



# Veritas Academy

A Center for Classical Christian Learning  
Savannah, Georgia

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature Syllabus

Term: 2011-2012

**Teacher:** Fun Gobel  
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**Course Description:** Sixth grade literature has two main goals: to give students a solid grounding in the grammar of poetry and a greater understanding of classic English literature. In their prior grammar school years, Veritas students acquired proficiency in the reading and enjoyment of different types of poetry. This year of study will build on this knowledge by focusing on the use of tropes (figures of speech), meter and rhyme in poetry.

By reading classic texts students can better appreciate the timelessness of great literature as well as gain facility in reading books that have different writing styles from today. This will be done through reading two classics: *The Wonder Book* and *Tales from Shakespeare*. *The Wonder Book* was written in 1852 by Nathaniel Hawthorne, one of the first great American authors. He believed that the classical myths would make capital stories for children. The popular success of his *Wonder Book* and its sequel, *Tanglewood Tales*, suggests that he was right. The second book, *Tales from Shakespeare*, was written in 1807 by a brother and sister team, Charles and Mary Lamb. They wrote this book to introduce children to Shakespeare. Their masterful retelling of Shakespeare's plays has whetted countless children's appetite for Shakespeare in the last 200 years. We will intersperse the reading of these tales with the reading of famous scenes from Shakespeare, giving students a taste of the real thing. The reading of these books and the study of poetry will be another stepping stone in equipping students to tackle the more challenging reading encountered in their logic and rhetoric years.

There will also be periodic memorizations throughout the year as listed in the weekly outline below.

**Student Materials:** Sections in a 3-ring binder and college ruled notebook paper. Students should have personal copies of *The Grammar of Spelling*, *The Wonder Book*, and *Tales from Shakespeare*, as specified on the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading List.

**Evaluation:** Tests and Papers - 45%  
Memorization - 25%  
Homework - 25%  
Participation - 5%

**Weekly Outline:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Poetry</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Memorization</b>
1-2	<i>The Grammar of Poetry</i> , Lessons 1-5	<i>The Wonder Book</i> , “The Gorgon’s Head”	"I Never Saw a Moor," Emily Dickinson
3-4		<i>The Wonder Book</i> , “The Golden Touch”	“I Corinthians 13”
5-6	Lessons 6-8	<i>The Wonder Book</i> , “The Paradise of Children”	
7-8		<i>The Wonder Book</i> , “The Three Golden Apples”	“Sonnet 18”, William Shakespeare
9-10	Lessons 9-11	<i>The Wonder Book</i> , “The Miraculous Pitcher	
11-12		<i>The Wonder Book</i> , “The Chimera”	“Sonnet 116”, William Shakespeare
13-14	Lessons 12-13	<i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> , “The Tempest”	
15-16		<i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> , “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”	
17-18	Lessons 14-16	Scene from Shakespeare	
19-20		<i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> , “Hamlet”	"Hamlet's Soliloquy," William Shakespeare
21-22		<i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> , “Much Ado About Nothing”	
23-24	Lessons 17-18	Scene from Shakespeare	
25-26		<i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> , “Romeo and Juliet”	“Romeo & Juliet” Selection
27-28	Lessons 19-23	<i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> , “The Taming of the Shrew”	
29-30		Scene from Shakespeare	Psalm 90
31-32		<i>Tales from Shakespeare</i> , “Macbeth”	
33-34	Lessons 24-27	Scene from Shakespeare	
35-36		Review	

(This is a tentative schedule. Adjustments will be made as the class progresses.)