

# The Two Boys

By Mary Lamb

I saw a boy with eager eye  
Open a book upon a stall,  
And read as he'd devour it all;  
Which when the stall-man did espy,  
Soon to the boy I heard him call,  
'You, Sir, you never buy a book,  
Therefore in one you shall not look.'  
The boy passed slowly on, and with a sigh  
He wished he never had been taught to read,  
Then of the old churl's books he should have had no need.

Of sufferings the poor have many,  
Which never can the rich annoy.  
I soon perceived another boy  
Who looked as if he'd not had any  
Food for that day at least, enjoy  
The sight of cold meat in a tavern larder.  
This boy's case, thought I, is surely harder,  
Thus hungry longing, thus without a penny,  
Beholding choice of dainty dressed meat;  
No wonder if he wish he ne'er had learned to eat.