

Kindergarten:

The Little Turtle

BY VACHEL LINDSAY

There was a little turtle.
He lived in a box.
He swam in a puddle:
He climbed on the rocks.

He snapped at a mosquito.
He snapped at a flea.
He snapped at a minnow.
And he snapped at me.

He caught the mosquito.
He caught the flea.
He caught the minnow.
But he didn't catch me.

Berquist, Laura. *Harp and Laurel Wreath Poetry and Dictation for the Classical Curriculum*. Ignatius Press, 2021.

1st Grade:

Bed in Summer

BY ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

Berquist, Laura. *Harp and Laurel Wreath Poetry and Dictation for the Classical Curriculum*. Ignatius Press, 2021.

2nd Grade:

Singing

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Of speckled eggs the birdie sings
And nests among the trees;
The sailor sings of ropes and things
In ships upon the seas.

The children sing in far Japan,
The children sing in Spain;
The organ with the organ man
Is singing in the rain.

Berquist, Laura. *Harp and Laurel Wreath Poetry and Dictation for the Classical Curriculum*. Ignatius Press, 2021.

3rd Grade:

The Moon

The moon has a face like the clock in the hall;
She shines on thieves on the garden wall,
On streets and fields and harbour quays,
And birdies asleep in the forks of the trees.

The squalling cat and the squeaking mouse,
The howling dog by the door of the house,
The bat that lies in bed at noon,
All love to be out by the light of the moon.
But all of the things that belong to the day
Cuddle to sleep to be out of her way;
And flowers and children close their eyes
Till up in the morning the sun shall arise.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Berquist, Laura. *Harp and Laurel Wreath Poetry and Dictation for the Classical Curriculum*. Ignatius Press, 2021.

4th Grade

Captain Kidd

by Stephen Vincent Benét

This person in the gaudy clothes
Is worthy Captain Kidd.
They say he never buried gold.
I think, perhaps, he did.

They say it's all a story that
His favorite little song
Was "Make these lubbers walk the plank!"
I think, perhaps, they're wrong.

They say he never pirated
Beneath the Skull-and-Bones.
He merely traveled for his health
And spoke in soothing tones.
In fact, you'll read in nearly all
The newer history books
That he was mild as cottage cheese
—*But I don't like his looks!*

5th Grade

The Violet

By: Jane Taylor

Down in a green and shady bed
A modest violet grew,
Its stalk was bent, it hung its head,
As if to hide from view.

And yet it was a lovely flower,
Its color bright and fair;
It might have graced a rosy bower,
Instead of hiding there.

Yet there it was content to bloom,
In modest tints arrayed;
And there diffused its sweet perfume,
Within the silent shade.

Then let me to the valley go,
This pretty flower to see;
That I may also learn to grow
In sweet humility.

6th Grade:

Trinity Sunday

Lord, who hast form'd me out of mud,
And hast redeem'd me through thy blood,
And sanctify'd me to do good;

Purge all my sins done heretofore:
For I confess my heavy score,
And I will strive to sin no more.

Enrich my heart, mouth, hands in me,
With faith, with hope, with charity;
That I may run, rise, rest with thee.

by George Herbert

7th Grade:

The Beauty of Creation Bears Witness to God

Question the beauty of the earth,
the beauty of the sea,
the beauty of the wide air around you,
the beauty of the sky;
question the order of the stars,
the sun whose brightness lights the days,
the moon whose splendor softens the gloom of night;
question the living creatures that move in the waters,
that roam upon the earth,
that fly through the air;
the spirit that lies hidden,
the matter that is manifest;
the visible things that are ruled,
the invisible things that rule them;
question all these.

They will answer you:

"Behold and see, we are beautiful."

Their beauty is their confession to God.
Who made these beautiful changing things,
if not one who is beautiful and changeth not?

St. Augustine

The Liturgy of the Hours: According to the Roman Rite., 1975. Print.

8th Grade:

The Mission of My Life

God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another.

I have my mission I may not know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purposes, as necessary in my place as an archangel in his;

If, indeed I fail, He can raise another, as if He could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in His great work; I am a link in the chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace; a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.

Saint John Henry Newman

St. Gregory's Prayer Book: A Primer of Catholic Devotions, 2019. Print.