ***** ** expressed ** ** ***** enlarge *** young man's heart, *** fill ** ***** wider *** deeper sympathies ***** hearts. **** knew ***** thence ***** ** better wisdom ***** ** learned ***** books, *** * better life ***** ** moulded ** **** defaced example ** ***** human lives. Neither *** Ernest know ***** ** thoughts *** affections ***** came ** **** ** naturally, ** **** fields **** ** **** fireside, *** wherever ** communed ***** himself, ***** ** * higher tone **** those ***** ** men shared ***** **. * simple soul--simple ** ***** ** mother ***** taught *** **** old prophecy--** beheld *** marvelous features beaming adown *** valley, *** still wondered ***** ***** human counterpart *** ** long ** making *** appearance.

** ***** ** poor Mr. Gathergold *** dead *** buried; **** **** oddest part ** **** matter ***, ***** ** wealth, ***** ** body *** spirit ** **** existence, *** disappeared ***** ** death, leaving nothing ** **** ** * living skeleton, covered ***** ** wrinkled, yellow skin. Since *** melting away ** **** gold, ** **** ** very generally conceded ***** ***** ** ** striking resemblance, ***** **, betwixt *** ignoble features ** *** ruined merchant *** ***** majestic face upon *** mountain-side. ** **** people ceased ** honor *** during *** lifetime, *** quietly consigned *** ** forgetfulness ***** ** decease. Once ** * while, ** ** true, *** memory *** brought ** ** connection ***** ** magnificent palace ***** ** built, *** ***** ** long ago ***** turned ***** * hotel ***** accommodation

** strangers, multitudes ** whom came, every summer, ** visit **** famous natural curiosity, *** Great Stone Face. Thus, Mr. Gathergold being discredited *** thrown **** ** shade, *** man ** prophecy *** yet ** *****.

** ** happened **** * native-born son ** **** valley, **** years *****, ** enlisted ** * soldier, ** , **** * great deal ** hard fighting, **** ** become ** illustrious commander. Whatever ** **** * called ** history, **** * known ** camps **** * ** battle-field under ** nickname ** Old Blood-****-Thunder. **** war-worn veteran, being **** infirm **** age ** wounds, ** weary ** **** turmoil ** * military life, **** ** **** roll ** **** drum ** ** clangor ** **** trumpet, **** * ** long **** ringing ** **** ears, ** lately signified * purpose ** returning ** **** native valley, hoping ** find repose **** * ** remembered ** **** left **. ** inhabitants, ** old neighbors **** * **** grown-** children, **re resolved ** welcome ** renowned warrior **** * salute ** cannon **** * public dinner; **** * ** **** enthusiastically, ** being affirmed **** * **, ** last, ** likeness ** **** Great Stone Face ** actually appeared. ** aid-de-camp ** Old Blood-****-Thunder, traveling **** * ** valley, **** * ** **** **** struck **** * ** resemblance. Moreover, ** schoolmates **** early acquaintances ** **** general **** ready ** testify, ** oath, ****, ** **** best ** **** recollection, ** aforesaid general **** * ** exceedingly **** * ** majestic image, **** * ** boy, **** * ** **** idea ** never occurred ** **** * ** **** period. Great, therefore, ** ** excitement throughout ** valley; **** * ** people, ** **** never once thought ** glancing ** ** Great Stone Face ** years *****, ** spent **** * ** **** gazing ** **, **** * ** sake ** knowing exactly how General Blood-****-Thunder looked.

** **** day ** **** great festival, Ernest, **** * ** **** * ** **** people ** **** valley, left **** work, ** proceeded ** **** spot **** * ** sylvan banquet ** prepared. ** ** approached, ** loud voice ** **** Reverend Doctor Battleblast ** heard, beseeching * blessing ** **** good things set **** * **, **** * ** **** distinguished friend ** peace ** whose honor **** **** assembled. ** tables **** * arranged ** * cleared space ** **** woods, shut ** ** **** surrounding trees, except **** * vista opened eastward, ** afforded * distant view ** **** Great Stone Face. **** * ** general's chair, **** * ** * relic **** * ** home ** Washington, **** * ** **** arch ** verdant boughs, **** * ** laurel profusely intermixed, ** surmounted ** ** country's banner, beneath **** * ** **** won ** victories. ** friend Ernest raised himself ** ** tip-toes, ** hopes ** **** * glimpse ** **** celebrated guest; **** * ** **** * mighty crowd **** * ** tables anxious ** hear ** toasts ** speeches, **** * ** catch ** word **** might fall **** * ** general ** reply; **** * ** volunteer company, doing duty ** * guard, pricked ruthlessly **** * ** bayonets ** **** particularly quiet person among ** throng. ** Ernest, being ** ** unobtrusive character, ** thrust quite **** * ** background, **** * ** **** * ** ** Old Blood-****-Thunder's physiognomy **** * ** **** * ** **** still blazing ** **** battle-field. ** console himself, ** turned towards ** Great Stone Face, **** * **, **** * faithful ** long-remembered friend, looked **** * ** smiled upon **** * ** **** * ** vista ** **** forest. Meantime, however, ** **** * ** over-hear ** remarks ** various individuals, **** * ** comparing ** features ** **** hero **** * ** face ** **** distant mountain-side.

*** ** object **** ** gazed **. ***_** ** always ***_*** aspect ** *** marvelous friend
**** Ernest ** hopeful ** ** ** ** never hoped ** vain.

"Fear ***, Ernest," **** ** heart, **** ** ** Great Face **** whispering ***, "fear
***, Ernest; ** ** ** **."

**** years sped swiftly ** tranquilly away. Ernest still dwelt ** ** native valley, ** **
*** * man ** middle age. ** imperceptible degrees, ** ** become known among ** people.
, ** heretofore, ** labored ** ** bread, ** ** ** same simple-hearted man **** **
*** always ****. **** ** thought ** felt ** ****, ** ** given ** **** ** best hours
** ** life ** unworldly hopes **** ** great good ** mankind, **** ** seemed ** though **
**** ** talking **** ** angels, **** ** imbibed * portion ** **** wisdom unawares. **
*** visible ** ** calm **** **-considered beneficence ** ** daily life, ** quiet stream **
**** ** ** * wide green margin *** along *** course. *** * day passed **, **** **
world *** ** ** better because **** man, humble ** ** **, ** lived. ** never stepped
aside **** ** own path, yet **** always reach * blessing ** ** neighbor. Almost
involuntarily, too, ** ** become * preacher. ** pure ** high simplicity ** ** thought,
****, ** one ** ** manifestations, took shape ** ** good deeds **** dropped silently ****
*** hand, flowed **** forth ** speech. ** uttered truths **** wrought upon ** moulded **
lives ** those ** heard ****. **** auditors, ** ** **, never suspected **** Ernest, **** own
neighbor *** familiar friend, **** ** ** ** ordinary man; least ** ** ** Ernest himself
suspect **; **, inevitably ** ** murmur ** * rivulet, came thoughts **** ** ** mouth ****
** ** ** human lips ** spoken.

**** ** people's minds ** ** * little **** ** cool, **** ** ready enough **
acknowledge **** mistake ** imagining * similarity between General Blood-***-Thunder's
truculent physiognomy ** ** benign visage ** ** mountain-side. ** **, again, ****
**** reports **** ** paragraphs ** ** newspapers, affirming **** ** likeness ** ** Great
Stone Face ** appeared upon ** broad shoulders ** * certain eminent statesman. **, **** Mr.
Gathergold ** Old Blood-***-Thunder, ** * native ** ** valley, **** ** left ** ** **
early days, ** taken ** ** trades ** law ** politics. Instead ** ** rich man's wealth **
*** warrior's sword, ** ** ** * tongue, ** ** ** mightier **** both together. **
wonderfully eloquent ** ** **, **** whatever ** might choose ** say, ** auditors ** **
choice ** ** believe **; wrong looked **** right, ** right **** wrong; **** ** ** pleased
, ** ** ** make * kind ** illuminated fog ** ** mere breath, ** obscure ** natural
daylight **** **. ** tongue, indeed, ** * magic instrument: sometimes ** rumbled **** **
thunder; sometimes ** warbled **** ** sweetest music. ** ** ** blast ** war- ** song **
peace; ** ** seemed ** ** ** heart ** **, **** ** ** ** matter. ** good truth, **
*** * wondrous man; **** ** ** tongue ** acquired **** ** ** ** imaginable success--
**** ** ** ** heard ** halls ** state, **** ** ** courts ** princes ** potentates--**** **
**** ** ** known **** ** ** world, **** ** * voice crying **** shore ** shore--**
finally persuaded ** countrymen ** select **** ** ** presidency. **** ** ** ** --indeed,
** soon ** ** began ** grow celebrated--**** admirers ** found ** ** ** resemblance between

*** ** Great Stone Face; *** ** struck ** **, **** throughout *** country **** distinguished gentleman *** known ** ** name ** Old Stony Phiz. *** phrase *** considered ** giving * highly favorable aspect ** ** political prospects; ** , ** ** likewise *** case **** ** Popedom, nobody ever becomes president without taking * name ***** own.

While *** friends **** doing ***** best ** make *** president, Old Stony Phiz, ** ** ** called, set *** ** * visit **** valley ***** ** ** born. ** course, ** ** ** object **** ** shake hands **** ** fellow-citizens, *** neither thought nor cared ***** ** effect ***** ** progress ***** ** country might **** upon ** election. Magnificent preparations ***** ** receive *** illustrious statesman; * cavalcade ** horsemen set forth ** meet *** ** ** boundary line ** ** state, ** ** ** people left ***** business *** gathered along *** wayside ** ** ** pass. Among ***** ** Ernest. Though ***** once disappointed, ** ** ** seen, ** ** ** hopeful *** confiding nature, ***** ** always ready ** believe ** whatever seemed beautiful *** good. ** kept *** heart continually open, *** thus *** sure ** catch *** blessing ***** ** high, ***** ** should ****. ** ** again, ** buoyantly ** ever, ** went forth ** behold *** likeness ** ** Great Stone Face.

*** cavalcade came prancing along *** road, ***** * great clattering ** hoofs *** * mighty cloud ** dust, ***** rose ** ** dense *** high ***** ** visage ** ** mountain-side *** completely hidden **** Ernest's eyes. *** ** great men ** ** neighborhood ***** ** horseback: militia officers, ** uniform; *** member ** Congress; *** sheriff ** ** county; *** editors ** newspapers; *** ***** * farmer, too, *** mounted *** patient steed, ***** ** Sunday coat upon *** *****. ** really **** * very brilliant spectacle, especially ** ***** ** numerous banners flaunting ***** ** cavalcade, ** ***** ** ***** ** gorgeous portraits ** *** illustrious statesman *** ** Great Stone Face, smiling familiarly ** one another, ***** two brothers. ** ** pictures ***** ** ** trusted, *** mutual resemblance, ** ***** ** confessed, *** marvelous. ** ***** ** forget ** mention ***** ***** ** band ** music, ***** ** echoes ** ** mountains ring *** reverberate ***** ** loud triumph ** ** strains; ** ***** airy *** soul-thrilling melodies broke *** among *** ** heights *** hollows ** ** every nook ** ** native valley *** found * voice ** welcome *** distinguished guest. *** ** grandest effect *** ***** ** far-off mountain-precipice flung ***** ** music; *** ***** ** Great Stone Face itself seemed ** ** swelling *** triumphant chorus, ** acknowledgment ****, ** length, *** man ** prophecy *****.

*** ***** while *** people ***** throwing ** ***** hats *** shouting, ***** enthusiasm ** contagious ***** ** heart ** Ernest kindled **, ***** likewise threw ** ** hat, *** shouted, ** loudly ** ** loudest, "Huzza *** ** great man! Huzza *** Old Stony Phiz!" ***** yet ** ***** seen ***.

"Here ** **, ****!" cried those *** stood near Ernest. "*****! *****! Look ** Old Stony Phiz ***** ** ** Old Man ** ** Mountain, ***** ** ***** ** ***** ** two twin-brothers!"

**** midst **** gallant array, came ** open barouche, drawn ** four white horses;
**** barouche, **** massive head uncovered, sat **** illustrious statesman, Old
Stony Phiz himself.

"Confess **," **** one ** Ernest's neighbors ** ***, "**** Great Stone Face **** met ****
match ** last!"

****, ** **** ** owned ****, ** **** **** glimpse ** **** countenance **** **** bowing
**** smiling **** **** barouche, Ernest **** fancy **** **** **** * resemblance between **
**** **** old familiar face upon **** mountain-side. **** brow, **** **** massive depth ****
loftiness, **** **** **** **** features, indeed, **** boldly **** strongly hewn, ** ** **
emulation ** * **** **** heroic, ** * Titanic model. **** **** sublimity **** stateliness, ****
grand expression ** * divine sympathy, **** illuminated **** mountain-visage, **** etherealized
**** ponderous granite substance **** spirit, might here ** sought ** vain. Something **** ****
originally left ****, ** **** departed. **** therefore **** marvelously gifted statesman **** always
* weary gloom ** **** deep caverns ** **** eyes, ** ** * child **** **** outgrown ****
playthings, ** * man ** mighty faculties **** little aims, whose life, **** **** **** high
performances, **** vague **** empty, because ** high purpose **** endowed ** **** reality.

Still, Ernest's neighbor **** thrusting **** elbow **** **** side, **** pressing **** **** **
ans wer.

"Confess! confess! ** **** ** **** very picture ** **** Old Man ** **** Mountain?"

"**!" **** Ernest, bluntly, "**** little ** ** likeness."

"**** ** **** **** worse **** **** Great Stone Face!" answered **** neighbor; **** again **
set ** * shout **** Old Stony Phiz.

**** Ernest turned away. melancholy, **** almost despondent; **** **** **** **** saddest **
**** disappointments, ** behold * man **** might **** fulfilled **** prophecy, **** **** ****
willed ** ** **. Meantime, **** cavalcade, **** banners, **** music, **** **** barouches, swept
past ****, **** **** vociferous crowd ** **** rear, leaving **** dust ** settle down, **** ****
Great Stone Face ** ** revealed again, **** **** grandeur **** **** **** worn **** untold
centuries.

"Lo, here * am, Ernest!" **** benign lips seemed ** say. "**** waited longer **** thou, ****
am **** yet weary. Fear ****; **** man **** ****."

**** years hurried onward, treading ** **** haste ** one another's heels. **** **** ****
began ** bring white hairs, **** scatter **** **** **** head ** Ernest; **** **** reverend
wrinkles across **** forehead, **** furrows ** **** cheeks. ** **** ** aged man. **** **** ** vain
**** ** grown old: **** **** **** white hairs ** **** head **** **** sage thoughts ** **** mind;

stuff, ***** swine *****. ** respects *** things else, *** poet's ideal *** **
truest truth.

*** songs ** ***** poet found ***** ** Ernest. ** read *****, ***** ** customary toil,
seated ** *** bench ***** cottage door, *****, *****, ** length ** *****, ** *** filled
*** repose ***** thought ** gazing ** *** Great Stone Face. *** ***, ** ** read stanzas *****
caused *** soul ** thrill within ***, ** lifted *** eyes ** *** vast countenance beaming ** ***
** benignantly.

"O, majestic friend," ** murmured, addressing *** Great Stone Face, "***** man
worthy ** resemble thee?"

*** Face seemed ** smile, *** answered ***** word.

*** ** happened ***** poet, though ** dwelt ** far away, *****, ***** heard ** Ernest,
***** meditated ***** upon *** character, until ** deemed nothing ** desirable ** ** meet
***** man, whose untaught wisdom walked hand ** hand ***** noble simplicity ** *** life.
One summer morning, therefore, ** took passage ** *** railroad, ***, ** *** decline ** ***
afternoon, alighted ***** cars ** ** great distance ***** Ernest's cottage. *** gre at hotel,
***** formerly ***** palace ** Mr. Gathergold, *** close ** hand, *** *** poet *****
*** carpet-bag ** *** arm, inquired ** once ***** Ernest dwelt, *****, ***** resolved ** **
accepted ** *** guest.

Approaching *** door, ** ***** found *** good old man, holding * volume ** *** hand,
***** alternately ** read, *****, *****, * finger between *** leaves, looked lovingly ** ***
Great Stone Face.

"Good evening," ***** poet. "***** give * traveller * night's lodging?"

"Willingly," answered Ernest; ** ***** ** added, smiling, "Methinks * never saw *** Great
Stone Face look ** hospitably ** * stranger."

*** poet sat down ** *** bench beside ***, *****, ***** Ernest talked together. Often *** **
poet held intercourse ***** wittiest *** ** wisest, *** never ***** * man *****
Ernest, whose thoughts *** feelings gushed ** ***** natural freedom, *** ***** great
truths ** familiar ** *** simple utterance ** *****. Angels, ** ***** often *****, seemed
** ***** wrought ***** labor ** *** fields; angels seemed ** ***** sat ***** **
*** fireside; ***, dwelling ***** angels ** friend ***** friends, ** *** imbibed *** sublimity **
***** ideas, *** imbued ** ***** sweet *** lowly charm ** household words. ** thought
*** poet. *** Ernest, ** ***** hand, *** moved *** agitated ** *** living images *****
*** poet flung *** ** *** mind, *****, ***** peopled *** ** air ***** cottage-door *****
shapes ** beauty, both gay *** pensive. *** sympathies ** ***** two men instructed *****
***** profounder sense ***** either ***** attained alone. ***** minds accorded ***** one

strain, *** ** delightful music ***** neither ** ***** ***** claimed ** *** own,
nor distinguished *** own share *****'s. ***** led one another, ** * ** *, *****
high pavilion ** ***** thoughts, ** remote, ** hitherto ** dim, ***** never entered
***** , ***** beautiful ***** desired ** ***** always.

** Ernest listened ** *** poet, ** imagined ***** Great Stone Face *** bending forward
** listen too. ** gazed earnestly ***** poet's glowing eyes.

"***** , ** strangely gifted guest?" ** *****.

*** poet laid *** finger ** *** volume ***** Ernest *** ***** reading.

"***** read ***** poems," ***** . "***** know ** , *****_***** wrote *****."

Again, *** still ***** earnestly ***** , Ernest examined *** poet's features; *****
turned towards *** Great Stone Face; ***** , ***** ** uncertain aspect, ** *** guest. ***
*** countenance fell; ** shook *** head, *** sighed.

"***** fore *** *** sad?" inquired *** poet.

"Because, replied Ernest, ***** life * ***** awaited *** fulfillment ** * prophecy;
*** , ***** read ***** poems, * hoped ***** might ** fulfilled *****."

"***** hoped," answered *** poet, faintly smiling, ** find ** * ***** likeness ** *** Great
Stone Face. *** * ***** disappointed, ** formerly ***** Mr. Gathergold, *** Old Blood-***-
Thunder, *** Old Stony Phiz. Yes, Ernest, ** * * * doom. ***** add ** name ** ***
illustrious three, *** record another failure ** ***** hopes. ***_** shame *** sadness ** *
speak ** , Ernest--* am *** worthy ** * typified ** yonder benign *** majestic image."

"***** why?" asked Ernest. ** pointed ** *** volume--"***** those thoughts divine?"

"***** * strain ** *** Divinity," replied *** poet. "***** hear ** ***** far-off
echo ** * heavenly song. *** * life, dear Ernest, *** * * corresponded ***** thought. *
***** grand dreams, ***** dreams, because * ***** lived--***** , too,
** own choice--among poor *** mean realities. Sometimes *****--shall * dare ** say **?--* lack
faith ** *** grandeur, *** beauty, *** * goodness, ***** own works *** * * *
***** evident ** nature *** * human life. Why, ***** , pure seeker ** * * good *** true,
shouldst thou hope ** find ** , ** yonder image ** * * divine!"

*** poet spoke sadly, *** *** eyes ***** dim ***** tears. ** , likewise, ***** those ** Ernest.

** *** hour ** sunset, ** *** long ***** frequent custom, Ernest *** * discourse ** *
assemblage ** *** neighboring inhabitants, ** *** open air. ** * * * poet, arm ** arm, still

talking together ** **** went along, proceeded ** *** spot. ** *** * small nook among *** hills, **** * gray precipice behind, *** stern front ** ***** **** relieved ** *** pleasant foliage ** **** creeping plants, **** ***** * tapestry *** **** naked rock, ** hanging ***** festoons **** **** **** rugged angles. ** * small elevation above *** ground, set ** * rich frame-work ** verdure, **** appeared * niche, spacious enough ** admit * human figure, **** freedom **** ***** gestures ** spontaneously accompany earnest thought *** genuine emotion. **** ***** natural pulpit Ernest ascended, *** threw * look ** familiar kindness around upon *** audience. **** stood, ** sat, ** reclined upon *** grass, ** seemed good ** each, **** **** departing sunshine falling obliquely **** ****, *** mingling *** subdued cheerfulness **** **** solemnity ** * grove ** ancient trees, beneath *** amid **** boughs ** ***** **** golden rays **** constrained ** pass. ** another direction *** seen *** Great Stone Face, **** **** same cheer, combined **** **** same solemnity, ** **** benignant aspect.

Ernest began ** speak, giving ** **** people ** ***** **** **** heart *** mind. *** words *** power, because **** accorded **** **** thoughts; **** **** thoughts *** reality *** depth, because **** harmonized **** **** life ***** ** **** always lived. ** **** **** mere breath **** **** preacher uttered; **** **** **** words ** life, because * life ** good deeds *** holy love *** melted **** ****. Pearls, pure *** rich, *** **** dissolved **** **** precious draught. *** poet, ** ** listened, felt **** **** being *** character ** Ernest **** * nobler strain ** poetry **** ** **** ever written. *** eyes glistening **** tears, ** gazed reverentially ** **** venerable man, **** **** within himself **** never **** **** **** aspect ** worthy ** * prophet *** * sage ** **** mild, sweet, thoughtful countenance, **** **** glory ** white hair diffused **** ** . ** * distance, *** distinctly ** ** seen, high ** ** **** golden light ** **** setting sun, appeared *** Great Stone Face, **** hoary mists around **, **** **** white hairs around *** brow ** Ernest. *** look ** grand beneficence seemed ** embrace **** world.

** **** moment, ** sympathy **** * thought **** ** **** **** **** utter, *** face ** Ernest assumed * grandeur ** expression, ** imbued **** benevolence, **** **** poet, ** ** irresistible impulse, threw *** arms aloft, *** shouted, "Behold! Behold! Ernest ** himself *** likeness ** **** Great Stone Face!"

**** **** **** people looked, *** saw **** **** **** deep-sighted poet **** **** true. *** prophecy *** fulfilled. *** Ernest, having finished **** **** **** say, took *** poet's arm, *** walked slowly homeward, still hoping **** **** wiser *** better man **** himself **** ** **** ** appear, bearing * resemblance ** **** GREAT STONE FACE.

Statistical Appendix

One Hundred Level I Essential Sight Words used for making the *Great Stony Face Sight Word Eliminator I*. The numbers after the words indicate the number of times the word was used in the story.

a 190, about 12, after 9, all 38, also 1, an 27, and 282, any 5, are 6, as 81, at 48, back 5, be 37, been 37, before 13, but 43, by 39, can 2, come 13, could 18, did 9, do 4, even 11, first 2, for 41, from 33, get 1, go 2, had 126, has 3, have 33, he 117, her 12, him 52, his 146, I 22, if 24, in 108, into 19, is 13, it 96, its 30, like 15, made 18, many 15, may 6, me 4, more 19, most 1, much 9, must 8, my 6, new 1, no 16, not 37, now 20, of 276, on 34, only 9, or 20, other 18, our 3, out 16, over 14, said 17, see 11, she 3, so 47, some 12, such 16, than 25, that 120, the 560, their 37, them 21, then 13, there 29, these 7, they 29, this 36, through 6, time 10, to 167, up 21, want 0, was 125, way 5, we 7, well 1, were 48, what 12, when 18, where 14, which 43, who 19, will 5, with 100, would 12, you 13, your 2.

Out of a running total of 7,579 words, 3,986 *Level I Essential Sight Words* were replaced with asterisks. These 100 deleted sight-words represent 52% of the total text. Only one of the *Level I Essential Sight Words* was missing from the story: *want*.

Why a Sight Word Eliminator?

A *Sight Word Eliminator* (SWE) is a story that has had the sight-words marked out. The concept of a *Sight Word Eliminator* was originally conceived by Mr. Edward Miller. He heard Sam Blumenfeld say that teaching sight-words by the whole-word method to beginning reading students would cause them to develop a debilitating form of developmental dyslexia he called “whole-word dyslexia” (WWD). Mr. Blumenfeld had spent many years researching the **devious history** and documenting **harmful effects** of the whole-word method. He even wrote the inexpensive but highly effective *Alpha-Phonics Primer*, which will enable a student to learn to read without developing WWD. Mr. Miller reasoned that if WWD was caused by the whole-word method, then there ought to be a way to **assess** the presence of WWD, **measure** its severity, and **plan** for effective remediation. Eventually he developed both a sensitive assessment and a plan for remediating WWD. The **assessment** is the *Miller Word Identification Assessment* (MWIA) which simply measures and compares the difference processing speed and decoding accuracy between two word lists: a list of holistic sight-words, and a list of one syllable phonetic words. The **remediation plan** involves the use of the *Sight Word Eliminator* and the 72 *Exercises* in Rudolf Flesch’s *Why Johnny Can’t Read and what you can do about it*.

The Great Stone Face

by Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1804-1864

7,579 words; 77 paragraphs; 290 sentences; 21.6 words per sentence; 4.4 characters per word;
9.8 Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level; 62.6 Flesch Reading Ease.

ONE AFTERNOON, when the sun was going down, a mother and her little boy sat at the door of their cottage, talking about the Great Stone Face. They had but to lift their eyes, and there it was plainly to be seen, though miles away, with the sunshine brightening all its features.

And what was the Great Stone Face?

Embosomed amongst a family of lofty mountains, there was a valley so spacious that it contained many thousand inhabitants. Some of these good people dwelt in log huts, with the black forest all around them, on the steep and difficult hill-sides. Others had their homes in comfortable farm-houses, and cultivated the rich soil on the gentle slopes or level surfaces of the valley. Others, again, were congregated into populous villages, where some wild, highland rivulet, tumbling down from its birthplace in the upper mountain region, had been caught and tamed by human cunning, and compelled to turn the machinery of cotton factories. The inhabitants of this valley, in short, were numerous, and of many modes of life. But all of them, grown people and children, had a kind of familiarity with the Great Stone Face, although some possessed the gift of distinguishing this grand natural phenomenon more perfectly than many of their neighbors.

The Great Stone Face, then, was a work of Nature in her mood of majestic playfulness, formed on the perpendicular side of a mountain by some immense rocks, which had been thrown together in such a position as, when viewed at a proper distance, precisely to resemble the features of the human countenance. It seemed as if an enormous giant, or a Titan, had sculptured his own likeness on the precipice. There was the broad arch of the forehead, a hundred feet in height; the nose, with its long bridge; and the vast lips, which, if they could have spoken, would have rolled their thunder accents from one end of the valley to the other. True it is, that if the spectator approached too near, he lost the outline of the gigantic visage, and could discern only a heap of ponderous and gigantic rocks, piled in chaotic ruin one upon another. Retracing his steps, however, the wondrous features would again be seen; and the further he withdrew from them, the more like a human face, with all its original divinity intact, did they appear; until, as it grew dim in the distance, with the clouds and glorified vapor of the mountains clustering about it, the Great Stone Face seemed positively to be alive.

It was a happy lot for children to grow up to manhood or womanhood with the Great Stone Face before their eyes, for all the features were noble, and the expression was at once grand and sweet, as if it were the glow of a vast, warm heart, that embraced all mankind in its affections,

and had room for more. It was an education only to look at it. According to the belief of many people, the valley owed much of its fertility to this benign aspect that was continually beaming over it, illuminating the clouds, and infusing its tenderness into the sunshine.

As we began with saying, a mother and her little boy sat at their cottage door, gazing at the Great Stone Face, and talking about it. The child's name was Ernest.

"Mother, said he, while the Titanic visage smiled on him, "I wish that it could speak, for it looks so very kindly that its voice must needs be pleasant. If I were to see a man with such a face, I should love him dearly."

"If an old prophecy should come to pass," answered his mother, "we may see a man, some time or other, with exactly such a face as that."

"What prophecy do you mean, dear mother?" eagerly inquired Ernest. "Pray tell me all about it!"

So his mother told him a story that her own mother had told to her, when she herself was younger than little Ernest; a story, not of things that were past, but of what was yet to come; a story, nevertheless, so very old, that even the Indians, who formerly inhabited this valley, had heard it from their forefathers, to whom, as they affirmed, it had been murmured by the mountain streams, and whispered by the wind among the tree-tops. The purport was, that, at some future day, a child should be born hereabouts, who was destined to become the greatest and noblest personage of his time, and whose countenance, in manhood, should bear an exact resemblance to the Great Stone Face. Not a few old-fashioned people, and young ones likewise, in the ardor of their hopes, still cherished an enduring faith in this old prophecy. But others, who had seen more of the world, had watched and waited till they were weary, and had beheld no man with such a face, nor any man that proved to be much greater or nobler than his neighbors, concluded it to be nothing but an idle tale. At all events, the great man of the prophecy had not yet appeared.

"O, mother, dear mother!" cried Ernest, clapping his hands above his head, I do hope that I shall live to see him!"

His mother was an affectionate and thoughtful woman, and felt that it was wisest not to discourage the generous hopes of her little boy. So she only said to him, "Perhaps you may."

And Ernest never forgot the story that his mother told him. It was always in his mind, whenever he looked upon the Great Stone Face. He spent his childhood in the log-cottage where he was born, and was dutiful to his mother, and helpful to her in many things, assisting her much with his little hands, and more with his loving heart. In this manner, from a happy yet often pensive child, he grew up to be a mild, quiet, unobtrusive boy, and sun-browned with labor in the fields, but with more intelligence brightening his aspect than is seen in many lads who have been taught at famous schools. Yet Ernest had had no teacher, save only that the Great Stone Face

became one to him. When the toil of the day was over, he would gaze at it for hours, until he began to imagine that those vast features recognized him, and gave him a smile of kindness and encouragement, responsive to his own look of veneration. We must not take upon us to affirm that this was a mistake, although the Face may have looked no more kindly at Ernest than at all the world besides. But the secret was, that the boy's tender and confiding simplicity discerned what other people could not see; and thus the love, which was meant for all, became his peculiar portion.

About this time, there went a rumor throughout the valley, that the great man, foretold from ages long ago, who was to bear a resemblance to the Great Stone Face, had appeared at last. It seems that, many years before, a young man had migrated from the valley and settled at a distant seaport, where, after getting together a little money, he had set up as a shopkeeper. His name--but I could never learn whether it was his real one, or a nickname that had grown out of his habits and success in life--was Gathergold. Being shrewd and active, and endowed by Providence with that inscrutable faculty which develops itself in what the world calls luck, he became an exceedingly rich merchant, and owner of a whole fleet of bulky-bottomed ships. All the countries of the globe appeared to join hands for the mere purpose of adding heap after heap to the mountainous accumulation of this one man's wealth. The cold regions of the north, almost within the gloom and shadow of the Arctic Circle, sent him their tribute in the shape of furs; hot Africa sifted for him the golden sands of her rivers, and gathered up the ivory tusks of her great elephants out of the forests; the East came bringing him the rich shawls, and spices, and teas, and the effulgence of diamonds, and the gleaming purity of large pearls. The ocean, not to be behindhand with the earth, yielded up her mighty whales, that Mr. Gathergold might sell their oil, and make a profit on it. Be the original commodity what it might, it was gold within his grasp. It might be said of him, as of Midas in the fable, that whatever he touched with his finger immediately glistened, and grew yellow, and was changed at once into sterling metal, or, which suited him still better, into piles of coin. And, when Mr. Gathergold had become so very rich that it would have taken him a hundred years only to count his wealth, he bethought himself of his native valley, and resolved to go back thither, and end his days where he was born. With this purpose in view, he sent a skilful architect to build him such a palace as should be fit for a man of his vast wealth to live in.

As I have said above, it had already been rumored in the valley that Mr. Gathergold had turned out to be the prophetic personage so long and vainly looked for, and that his visage was the perfect and undeniable similitude of the Great Stone Face. People were the more ready to believe that this must needs be the fact, when they beheld the splendid edifice that rose, as if by enchantment, on the site of his father's old weather-beaten farm-house. The exterior was of marble, so dazzlingly white that it seemed as though the whole structure might melt away in the sunshine, like those humbler ones which Mr. Gathergold, in his young play-days, before his fingers were gifted with the touch of transmutation, had been accustomed to build of snow. It had a richly ornamented portico, supported by tall pillars, beneath which was a lofty door, studded with silver knobs, and made of a kind of variegated wood that had been brought from beyond the

sea. The windows, from the floor to the ceiling of each stately apartment, were composed, respectively, of but one enormous pane of glass, so transparently pure that it was said to be a finer medium than even the vacant atmosphere. Hardly anybody had been permitted to see the interior of this palace; but it was reported, and with good semblance of truth, to be far more gorgeous than the outside, insomuch that whatever was iron or brass in other houses, was silver or gold in this; and Mr. Gathergold's bed-chamber, especially, made such a glittering appearance that no ordinary man would have been able to close his eyes there. But, on the other hand, Mr. Gathergold was now so inured to wealth, that perhaps he could not have closed his eyes unless where the gleam of it was certain to find its way beneath his eyelids.

In due time, the mansion was finished; next came the upholsterers, with magnificent furniture; then, a whole troop of black and white servants, the harbingers of Mr. Gathergold, who, in his own majestic person was expected to arrive at sunset. Our friend Ernest, meanwhile, had been deeply stirred by the idea that the great man, the noble man, the man of prophecy, after so many ages of delay, was at length to be made manifest to his native valley. He knew, boy as he was, that there were a thousand ways in which Mr. Gathergold, with his vast wealth, might transform himself into an angel of beneficence, and assume a control over human affairs as wide and benignant as the smile of the Great Stone Face. Full of faith and hope, Ernest doubted not that what the people said was true, and that now he was to behold the living likeness of those wondrous features on the mountain-side. While the boy was still gazing up the valley, and fancying, as he always did, that the Great Stone Face returned his gaze and looked kindly at him, the rumbling of wheels was heard, approaching swiftly along the winding road.

"Here he comes!" cried a group of people who were assembled to witness the arrival. "Here comes the great Mr. Gathergold!"

A carriage, drawn by four horses, dashed round the turn of the road. Within it, thrust partly out of the window, appeared the physiognomy of a little old man, with a skin as yellow as if his own Midas-hand had transmuted it. He had a low forehead, small, sharp eyes, puckered about with innumerable wrinkles, and very thin lips, which he made still thinner by pressing them forcibly together.

"The very image of the Great Stone Face!" shouted the people. "Sure enough, the old prophecy is true; and here we have the great man come, at last!"

And, what greatly perplexed Ernest, they seemed actually to believe that here was the likeness which they spoke of. By the roadside there chanced to be an old beggar-woman and two little beggar-children, stragglers from some far-off region, who, as the carriage rolled onward, held out their hands and lifted up their doleful voices, most piteously beseeching charity. A yellow claw- the very same that had clawed together so much wealth- poked itself out of the coach-window, and dropt some copper coins upon the ground; so that, though the great man's name seems to have been Gathergold, he might just as suitably have been nicknamed Scattercopper.

Still, nevertheless, with an earnest shout, and evidently with as much good faith as ever, the people bellowed, "He is the very image of the Great Stone Face!"

But Ernest turned sadly from the wrinkled shrewdness of that sordid visage, and gazed up the valley, where, amid a gathering mist, gilded by the last sunbeams, he could still distinguish those glorious features which had impressed themselves into his soul. Their aspect cheered him. What did the benign lips seem to say?

"He will come! Fear not, Ernest; the man will come!"

The years went on, and Ernest ceased to be a boy. He had grown to be a young man now. He attracted little notice from the other inhabitants of the valley; for they saw nothing remarkable in his way of life, save that, when the labor of the day was over, he still loved to go apart and gaze and meditate upon the Great Stone Face. According to their idea of the matter, it was a folly, indeed, but pardonable, inasmuch as Ernest was industrious, kind, and neighborly, and neglected no duty for the sake of indulging this idle habit. They knew not that the Great Stone Face had become a teacher to him, and that the sentiment which was expressed in it would enlarge the young man's heart, and fill it with wider and deeper sympathies than other hearts. They knew not that thence would come a better wisdom than could be learned from books, and a better life than could be moulded on the defaced example of other human lives. Neither did Ernest know that the thoughts and affections which came to him so naturally, in the fields and at the fireside, and wherever he communed with himself, were of a higher tone than those which all men shared with him. A simple soul--simple as when his mother first taught him the old prophecy--he beheld the marvelous features beaming adown the valley, and still wondered that their human counterpart was so long in making his appearance.

By this time poor Mr. Gathergold was dead and buried; and the oddest part of the matter was, that his wealth, which was the body and spirit of his existence, had disappeared before his death, leaving nothing of him but a living skeleton, covered over with a wrinkled, yellow skin. Since the melting away of his gold, it had been very generally conceded that there was no such striking resemblance, after all, betwixt the ignoble features of the ruined merchant and that majestic face upon the mountain-side. So the people ceased to honor him during his lifetime, and quietly consigned him to forgetfulness after his decease. Once in a while, it is true, his memory was brought up in connection with the magnificent palace which he had built, and which had long ago been turned into a hotel for the accommodation of strangers, multitudes of whom came, every summer, to visit that famous natural curiosity, the Great Stone Face. Thus, Mr. Gathergold being discredited and thrown into the shade, the man of prophecy was yet to come.

It so happened that a native-born son of the valley, many years before, had enlisted as a soldier, and, after a great deal of hard fighting, had now become an illustrious commander. Whatever he may be called in history, he was known in camps and on the battle-field under the nickname of Old Blood-and-Thunder. This war-worn veteran, being now infirm with age and wounds, and weary of the turmoil of a military life, and of the roll of the drum and the clangor of

the trumpet, that had so long been ringing in his ears, had lately signified a purpose of returning to his native valley, hoping to find repose where he remembered to have left it. The inhabitants, his old neighbors and their grown-up children, were resolved to welcome the renowned warrior with a salute of cannon and a public dinner; and all the more enthusiastically, it being affirmed that now, at last, the likeness of the Great Stone Face had actually appeared. An aid-de-camp of Old Blood-and-Thunder, traveling through the valley, was said to have been struck with the resemblance. Moreover, the schoolmates and early acquaintances of the general were ready to testify, on oath, that, to the best of their recollection, the aforesaid general had been exceedingly like the majestic image, even when a boy, only that the idea had never occurred to them at that period. Great, therefore, was the excitement throughout the valley; and many people, who had never once thought of glancing at the Great Stone Face for years before, now spent their time in gazing at it, for the sake of knowing exactly how General Blood-and-Thunder looked.

On the day of the great festival, Ernest, with all the other people of the valley, left their work, and proceeded to the spot where the sylvan banquet was prepared. As he approached, the loud voice of the Reverend Doctor Battleblast was heard, beseeching a blessing on the good things set before them, and on the distinguished friend of peace in whose honor they were assembled. The tables were arranged in a cleared space of the woods, shut in by the surrounding trees, except where a vista opened eastward, and afforded a distant view of the Great Stone Face. Over the general's chair, which was a relic from the home of Washington, there was an arch of verdant boughs, with the laurel profusely intermixed, and surmounted by his country's banner, beneath which he had won his victories. Our friend Ernest raised himself on his tip-toes, in hopes to get a glimpse of the celebrated guest; but there was a mighty crowd about the tables anxious to hear the toasts and speeches, and to catch any word that might fall from the general in reply; and a volunteer company, doing duty as a guard, pricked ruthlessly with their bayonets at any particularly quiet person among the throng. So Ernest, being of an unobtrusive character, was thrust quite into the background, where he could see no more of Old Blood-and-Thunder's physiognomy than if it had been still blazing on the battle-field. To console himself, he turned towards the Great Stone Face, which, like a faithful and long-remembered friend, looked back and smiled upon him through the vista of the forest. Meantime, however, he could over-hear the remarks of various individuals, who were comparing the features of the hero with the face on the distant mountain-side.

"'Tis the same face, to a hair!" cried one man, cutting a caper for joy.

"Wonderfully like, that's a fact!" responded another.

"Like! why, I call it Old Blood-and-Thunder himself, in a monstrous looking-glass!" cried a third. "And why not! He's the greatest man of this or any other age, beyond a doubt."

And then all three of the speakers gave a great shout, which communicated electricity to the crowd, and called forth a roar from a thousand voices, that went reverberating for miles among the mountains, until you might have supposed that the Great Stone Face had poured its thunder-

breath into the cry. All these comments, and this vast enthusiasm, served the more to interest our friend; nor did he think of questioning that now, at length, the mountain-visage had found its human counterpart. It is true, Ernest had imagined that this long-looked-for personage would appear in the character of a man of peace, uttering wisdom, and doing good, and making people happy. But, taking an habitual breadth of view, with all his simplicity, he contended that Providence should choose its own method of blessing mankind, and could conceive that this great end might be effected even by a warrior and a bloody sword, should inscrutable wisdom see fit to order matters so.

"The general! the general!" was now the cry. "Hush! silence! Old Blood-and-Thunder's going to make a speech."

Even so; for, the cloth being removed, the general's health had been drunk amid shouts of applause, and he now stood upon his feet to thank the company. Ernest saw him. There he was, over the shoulders of the crowd, from the two glittering epaulets and embroidered collar upward, beneath the arch of green boughs with inter-twined laurel and the banner drooping as if to shade his brow! And there, too, visible in the same glance, through the vista of the forest, appeared the Great Stone Face! And was there, indeed, such a resemblance as the crowd had testified? Alas, Ernest could not recognize it! He beheld a war-worn and weather-beaten countenance, full of energy, and expressive of an iron will; but the gentle wisdom, the deep, broad, tender sympathies, were altogether wanting in Old Blood-and-Thunder's visage; and even if the Great Stone Face had assumed his look of stern command, the milder traits would still have tempered it.

"This is not the man of prophecy," sighed Ernest to himself, as he made his way out of the throng. "And must the world wait longer yet?"

The mists had congregated about the distant mountain-side, and there were seen the grand and awful features of the Great Stone Face, awful but benignant, as if a mighty angel were sitting among the hills, and enrobing himself in a cloud-vesture of gold and purple. As he looked, Ernest could hardly believe but that a smile beamed over the whole visage, with a radiance still brightening, although without motion of the lips. It was probably the effect of the western sunshine, melting through the thinly diffused vapors that had swept between him and the object that he gazed at. But--as it always did--the aspect of his marvelous friend made Ernest as hopeful as if he had never hoped in vain.

"Fear not, Ernest," said his heart, even as if the Great Face were whispering him, "fear not, Ernest; he will come."

More years sped swiftly and tranquilly away. Ernest still dwelt in his native valley, and was now a man of middle age. By imperceptible degrees, he had become known among the people. Now, as heretofore, he labored for his bread, and was the same simple-hearted man that he had always been. But he had thought and felt so much, he had given so many of the best hours of his

life to unworldly hopes for some great good to mankind, that it seemed as though he had been talking with the angels, and had imbibed a portion of their wisdom unawares. It was visible in the calm and well-considered beneficence of his daily life, the quiet stream of which had made a wide green margin all along its course. Not a day passed by, that the world was not the better because this man, humble as he was, had lived. He never stepped aside from his own path, yet would always reach a blessing to his neighbor. Almost involuntarily, too, he had become a preacher. The pure and high simplicity of his thought, which, as one of its manifestations, took shape in the good deeds that dropped silently from his hand, flowed also forth in speech. He uttered truths that wrought upon and moulded the lives of those who heard him. His auditors, it may be, never suspected that Ernest, their own neighbor and familiar friend, was more than an ordinary man; least of all did Ernest himself suspect it; but, inevitably as the murmur of a rivulet, came thoughts out of his mouth that no other human lips had spoken.

When the people's minds had had a little time to cool, they were ready enough to acknowledge their mistake in imagining a similarity between General Blood-and-Thunder's truculent physiognomy and the benign visage on the mountain-side. But now, again, there were reports and many paragraphs in the newspapers, affirming that the likeness of the Great Stone Face had appeared upon the broad shoulders of a certain eminent statesman. He, like Mr. Gathergold and Old Blood-and-Thunder, was a native of the valley, but had left it in his early days, and taken up the trades of law and politics. Instead of the rich man's wealth and the warrior's sword, he had but a tongue, and it was mightier than both together. So wonderfully eloquent was he, that whatever he might choose to say, his auditors had no choice but to believe him; wrong looked like right, and right like wrong; for when it pleased him, he could make a kind of illuminated fog with his mere breath, and obscure the natural daylight with it. His tongue, indeed, was a magic instrument: sometimes it rumbled like the thunder; sometimes it warbled like the sweetest music. It was the blast of war- the song of peace; and it seemed to have a heart in it, when there was no such matter. In good truth, he was a wondrous man; and when his tongue had acquired him all other imaginable success--when it had been heard in halls of state, and in the courts of princes and potentates--after it had made him known all over the world, even as a voice crying from shore to shore--it finally persuaded his countrymen to select him for the presidency. Before this time--indeed, as soon as he began to grow celebrated--his admirers had found out the resemblance between him and the Great Stone Face; and so much were they struck by it, that throughout the country this distinguished gentleman was known by the name of Old Stony Phiz. The phrase was considered as giving a highly favorable aspect to his political prospects; for, as is likewise the case with the Popedom, nobody ever becomes president without taking a name other than his own.

While his friends were doing their best to make him president, Old Stony Phiz, as he was called, set out on a visit to the valley where he was born. Of course, he had no other object than to shake hands with his fellow-citizens, and neither thought nor cared about any effect which his progress through the country might have upon the election. Magnificent preparations were made to receive the illustrious statesman; a cavalcade of horsemen set forth to meet him at the

boundary line of the state, and all the people left their business and gathered along the wayside to see him pass. Among these was Ernest. Though more than once disappointed, as we have seen, he had such a hopeful and confiding nature, that he was always ready to believe in whatever seemed beautiful and good. He kept his heart continually open, and thus was sure to catch the blessing from on high, when it should come. So now again, as buoyantly as ever, he went forth to behold the likeness of the Great Stone Face.

The cavalcade came prancing along the road, with a great clattering of hoofs and a mighty cloud of dust, which rose up so dense and high that the visage of the mountain-side was completely hidden from Ernest's eyes. All the great men of the neighborhood were there on horseback: militia officers, in uniform; the member of Congress; the sheriff of the county; the editors of newspapers; and many a farmer, too, had mounted his patient steed, with his Sunday coat upon his back. It really was a very brilliant spectacle, especially as there were numerous banners flaunting over the cavalcade, on some of which were gorgeous portraits of the illustrious statesman and the Great Stone Face, smiling familiarly at one another, like two brothers. If the pictures were to be trusted, the mutual resemblance, it must be confessed, was marvelous. We must not forget to mention that there was a band of music, which made the echoes of the mountains ring and reverberate with the loud triumph of its strains; so that airy and soul-thrilling melodies broke out among all the heights and hollows as if every nook of his native valley had found a voice to welcome the distinguished guest. But the grandest effect was when the far-off mountain-precipice flung back the music; for then the Great Stone Face itself seemed to be swelling the triumphant chorus, in acknowledgment that, at length, the man of prophecy was come.

All this while the people were throwing up their hats and shouting, with enthusiasm so contagious that the heart of Ernest kindled up, and he likewise threw up his hat, and shouted, as loudly as the loudest, "Huzza for the great man! Huzza for Old Stony Phiz!" But as yet he had not seen him.

"Here he is, now!" cried those who stood near Ernest. "There! There! Look at Old Stony Phiz and then at the Old Man of the Mountain, and see if they are not as like as two twin-brothers!"

In the midst of all this gallant array, came an open barouche, drawn by four white horses; and in the barouche, with his massive head uncovered, sat the illustrious statesman, Old Stony Phiz himself.

"Confess it," said one of Ernest's neighbors to him, "the Great Stone Face has met its match at last!"

Now, it must be owned that, at his first glimpse of the countenance which was bowing and smiling from the barouche, Ernest did fancy that there was a resemblance between it and the old familiar face upon the mountain-side. The brow, with its massive depth and loftiness, and all the other features, indeed, were boldly and strongly hewn, as if in emulation of a more than heroic,

of a Titanic model. But the sublimity and stateliness, the grand expression of a divine sympathy, that illuminated the mountain-visage, and etherealized its ponderous granite substance into spirit, might here be sought in vain. Something had been originally left out, or had departed. And therefore the marvelously gifted statesman had always a weary gloom in the deep caverns of his eyes, as of a child that has outgrown its playthings, or a man of mighty faculties and little aims, whose life, with all its high performances, was vague and empty, because no high purpose had endowed it with reality.

Still, Ernest's neighbor was thrusting his elbow into his side, and pressing him for an answer.

"Confess! confess! Is not he the very picture of your Old Man of the Mountain?"

"No!" said Ernest, bluntly, "I see little or no likeness."

"Then so much the worse for the Great Stone Face!" answered his neighbor; and again he set up a shout for Old Stony Phiz.

But Ernest turned away, melancholy, and almost despondent; for this was the saddest of his disappointments, to behold a man who might have fulfilled the prophecy, and had not willed to do so. Meantime, the cavalcade, the banners, the music, and the barouches, swept past him, with the vociferous crowd in the rear, leaving the dust to settle down, and the Great Stone Face to be revealed again, with the grandeur that it had worn for untold centuries.

"Lo, here I am, Ernest!" the benign lips seemed to say. "I have waited longer than thou, and am not yet weary. Fear not; the man will come."

The years hurried onward, treading in their haste on one another's heels. And now they began to bring white hairs, and scatter them over the head of Ernest; they made reverend wrinkles across his forehead, and furrows in his cheeks. He was an aged man. But not in vain had he grown old: more than the white hairs on his head were the sage thoughts in his mind; his wrinkles and furrows were inscriptions that Time had graved, and in which he had written legends of wisdom that had been tested by the tenor of a life. And Ernest had ceased to be obscure. Unsought for, undesired, had come the fame which so many seek, and made him known in the great world, beyond the limits of the valley in which he had dwelt so quietly. College professors, and even the active men of cities, came from far to see and converse with Ernest; for the report had gone abroad that this simple husbandman had ideas unlike those of other men, not gained from books, but of a higher tone--a tranquil and familiar majesty, as if he had been talking with the angels as his daily friends. Whether it were sage, statesman, or philanthropist, Ernest received these visitors with the gentle sincerity that had characterized him from boyhood, and spoke freely with them of whatever came uppermost, or lay deepest in his heart or their own. While they talked together, his face would kindle, unawares, and shine upon them, as with a mild evening light. Pensive with the fulness of such discourse, his guests took leave and went their

way; and, passing up the valley, paused to look at the Great Stone Face, imagining that they had seen its likeness in a human countenance, but could not remember where.

While Ernest had been growing up and growing old, a bountiful Providence had granted a new poet to this earth. He, likewise, was a native of the valley but had spent the greater part of his life at a distance from that romantic region, pouring out his sweet music amid the bustle and din of cities. Often, however, did the mountains which had been familiar to him in his childhood lift their snowy peaks into the clear atmosphere of his poetry. Neither was the Great Stone Face forgotten, for the poet had celebrated it in an ode, which was grand enough to have been uttered by its own majestic lips. This man of genius, we may say, had come down from heaven with wonderful endowments. If he sang of a mountain, the eyes of all mankind beheld a mightier grandeur reposing on its breast, or soaring to its summit, than had before been seen there. If his theme were a lovely lake, a celestial smile had now been thrown over it, to gleam forever on its surface. If it were the vast old sea, even the deep immensity of its dread bosom seemed to swell the higher, as if moved by the emotions of the song. Thus the world assumed another and a better aspect from the hour that the poet blessed it with his happy eyes. The Creator had bestowed him, as the last, best touch to his own handiwork. Creation was not finished till the poet came to interpret, and so complete it.

The effect was no less high and beautiful, when his human brethren were the subject of his verse. The man or woman, sordid with the common dust of life, who crossed his daily path, and the little child who played in it, were glorified if he beheld them in his mood of poetic faith. He showed the golden links of the great chain that intertwined them with an angelic kindred; he brought out the hidden traits of a celestial birth that made them worthy of such kin. Some, indeed, there were, who thought to show the soundness of their judgment by affirming that all the beauty and dignity of the natural world existed only in the poet's fancy. Let such men speak for themselves, who undoubtedly appear to have been spawned forth by Nature with a contemptuous bitterness; she having plastered them up out of her refuse stuff, after all the swine were made. As respects all things else, the poet's ideal was the truest truth.

The songs of this poet found their way to Ernest. He read them, after his customary toil, seated on the bench before his cottage door, where, for such a length of time, he had filled his repose with thought by gazing at the Great Stone Face. And now, as he read stanzas that caused the soul to thrill within him, he lifted his eyes to the vast countenance beaming on him so benignantly.

"O, majestic friend," he murmured, addressing the Great Stone Face, "is not this man worthy to resemble thee?"

The Face seemed to smile, but answered not a word.

Now it happened that the poet, though he dwelt so far away, had not only heard of Ernest, but had meditated much upon his character, until he deemed nothing so desirable as to meet this man, whose untaught wisdom walked hand in hand with the noble simplicity of his life. One

summer morning, therefore, he took passage by the railroad, and, in the decline of the afternoon, alighted from the cars at no great distance from Ernest's cottage. The great hotel, which had formerly been the palace of Mr. Gathergold, was close at hand, but the poet with his carpet-bag on his arm, inquired at once where Ernest dwelt, and was resolved to be accepted as his guest.

Approaching the door, he there found the good old man, holding a volume in his hand, which alternately he read, and then, with a finger between the leaves, looked lovingly at the Great Stone Face.

"Good evening," said the poet. "Can you give a traveller a night's lodging?"

"Willingly," answered Ernest; and then he added, smiling, "Methinks I never saw the Great Stone Face look so hospitably at a stranger."

The poet sat down on the bench beside him, and he and Ernest talked together. Often had the poet held intercourse with the wittiest and the wisest, but never before with a man like Ernest, whose thoughts and feelings gushed up with such a natural freedom, and who made great truths so familiar by his simple utterance of them. Angels, as had been so often said, seemed to have wrought with him at his labor in the fields; angels seemed to have sat with him by the fireside; and, dwelling with angels as friend with friends, he had imbibed the sublimity of their ideas, and imbued it with the sweet and lowly charm of household words. So thought the poet. And Ernest, on the other hand, was moved and agitated by the living images which the poet flung out of his mind, and which peopled all the air about the cottage-door with shapes of beauty, both gay and pensive. The sympathies of these two men instructed them with a profounder sense than either could have attained alone. Their minds accorded into one strain, and made delightful music which neither of them could have claimed as all his own, nor distinguished his own share from the other's. They led one another, as it were, into a high pavilion of their thoughts, so remote, and hitherto so dim, that they had never entered it before, and so beautiful that they desired to be there always.

As Ernest listened to the poet, he imagined that the Great Stone Face was bending forward to listen too. He gazed earnestly into the poet's glowing eyes.

"Who are you, my strangely gifted guest?" he said.

The poet laid his finger on the volume that Ernest had been reading.

"You have read these poems," said he. "You know me, then--for I wrote them."

Again, and still more earnestly than before, Ernest examined the poet's features; then turned towards the Great Stone Face; then back, with an uncertain aspect, to his guest. But his countenance fell; he shook his head, and sighed.

"Wherefore are you sad?" inquired the poet.

"Because, replied Ernest, "all through life I have awaited the fulfillment of a prophecy; and, when I read these poems, I hoped that it might be fulfilled in you."

"You hoped," answered the poet, faintly smiling, "to find in me the likeness of the Great Stone Face. And you are disappointed, as formerly with Mr. Gathergold, and Old Blood-and-Thunder, and Old Stony Phiz. Yes, Ernest, it is my doom. You must add my name to the illustrious three, and record another failure of your hopes. For--in shame and sadness do I speak it, Ernest--I am not worthy to be typified by yonder benign and majestic image."

"And why?" asked Ernest. He pointed to the volume-- "Are not those thoughts divine?"

"They have a strain of the Divinity," replied the poet. "You can hear in them the far-off echo of a heavenly song. But my life, dear Ernest, has not corresponded with my thought. I have had grand dreams, but they have been only dreams, because I have lived--and that, too, by own choice--among poor and mean realities. Sometimes even--shall I dare to say it?--I lack faith in the grandeur, the beauty, and the goodness, which my own works are said to have made more evident in nature and in human life. Why, then, pure seeker of the good and true, shouldst thou hope to find me, in yonder image of the divine!"

The poet spoke sadly, and his eyes were dim with tears. So, likewise, were those of Ernest.

At the hour of sunset, as had long been his frequent custom, Ernest was to discourse to an assemblage of the neighboring inhabitants, in the open air. He and the poet, arm in arm, still talking together as they went along, proceeded to the spot. It was a small nook among the hills, with a gray precipice behind, the stern front of which was relieved by the pleasant foliage of many creeping plants, that made a tapestry for the naked rock, by hanging their festoons from all its rugged angles. At a small elevation above the ground, set in a rich frame-work of verdure, there appeared a niche, spacious enough to admit a human figure, with freedom for such gestures as spontaneously accompany earnest thought and genuine emotion. Into this natural pulpit Ernest ascended, and threw a look of familiar kindness around upon his audience. They stood, or sat, or reclined upon the grass, as seemed good to each, with the departing sunshine falling obliquely over them, and mingling its subdued cheerfulness with the solemnity of a grove of ancient trees, beneath and amid the boughs of which the golden rays were constrained to pass. In another direction was seen the Great Stone Face, with the same cheer, combined with the same solemnity, in its benignant aspect.

Ernest began to speak, giving to the people of what was in his heart and mind. His words had power, because they accorded with his thoughts; and his thoughts had reality and depth, because they harmonized with the life which he had always lived. It was not mere breath that this preacher uttered; they were the words of life, because a life of good deeds and holy love was melted into them. Pearls, pure and rich, had been dissolved into this precious draught. The poet,

as he listened, felt that the being and character of Ernest were a nobler strain of poetry than he had ever written. His eyes glistening with tears, he gazed reverentially at the venerable man, and said within himself that never was there an aspect so worthy of a prophet and a sage as that mild, sweet, thoughtful countenance, with the glory of white hair diffused about it. At a distance, but distinctly to be seen, high up in the golden light of the setting sun, appeared the Great Stone Face, with hoary mists around it, like the white hairs around the brow of Ernest. Its look of grand beneficence seemed to embrace the world.

At that moment, in sympathy with a thought which he was about to utter, the face of Ernest assumed a grandeur of expression, so imbued with benevolence, that the poet, by an irresistible impulse, threw his arms aloft, and shouted, "Behold! Behold! Ernest is himself the likeness of the Great Stone Face!"

Then all the people looked, and saw that what the deep-sighted poet said was true. The prophecy was fulfilled. But Ernest, having finished what he had to say, took the poet's arm, and walked slowly homeward, still hoping that some wiser and better man than himself would by and by appear, bearing a resemblance to the GREAT STONE FACE.

Explanatory Introduction

To The Great Stony Face Sight Word Eliminator.

Mr. Edward Miller has developed a very unique tool for helping students overcome whole-word dyslexia called the *Sight Word Eliminator* (SWE). With kind permission from Mr. Miller we have reproduced below his informative explanatory forward to his *Sight Word Eliminator*, which is a modified version of Pat Robertson's *America's Dates with Destiny*. Everything Mr. Miller writes concerning his SWE applies to my *The Great Stone Face SWE*. (Donald L. Potter)

WHY THIS BOOK

This book is to help students phonetically decode print at an automatic rate of speed. Students that have learned to holistically identify words and have automatized this way of looking at words become handicapped readers. Many of the sight words in this book have been deleted. We have found that this facilitates phonetic decoding. Controlled vocabulary books facilitate the “holistic by sight” way of looking at words. This book will enable the student to make a cognitive switch from the “automatic holistic by sight” way of looking at words to the “automatic phonetic” decoding of print.

THE COGNITIVE SWITCH

It is our basic theory that reading requires access to and the use of the phonetic code. Not only that, it requires a definite strategy by the child in his analysis of written text—it isn't simply that the task requires phonetic decoding—it is also that the child must be “committed” (or his brain must be “committed”) to this phonetic strategy.

Otherwise, in the absence of that commitment, a conflicting strategy might dominate the child's analysis of written material. If this conflicting strategy is contradictory to—and mutually exclusive of—required phonetic strategy, then the child will be unable to use the phonetic code and will therefore have great difficulty in learning to read. The major conflicting strategy that pre-empts phonetic decoding is the strategy of automatic holistic-by-sight viewing. This strategy or viewing tendency conflicts with a phonetic strategy since it attends to words as visual wholes, and not as phoneme sequences. Children who bring this holistic-by-sight strategy to the task of reading will find themselves prevented by that strategy from analyzing written material into its constituent phonemic ingredients.

Furthermore, if the child (or his brain) is already committed by previous experience to a holistic-by-sight viewing tendency, then he may have persisting, even permanent, difficulty in revising that strategy to accommodate the phonetic realities of reading. A child who is having trouble switching from a holistic-by-sight viewing tendency to a phonetic strategy may be having one of several problems: (1) the prior learning of the mutually exclusive holistic-by-sight viewing strategy, (2) a difficulty in strategy changes in general; hence, a kind of cognitive inflexibility or (3) an inability to employ the phonetic code regardless of the kind of prior strategy used. There is no research to support possibility three. If students are having problems one or two, then *Sight Word Eliminator* will help. Students often have great difficulty learning to spell, so spelling is best taught from specially prepared word lists that enhance the learning of the phonetic code. Students often tire easy when they do read. Our research shows that the students are using two mutually exclusive viewing systems especially as they read from controlled vocabulary books.

SIGHT WORD ELIMINATOR

The most damaging result of the over learning of sight vocabulary is the development of a rapid way of guessing at a large number of words the student will see in print. This guessing is based upon the students' automatic holistic-by-sight way of looking at words. Even if the student can guess 90% of the words in his controlled vocabulary books, this leaves 10% of the words that must be skipped, wild guessed, ask the teacher or as a last resort, attempt to phonetically analyze. The controlled vocabulary books give the student the false hope of learning to read if only he will keep trying. After ten years of controlled vocabulary books, becoming a good reader is still just as elusive as ever for most handicapped readers. Is there any hope? Yes, now let's have the opposite of a controlled vocabulary book.

We take well-written, interesting print and block out the most common "sight" words. This certainly gives the opposite of a controlled vocabulary book. Then we listen to the student call the remaining words. We still discourage word guessing. When the student calls the word incorrectly, we simply say "please decode". We may ask the student to call the first portion—the first syllable of the word—then which letters go together—take all of the time necessary to help the student phonetically decode the words.

At first, the student may only phonetically decode ten or fifteen words per minute. If the student does a chapter at this slow rate, then he simply goes back and does the chapter again. Much to the parents and students surprise, the words start to automatically blend at 30 to 60 words per minute. The student and the parent sense success. Please be willing to work thirty or forty hours to fully develop the automatic phonetic decoding ability—thirty or forty years of pleasant reading are sure to follow.

Just another word about the use of the *Sight Word Eliminator*: The student is asked to phonetically decode words for just one hour at a time—no more. He should always start at the beginning of a chapter. If he completes the chapter in less than one hour, that completes the lesson. He will not be asked to do that chapter again. If the student gets only part way through the chapter, he should do that chapter again starting at the first. The student should never spend more than two one-hour lessons on each chapter. The student will sense great success when he decodes a complete chapter on first effort in less than one hour. This will indicate that the words are automatically blending for him. Don't stop working. The typist doesn't stop working when she can first type 30 w.p.m. Continued practice is necessary to become an excellent reader or typist.

The last lesson each week should be from the regular book. Students and parents should be pleasantly surprised with the rapid progress.

The student may have read only the first four or five chapters from the regular book when he finishes the *Sight Word Eliminator*.

The lessons should continue until the student reads the entire book aloud.

The student should then take a break (at least 2 weeks) and return to the regular book and read silently.

To maintain the student's new phonetic decoding ability, he should read good literature. Stay away from those controlled vocabulary books.

Notes from Internet Publisher: Mr. Donald Potter

Mr. Miller also uses the *72 Phonics Exercises* in Rudolf Flesch's *Why Johnny Can't Read and what you can do about it*. Ed usually works with two students at a time, one on either side of him. One student reads two columns of words, Ed will read the middle column, and the other student reads the two columns on the right. I have tried this procedure and found it very effective. It is important to remove the student from his or her word-guessing environment.

I have used Mr. Miller's original SWE with one High School Student with severe whole-word dyslexia. He made excellent progress with a combination of Flesch's 72 Exercises and Mr. Miller's SWE.

Paul Lukawski, a high school teacher in Florida, has used my *Great Stony Face SWE* with great success. Paul has helped hundreds of high school students improve their reading with intensive phonics instruction.

You can download - for free – *The Great Stony Face SWE* from the Education Page of the www.donpotter.net website. There are numerous highly effective phonics programs available there for free download.

April 21, 2005
Odessa, Texas

Update from Mr. Potter

October 26, 2013

We were saddened with the news that Mr. Miller passed away in 2009. I count it a privilege to have been able to republish the materials that he sent me over the years. I called Mr. Miller on March 11, 2003 to discuss the use of the SWE. It was then that I discovered that he also used the exercises in Rudolf Flesch's 1955 *Why Johnny Can't Read and what you can do about it* along with the SWE.

Samuel Blumenfeld has published two very significant articles on Mr. Miller's theory. They are available on my website. Actually it was from reading Sam's theory that student learning the Dick and Jane look-and-say method would show signs of dyslexia that set Mr. Miller on his research program. He also used the split-brain research by Sperry and others.