

---

The basket was full of plum-cake, cut in large slices. The children had never had plum-cake before at the summer treat, only bread and butter, and when they saw what was in the basket they began to shout and hurrah, so that I think you might have heard them a mile away. Mrs. Aidel and Jack handed the cake round. There was a large slice for every one, and then enough left for all the little ones under nine years old to have half a slice more, so you see there must have been a very large basket full at first. Lucy and I had half a slice each, and we thought it was very good indeed.

I forgot to tell you, that just as the children were beginning to sing their grace, the little girl who had been sent away to make herself clean, came back, looking a great deal more respectable. There was no room for her in the ring where the other children were standing, and so she had to go a little way back, close to a clump of lilac-bushes. Mrs. Aidel filled her mug with tea, and Jack handed her the bread and butter. She took two pieces at once, and began to eat as if she had been a little pig. Her cheeks were round and fat and red, or I should have thought she was half starving, she seemed so ravenous. On a