

BOOK LIST

Middle School Creative Writing

Fall 2022 / Spring 2023

Title	Edition	Author/Editor	ISBN	Available on the Academy's Bookstore?
The Creative Writer, Level One: Five Finger Exercise	2012	Boris Fishman/The Well-Trained Mind Press	9781933339559	Yes – Find it here.
Grammar for Fiction Writers (Busy Writer's Guides)	2014	Marcy Kennedy & Chris Saylor/Tongue Untied Communications	9780992037185	No
Timeless Devotional Poetry: An Anthology	2020	Elizabeth McCallum Marlow/WestBow Press	9781973684794	Yes – Find it here.
Stories and Poems for Extremely Intelligent Children of All Ages	2002	Harold Bloom/Simon & Schuster	9780684868745	Yes – Find it here.
The Light Princess	*1984	George MacDonald/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux	9780374444587	Yes – Find it here.
Treasure Island	*2008	Robert Louis Stevenson, Illustrated by Scott McKowen/Sterling	9781402714573	Yes – Find it here.

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The Creative Writer: Level One

SYNOPSIS: This is a gentle introduction to the art of writing creatively. It is a resource to help students begin the writing process in both fiction and poetry. The fiction section introduces structural concepts of writing such as plot, dialogue, characters, point of view, and setting through guided exercises and short excerpts from quality, classic literature by authors including Mark Twain and Louisa May Alcott. The poetry section introduces concepts of sound, descriptive language, and word choice and includes poems by Robert Frost and Edgar Allan Poe as examples. The book will help students “dip their toes” into the sometimes-chilly waters of creative writing

Grammar for Fiction Writers

SYNOPSIS: This is a basic grammar handbook with special emphasis on the art of creative writing. While it teaches all of the common grammar rules, it also has extra sections on word choice, dialogue punctuation, verb tenses, and other pertinent-to-fiction topics. Its strength is the opportunities it provides to refine advanced grammar skills in the non-intimidating setting of fiction. This text even has a section showing the common error of reversing cause and effect grammatically within a narrative and how to fix this mistake, providing opportunities to refine advanced grammar skills within the engaging setting of fiction. Students will appreciate the succinct nature of this text as they connect the great writers and their works in other texts with the building blocks of their language in this one.

Timeless Devotional Poetry: An Anthology

SYNOPSIS: This text is a wide-reaching collection of poems, hymns, and other literary forms that bring honor and praise to our Creator. This collection spans thirteen centuries from the seventh century’s “O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart’s Desire” to the early 20th century’s “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus.”

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** This anthology will lead students in discovering the poetry of praise that God’s people have written for eons so that they, too, might use words to praise Him. In the study of creative writing, the goal is for students to be inspired by the God they see in these beautiful works to create poems of praise of their own.

Stories and Poems for Extremely Intelligent Children of All Ages

SYNOPSIS: The poetry in this anthology spans styles from the childhood wordplay and wit of Edward Lear to the sonnets of Shakespeare and Rosetti. The stories also span styles and include Aesop’s fables, a folktale by Hans Christian Andersen, and G.K. Chesterton’s short fiction, among many others.

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** This text is an anthology of classic literature and poetry that focuses on time-tested work by time-tested authors. Students will learn the writers’ craft by reading a wide swathe of solid poetry and fiction as we focus in class on the elements of these classic works.

DISCLAIMER: While this is a collection of solid classic works, we recommend students study only the content assigned since it has been carefully screened and selected. If students wish to read unassigned works, we recommend doing so with parental guidance.

The Light Princess by George MacDonald

SYNOPSIS: Victorian poet, author and minister of the gospel George MacDonald weaves a classically structured folktale in *The Light Princess*. It is deceptively simple in tone, yet contains a much deeper metaphor for the ultimate display of love. A princess under a spell becomes light—literally. She floats through the air in body, but she also floats in spirit. How will she find gravity? Only the sacrificial love of a prince can save her, an example to readers of selfless love.

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** This classic fairy tale is an example of fine writing within a standard structure—the folktale—that employs the model creative writing elements such as plot, character, setting, and the classic story arc. Within the bounds of this structure, however, are songs, poems, witty wordplay, vivid imagery, and allegorical elements that are models of different literary genres all within one story. Best of all, the story’s overarching theme—the transforming power of sacrificial love—is a picture of the gospel itself.

DISCLAIMER: This book includes elements of classic fairy tales such as magic, a fairy godmother, and the use of the word witch to describe cruel characters.

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

SYNOPSIS: One of the most beloved adventure novels, *Treasure Island* is a cultural treasure itself that has defined pirates for generations through the characterization of Long John Silver, an antagonist for the ages. Stevenson tells an electrifying story full of spectacularly spun plot twists and idiosyncratic characters. Set in the mid-1700s, the story follows young Jim Hawkins, a cabin boy on the *Hispaniola*—a ship that takes us on a dangerous sea voyage through mutiny, deception, and a deadly search for treasure—all amid exotic locales. *Treasure Island* is an example of storytelling at its best, with themes that endure such as loyalty, integrity, and the struggle to discern truth amidst a sea of lies.

→ **REASON FOR TEACHING:** *Treasure Island* is a prime example of storytelling that masterfully employs each element of fiction—in each chapter—such as plot,

characterization, setting, point of view, and dialogue. In addition, the story is rich in Biblical themes such as absolute truth and discernment. As our narrator discovers, truth leads to treasure. As they ride the waves of this story, students will ponder the fact that among life's waves, truth leads to the ultimate Treasure: Jesus Christ.

DISCLAIMER: This book includes elements of classic pirate stories such as drunkenness and violence; however, these behaviors are clearly shown as vile. The hero does not participate in such behaviors.