

CLASSICAL *Cursive*

*Poetry for
Children*

4



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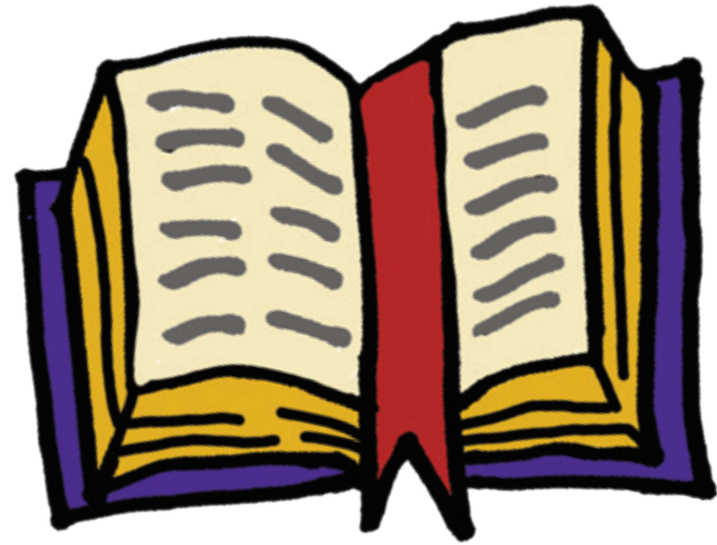
Classical Cursive: A Timeless Skill for Young Learners

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 _____

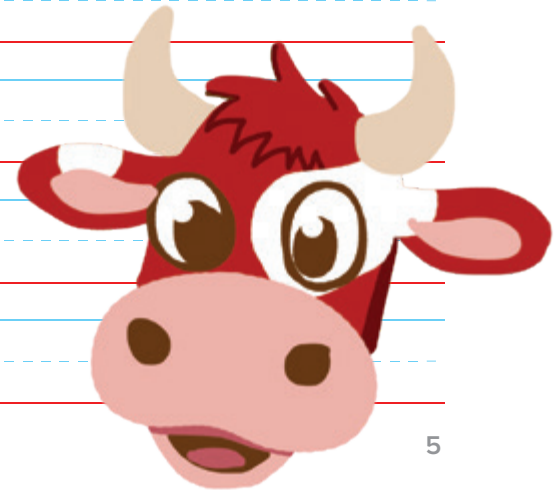
The Cow by Robert Louis Stevenson

The friendly cow all red and white,

I love with all my heart:

She gives me cream with all her
might,

To eat with apple-tart.



Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

She wanders lowing here and there,

And yet she cannot stray,

All in the pleasant open air,

The pleasant light of day;

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

And blown by all the winds that pass

And wet with all the showers,

She walks among the meadow grass

And eats the meadow flowers.

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

A Child's Prayer by Mary Lundie Duncan

Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me;

Bless Thy little lamb tonight;

Through the darkness be Thou
near me,

Keep me safe till morning light.

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

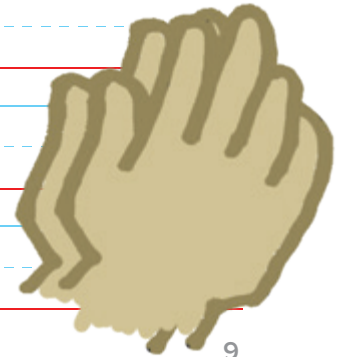
Name _____

All this day Thy hand has led me,

And I thank Thee for Thy care;

Thou hast clothed me, warmed and
fed me,

Listen to my evening prayer.



Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

Let my sins be all forgiven;

Bless the friends I love so well;

Take me, when I die, to Heaven,

Happy there with Thee to dwell.

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

The Land of Nod by Robert Louis Stevenson

From breakfast on through all
the day

At home among my friends I stay,

But every night I go abroad

Afar into the land of Nod.

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

All by myself I have to go,

With none to tell me what to do—

All alone beside the streams

And up the mountain-sides of dreams.

The strangest things are there for me,

Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

Both things to eat and things to see,

And many frightening sights abroad

Till morning in the land of Nod.

Try as I like to find the way,

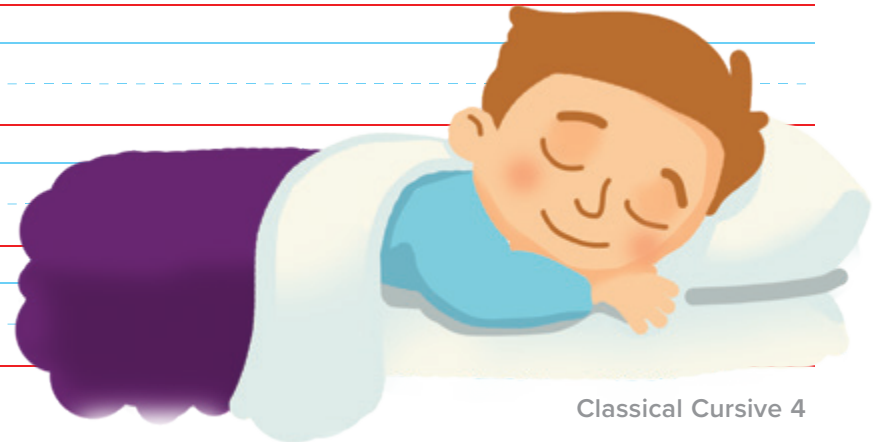
Copy each line carefully and neatly.

Name _____

I never can get back by day,

Nor can remember plain and clear

The curious music that I hear.



Classical Cursive: Poetry for Children (II) invites young students to hone their cursive with playful children's poetry. Learning to write lines from the likes of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Mary Howitt, and Lewis Carroll, students refine their handwriting while smiling. With more than a dozen delightful poems, *Classical Cursive: Poetry for Children (II)* fosters both motor skills and imagination and transforms cursive practice into a joyful adventure of creativity and wonder.



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