



Classic Children's Literature VI

Yearlong Course 2023-2024

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

Incoming 6th and 7th

COURSE BASICS AT A GLANCE:

Class Dates: Begins Wednesday, September 6, 2023 and runs through Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Class Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:15pmEST

Office Hours: By appointment-contact me

Instructor: Emily (Brigham) Kashin

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OBSERVED SCHOLÉ ACADEMY HOLIDAYS (NO CLASSES)

- Monday, September 4, 2023 (Labor Day)
 - Monday, November 20 – Friday, November 24, 2023 (Thanksgiving)
 - Monday, December 15, 2023 – Friday, January 8, 2024 (Christmas and New Year's)
 - Monday, February 19 – Friday, February 23, 2024 (winter break)
 - Monday, March 25 – Friday, March 29, 2024 (Holy Week/Easter)
- *No other holidays between September 6, 2022 and May 26, 2023 are observed**

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

- *At the Back of the North Wind* by George MacDonald
- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
- *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *The Silver Chair* by C.S. Lewis
- Various fairy tales from *Grimm's Fairy Tales* (provided by the teacher)

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- 8.5" x 11" spiral-bound blank sketchbook
- [Stockmar Beeswax Block Crayons](#) (click for link)

**Students will frequently respond to what they've read through art. In order for there to be continuity in the materials used by the students, the instructor has chosen these block crayons, which are conducive to guided drawings.*

COURSE MAP

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Virtue	Review of the four cardinal virtues	Faith	Hope	Charity
Book List	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Johnny Tremain</i>• <i>Grimm's Fairy Tales</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>At the Back of the North Wind</i>• <i>The Silver Chair</i>	<i>The Hobbit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>• <i>Little Women</i>
Poetry Recitation	"The Quality of Mercy," by William Shakespeare	TBA	"Crossing the Bar," Alfred Lord Tennyson	"Leave Me, O Love," by Sir Philip Sidney

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why do we need stories? C.S. Lewis said, "The nearest I have yet got to an answer is that we seek an enlargement of our being. We want to be more than ourselves. . . We want to see with other eyes, to imagine with other imaginations, to feel with other hearts, as well as with our own." Such is the yearning of children and adults alike, for it is through stories that we enter into a world that is not our own, and yet become more who we are meant to be. It is through stories that we can learn virtue. In giving children stories, they enter into the world of the characters and reflect on the virtues and vices of the protagonists and antagonists. It is a gentle, appropriate, and vivid way for children to learn what Dietrich von Hildebrand called a "response to value" and the virtue that blossoms from that response.

In this class, children will read, enjoy, and interact with classic works of children's literature in order to learn through knowledge, experience, and reflection the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity. Students will respond to these texts through discussion, written analysis and reflection, and artistic mediums in order to reach the whole child in our study. The skills practiced will include reading fluency, reading comprehension, writing, vocabulary, memorization, recitation, analysis, synthesis, and discussion.

IMPORTANT SKILLS & BEHAVIORS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE

- Students should be able to read fluently at a middle school level (aloud and quietly) and answer lower and higher order thinking questions.
- Students should be able to independently write complete sentences and compose short essays.
- Students should have skills needed in discussion—perseverance, patience, and the willingness to think deeply.
- Children should be able to log in to Canvas to review homework assignments and upload completed work. If a student is not able to navigate Canvas independently, a parent or

guardian should be willing to assist that student with homework assignments and other course materials obtained through this platform.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS

Students enrolling in Scholé Academy's Classic Children's Literature VI will be expected to show development of Executive Function throughout the year. Executive Functioning is the brain's work of planning, prioritizing, controlling impulses, recollection, etc. These six areas of execution are important in this class, and ultimately, in the student's life.

1. Engagement: An engaged student is one who is willing to step into the arena of class discussion, to ask questions, to supply answers, and to generate the internal dialogue necessary to determine if a discussion is important and relevant to himself. Students should be viewing the class via Zoom and should not be browsing the internet instead. Scholars should be prepared to take notes on the text and on class discussion.

2. Attention to Detail & Preparedness: These students are ones who consistently adhere to deadlines, submission requirements, adhering to style guides and codes, confirm technology is working prior to the start of class, be responsible to determine how to proceed after an absence, be responsible for consulting his course syllabus and adjusting as the class proceeds, etc. Students should come to class prepared – having done any necessary reading or writing ahead of time. They should also come mentally prepared – ready to focus on the material being presented. Students should arrive to the Zoom meeting on time and if they are late should respectfully listen to try to understand where the class is in relation to the text and should wait patiently for the teacher and classmates to finish their current task, which is when the teacher will catch the student up. Homework should be uploaded to Schoology before class begins. Students should try to develop the virtue of constancy by remaining focused and diligent and pushing away even “good” distractions that would inhibit learning and mastery.

3. Self-Monitoring: Students in the 3rd – 5th grade range should continually develop self-monitoring skills. Students who successfully self-monitor can evaluate their own performance. They are able to see both their own strengths and their own weaknesses. Self-monitoring students are the ones who determine which problems they can work through on their own and where they need peer, teacher, or parent support.

4. Task Initiation: This student recognizes the time to begin working and is able to do so without procrastination. A student who can initiate tasks easily adjusts from a Zoom classroom to a breakout room while still maintaining a scholarly attitude.

5. Employing Critiques: These students are ones who receive feedback to one of their submissions, and then attempt to apply that feedback to future assignments rather than repeat

mistakes. These students also glean information from the live class feedback from fellow students and note mistakes to avoid by learning from others. Students should have an attitude of humility when receiving feedback, as this affords an invaluable opportunity to grow and to develop their God-given talents. Likewise, students should celebrate the successes of their peers.

6. Problem Solving: A student with well-developed problem-solving skills is willing to persevere, even when he is unable to successfully overcome a challenge on the first try. Good writing involves the problem-solving skills of perseverance; looking at a story from a new perspective; finding an additional source or doing research; taking a rest to refresh the mind and body; or asking for help from a teacher, parent, or the Lord.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: CLASS PARTICIPATION

“The intelligence can only be led by desire. For there to be desire, there must be pleasure and joy in work. The intelligence only grows and bears fruit in joy. The joy of learning is as indispensable in study as breathing is in running. . . It is the part played by joy in our studies that makes them a preparation for spiritual life, for desire directed toward God is the only power capable of raising the soul.”
[Simone Weil]

Recognizing that the purpose of education is not merely a gaining of information nor a competition for achievement but rather the directing of the desire towards God in worship, thanksgiving, and prayer, these are the student expectations in class participation:

During class time. . .

- **Arrive prepared.** It is important to come with the materials needed and homework completed, but that is just the beginning. Arrive with a heart that is quiet and ready to receive, a mind that is active and ready to engage, and hands that are willing and ready to participate.
- **Arrive on time.** I will take note of patterns when it comes to tardiness, overlooking an occasional late entrance if it is out of character for the student. However, I will be in contact with parents if tardiness is habitual.
- **Participate.** There will be lots of opportunities for participation in classroom liturgies, discussions, and exercises. I understand that not all students are equally comfortable in being extroverted and conversing, but I appreciate consistent effort in this area!
- **Be an active learner.** It is expected that students will take notes and participate in exercises during lesson time.
- **Exercise judgment and polite habits in the Zoom classroom.** Students should raise hands to speak, pause the video to use the restroom, or adjust the camera to limit the activity shown in the background of the student’s setting.

Outside of class time. .

- **Complete all course assignments and homework to the best of his ability.** If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from completing homework prior to class, a parent must contact the instructor prior to class time to ask for an extension.
- **Upload homework to the appropriate Canvas Assignment folder each week.** Students must submit their work by scanning their homework pages and uploading it into the Canvas assignment window.
- **Check Canvas frequently** for updates, homework assignments, and important documents.

STUDENT EVALUATION: GRADING

While striking a “restful” posture of learning, I also recognize the need to provide grades for students. It’s a delicate balance to achieve both restful learning and excellent academic performance. Earning a specific grade should not overshadow true love and virtue of execution in this discipline. It is my hope that students grow to love the material and learning in this course for its own sake, relishing the chance to discover, enjoy, and interact.

However, I will assign the following grade to your student’s level of achievement at the end of the year:

- *magna cum laude* (with great praise) or MCL
- *cum laude* (with praise) or CL
- *satis* (sufficient, satisfactory) or S
- *non satis* (not sufficient) or NS

Ideally, every average student working diligently should do praiseworthy work (*cum laude*). Those who excel beyond this expectation will be the *magna cum laude* students. Students who do adequate but not praiseworthy work will be designated *satis*. *Non satis* means lacking sufficiency or adequacy.

Student’s grades will be comprised of the following:

Homework (40%)

- Various weekly assignments
- Commonplace journal

Summative Assessments (40%)

- End-of-book Reflections
- Recitations

Quizzes (20%)

- Vocabulary quizzes
- Reading quizzes

Students must understand that late homework will be given a 5% penalty for each weekday that the assignment is late. If an assignment is seven or more days late, then it must be still be completed in a satisfactory manner, but will be assigned the minimum satis grade of 70%.

STUDENT EVALUATION: MASTERY PORTRAIT

- By the end of the first semester, cum laude students will understand how the four cardinal virtues are displayed in *Johnny Tremain*, and how faith is displayed in *At the Back of the North Wind* and *The Silver Chair*.
- By the end of the second semester, cum laude students will understand how the virtue of hope is displayed in *The Hobbit* and how the virtue of charity is displayed in *Where the Red Fern Grows* and *Little Women*.
- Cum laude students will be able to reflect thoughtfully on each book in their end-of-book reflection.
- Cum laude students will be able to define and give text-based as well as personal examples of the virtues studied in this course. They will be able to demonstrate this understanding in reflective essays.
- Cum laude students will be able to answer both lower and higher order thinking questions from the text in order to engage in thoughtful conversation.
- Cum laude students will be able to memorize and recite a poem per quarter (for a total of four poetry recitations) with ease and appropriate emotion.
- Cum laude students will have faithfully practiced the skills necessary to read aloud with fluency. Students will show attention to volume, pace, and inflection when speaking. Similarly, students will be encouraged to speak well to one another in pursuit of excellent work, in discussion of ideas and responses, and to build camaraderie in the group.
- Students will also be guided in development of the virtues of Wisdom, Goodness, and Truth. Ideally, students will employ wisdom when responding to virtues and vices, the actions and thoughts that he'll encounter in his reading.
- By the end of the course, students should understand that reading a rich selection of great literature builds the reservoir out of which we draw good ideas and find examples for our own lives. Students will be encouraged to use good writing and speaking to deliver and celebrate truth.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are on their honor to abide by Scholé Academy's Learning Philosophy which assumes the personal cultivation of Student-Virtues described in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Plagiarism is a serious and punishable offense. Proper citation of all sources is essential to the academic endeavor. Remember to cite any source if the information is not common knowledge or is an opinion obtained through any source. A plagiarized assignment will result in a failing grade. Students should consult the MLA Style Guide for specific direction on obtaining, quoting and paraphrasing sources.

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

We will be using the free online "virtual classroom" software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and whiteboard capabilities, in addition to shared screen texts, diagrams, video and other media for display and analysis. We will not utilize the chat function of this technology.

We will provide students with a link (via email) that will enable students to join the virtual classroom. Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting the Technology in the Classroom section of the Student Parent Handbook.

Students will submit documents by scanning and uploading them to their personal computer, then attaching those files as .pdfs to the Classic Children's Literature Canvas assignment page. The Canvas access code to Classic Children's Literature will be provided in your Orientation Packet.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Emily Brigham Kashin holds a BA in Primary Education from the University of North Florida. She was homeschooled K-12 in the classical tradition and previously taught the elementary grades in a Waldorf-inspired public charter school. Her classical upbringing instilled in her what Plato called an "affinity for the good" in academics, art, and virtue, while her Waldorf training inspired an appreciation of the unique nature of the child. Since 2020, she has brought the two together, cultivating those whole-child pedagogical approaches in the classical, liturgical tradition, to awaken in her own students that "affinity for the good" through her Scholé classes.

Emily and her husband Mikhail live in North Florida where they find great delight in playing folk music, listening to Bach, taking long walks, and enjoying being aunt and uncle to their eight nephews and one niece. St. Augustine's saying "Canta et ambula" (sing and soldier on) encourages her daily in the ordinariness of teaching, homemaking, and grading many, many papers.

