

CLASSICAL *Cursive*

*Poetry for
Children*

3



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Poetry for
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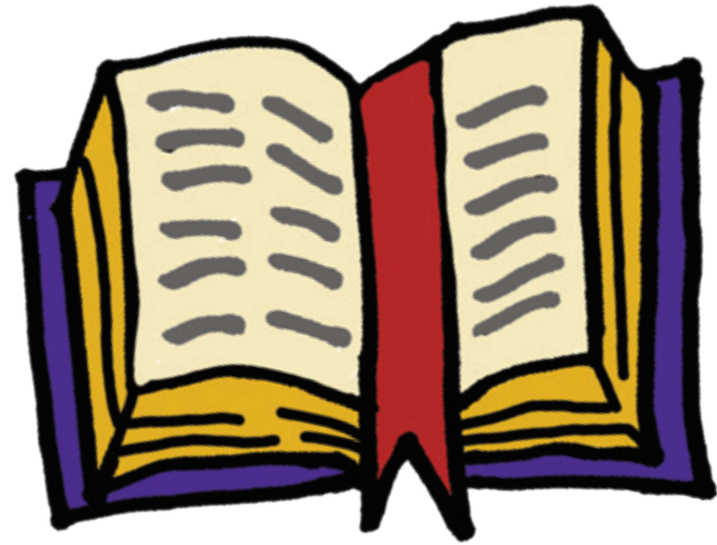
Classical Cursive: A Timeless Skill for Young Learners

Welcome to *Classical Cursive*, a four-book handwriting curriculum designed for young elementary students. This curriculum's four parts—*Scripture for Children I/II* for second-graders and *Poetry for Children I/II* for third-graders—teach modern cursive through meaningful, engaging content. By blending letter formation with Bible verses and children's poetry, *Classical Cursive* fosters not only fine motor skills but also a love for God's Word and the beauty of language.

Why Cursive—Why Handwriting—in a Digital Age?

In an era dominated by keyboards and touchscreens, parents and teachers may wonder why cursive handwriting matters. The answer lies in its unique benefits for young minds. Research shows that handwriting, especially cursive, enhances cognitive development in ways typing cannot. Writing by hand strengthens fine motor skills, improves memory retention, and boosts reading comprehension. Cursive, with its flowing, connected strokes, encourages fluency and speed, helping students express ideas more naturally. For second- and third-graders, mastering cursive builds confidence and discipline, skills that carry into all areas of learning.

Beyond academics, cursive connects students to history and culture. Many foundational documents, like the U.S. Constitution, and personal treasures, like family letters, are written in cursive. Teaching children to read and write cursive equips them to engage with these texts directly. Moreover, cursive offers a personal, creative outlet—whether signing a name with flair or penning a heartfelt note—that digital tools cannot replicate. In a world of instant communication, the deliberate act of cursive writing teaches thoughtfulness, patience, and care.



The Modern Cursive Difference

Classical Cursive uses a modern cursive style, a streamlined approach to more traditional handwriting scripts. Modern cursive is designed for ease and legibility, making it ideal for young learners. Its continuous strokes minimize the need for lifting the pencil, reducing frustration and fatigue. The style also closely resembles modern manuscript, which many students learn in earlier grades, creating a smooth transition to cursive. By focusing on modern cursive, *Classical Cursive* ensures that second- and third-graders develop a clear, confident handwriting style that serves them well in school and beyond.

Scripture and Poetry: A Meaningful Practice

The heart of *Classical Cursive* lies in its content: Bible verses, creeds, and prayers in Books 1 and 2 and children's poetry in Books 3 and 4. These selections do more than provide text for tracing and copying. They inspire and shape young hearts. For second-graders, practicing cursive with Scripture introduces them to God's Word in a personal, tactile way. As they form letters to write verses like "Commit your works to the Lord," they internalize timeless, biblical truths.

For third-graders, *Poetry for Children* brings the joy of language to life. Poems, with their rhythm and imagery, captivate young imaginations while offering rich opportunities to practice cursive. From classic works by R. L. Stevenson and Lewis Carroll to playful rhymes, these selections make handwriting a delightful exploration of words. Copying poetry hones letter formation while fostering an appreciation for beauty and creativity, key pillars of a classical education.

A Curriculum for Growth

Classical Cursive is more than a handwriting program. It's a tool for holistic growth. The series progresses thoughtfully. The *Classical Cursive: Scripture for Children* books guide second-graders through basic letter formation and simple verses, building a strong foundation. The *Poetry for Children* books challenge third-graders with more complex letter connections and longer passages, encouraging fluency and expression. Each of the four books includes clear instructions, practice pages, and engaging illustrations to support parents and teachers, whether in a homeschool or a brick-and-mortar setting.

We invite you to embark on this journey with *Classical Cursive*. By teaching cursive through Scripture and poetry, you'll equip your students with a skill that strengthens their minds, connects them to heritage, and nurtures their souls. In a digital age, cursive remains a timeless gift—one that Veritas Press is proud to share with your young learners.

Instructions

The following pages contain lines from children's poetry. On each page, have students write them free-form on the lines provided. For added challenge, or maybe just for fun, consider inviting students to memorize what they're writing.

Important notes

Each successive book in this series assumes that students have mastered the handwriting material in previous books. Book 4 (*Poetry for Children II*), for example, assumes that students have already mastered the handwriting skills taught in Book 3 (*Poetry for Children I*), as well as in Books 1 and 2 (*Scripture for Children I/II*). Also, we strongly recommend that students use pencil throughout the *Classical Cursive* curriculum.

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

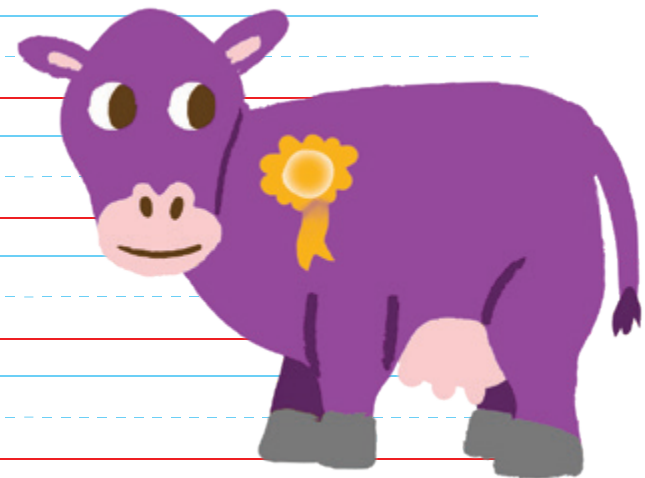
The Purple Cow by Gelett Burgess

I never saw a Purple Cow,

I never hope to see one;

But I can tell you, anyhow,

I'd rather see than be one.



Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

Who Has Seen the Wind? by Christina Rossetti

Who has seen the wind?

Neither I nor you:

But when the leaves hang trembling,

The wind is passing through.

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

Who has seen the wind?

Neither you nor I:

But when the trees bow down their heads,

The wind is passing by.



Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

The Swing by Robert Louis Stevenson

How do you like to go up in a swing,

Up in the air so blue?

Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing

Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

Till I can see so wide,

Rivers and trees and cattle and all

Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,

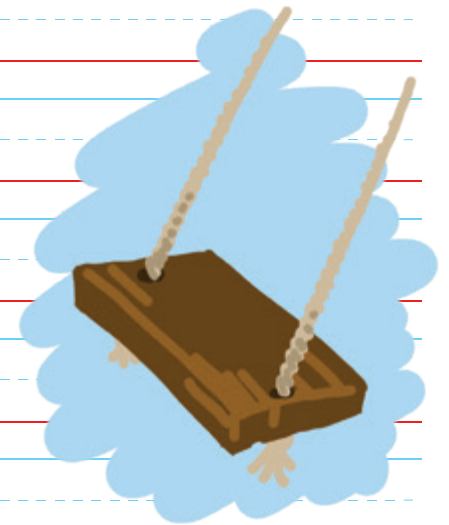
Down on the roof so brown—

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

Up in the air I go flying again,

Up in the air and down!



Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

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

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

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,

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

When all the sky is clear and blue,

And I should like so much to play,

To have to go to bed by day?

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

The Moon by Robert Louis Stevenson

The moon has a face like the clock in
the hall;

She shines on thieves on the
garden wall,



Classical Cursive: Poetry for Children (I) invites young students to hone their cursive with playful children's poetry. Learning to write lines from the likes of Edward Lear, Isaac Watts, and Robert Louis Stevenson, students refine their handwriting while smiling. With page after page of delightful verse, these books foster both motor skills and imagination. *Classical Cursive: Poetry for Children (I)* transforms cursive practice into a joyful adventure of creativity and wonder.



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