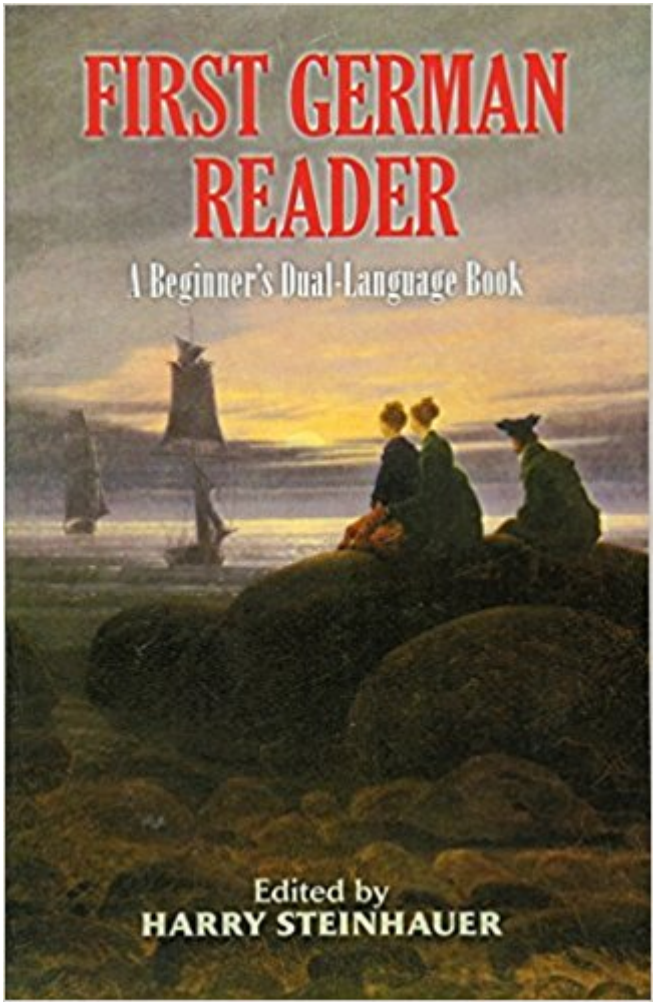
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First German Reader: A Beginner's Dual-Language Book (Dover Dual Language German)



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Synopsis

Designed expressly for the beginning German language student, here is an outstanding collection ofÃ Â fifty-two short stories, poems, essays, and anecdotes. Each selection has been specially chosen forÃ Â its power to evoke German life and culture. This dual-language edition features precise English translations on pages that face the original German text. New students will enjoy the pleasure of reading great German literature from the very first page, as the selections have been arranged to accommodate the gradual improvement of language skills. Helpful vocabulary and language exercises are also included.First German Reader features the works of many of Germany's best writers, including Goethe, Hesse, Heine, Schiller, HÃƒÂ¶lderlin, and other literary virtuosos. The translations of Harry Steinhauer are vivid and true to the originals Ã¢â ¬â • and poetic in their own right. Literature lovers, German language students, and other readers will find this volume an accessible exploration of German literature . . . and an invaluable aid to mastering the German language.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A native of Cracow, Poland, Harry Steinhauer wasÃ Â Professor Emeritus and Founding Chair of the Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies Department at the University of Santa Barbara.

I don’t really consider myself a German speaker but I grew up singing the occasional German carol and am often surrounded by Germans with whom I exchange basic pleasantries. With the exception of knowing some vocabulary words are similar to those in English, German language intimidated me.This book is fantastic. In two days I’ve made my way through the first ten pieces, Sometimes by just reading the English translation but more often by working my way through the German vocabularies and piecing meanings together by the side by side translations. Tonight I started recognizing more words and understanding sentences more than I did two days ago. If you’re willing to be diligent and patient with yourself, this book may be a wonderful tool for you to strengthen your German skills.About me: I’m a highly visual learner and read a lot as a child. The way this book is laid out is very helpful for me. Very quickly I’ve started recognizing the literary conventions of German writers such as Goethe, Lessing and the Brothers Grimm. Tonight I even read a sentence that I didn’t have to translate (when I would have two days ago).

Good book. Side by side is very nice. The book progresses from short poems to longer stories. Fully recommend. Ausgezeichnetes Buch!

I like that the English translation is on the next page, but this book is definitely not for beginners. Way more advanced than I expected.

Well done book., however, too advanced for someone wanting to learn more contemporary conversation and newspaper/radio TY vocabulary

I like the dual language set up in this book however I expected the stories to be more modern.

This is a good book for intermediate German speakers

As a first German reader this is a VERY tough read. This is literature and poetry, making it on the one hand somewhat old fashioned wording and on the other hand very difficult to figure out context since it’s "flowery." Not recommended as a "first reader."

This book has 52 short and interesting "classic" poems and stories. The German and the matching English are on facing pages, and the English translations are so carefully written that the two versions match up almost word for word. The book is good for students (Jr. High and up) who have

a small vocabulary and have read though a basic grammar such as Guy Stern’s essential German Grammar. In the back are notes and comprehension questions for each poem or story. An example:(on the left hand page:)1. DAS LEBENJohann Gottfried HerderEin Traum, ein Traum ist unser LebenAuf Erden hier.Wie Schatten auf den Wogen* schwebenUnd schwinden wir.Und messen unsre trÃƒÂ¤gen TritteNach Raum und Zeit.Und sind (und wissen’s nicht) in MitteDer Ewigkeit.(on the right, facing page:)1. LIFEJohann Gottfried HerderA dream, a dream is our lifehere on earth.Like shadows on the billowswe float and vanish.And measure our slothful stepsby space and time.And are (and know it not) in the midstof eternity.(Notes for the 52 poems and stories, beginning on pg 155:)1. DAS LEBENJohann Gottfried Herder (1744-1803) was a theologian, critic and minor poet. He inspired the young Goethe to turn from imitative to original writing. This poem is the opening stanza of "Amor und Psyche."* Woge = Welle(Questions for each, beginning on pg 171:)1. Was ist unser Leben? 2. Wo leben wir? 3. Wie leben wir auf der Erde? 4. Wie messen wir unsere Tritte? 5. Wo sind wir, ohne es zu wissen?The longer the poem or story, the more notes and questions it has. Those stories that are 1-3 pages long have a half page of notes and a half page or more of comprehension questions.This book also has a dictionary on pages 197-216 but it is incomplete. You will want a German-English dictionary with you while you read. An online dictionary such as dict.cc is good for looking up forms and idioms you may not be familiar with. I haven’t tallied them but my guesstimate is that the total vocabulary used in this book is 3000 or more unique German words (plus their various forms).These poems and stories are of the highest quality, and many of them are very short, making them perfect for memorization.Any German teacher or tutor, even one with limited ability, could use this book to teach absolute beginners. A self-study student could use this reader after he learns the most basic forms and syntax, and after acquiring an essential vocabulary of 300-500 words and a few dozen idioms. There are 71 pages of German text, 16 pages of English notes, and 26 pages of questions in German, making 113 pages of study material. If you work through about 7 pages every week and review the previous 10 pages, about 2-3 hours per day, you can make it through this book in one semester.

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