

10th Literature Text List

This course focuses on Classical and Medieval Literature of Western tradition. These works begin where Homer ends and bear witness to the growing influence of Christianity on the Western World as it appears in the literature.

The **literary keel** for **10th Literature** is **restoration**, as **10th Literature** covers the transition from the Roman to the medieval world. The Roman Empire produced tremendous wealth and material prosperity for Roman citizens, but the people living under the domination of the Romans suffered greatly. Moreover, the prosperity enjoyed by Romans brought about moral decay and social corruption that provided one of the numerous factors contributing to the fall of the Roman Empire.

In manifold ways, the advent of Christianity brought restoration and healing to the ancient world. The message of the Christian church, that of a merciful, personal God who reconciled humanity to himself through Jesus Christ, and that of the institutional churches helped fulfill a cultural, social, and moral vacuum in light of the collapsing Roman Empire.

The writers and poets of the Middle Ages, including Dante Alighieri, Francesco Petrarch, and Geoffrey Chaucer, are continually interpreting the Classical past and its poets through the lens of the Christian worldview.

Integrated Thales Outcomes: Gratitude, Cooperative and Contributive Team Member, Unfailing Integrity, Truth-Seeker, Dreams and Aspirations to Change the World, and Strong Work Ethic.

Priority Text List
1st Quarter: Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> (selections) AND Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i> (selections) 2nd Quarter: The Gospel of John 2nd Quarter: Beowulf 3rd / 4th Quarter: Dante's <i>Inferno</i>

Preferred Text List

- I. Survey of Roman Literature and Poetry
 - A. Other Suggested Works
 - 1. Selections from Catullus and Horace
- II. Christianity and the Middle Ages
 - A. *Gospel of John*: 2 weeks
 - B. *Acts of the Apostles*: 2 weeks
 - C. Pauline Letters (selection tbd, but incl. *Romans*, 1 and 2 *Corinthians*)
 - D. *The Dream of the Rood*
 - E. *Song of Roland* (selections)
 - F. Thomas Malory, *Le Morte d'Arthur*
- III. Literature of the Late Middle Ages and Renaissance:
 - A. Sonnets from Petrarch: 1 to 2 weeks
 - B. Boccaccio's *Decameron* (excerpts): 1 to 2 weeks
 - C. Dante's *Divine Comedy* (selections): 3-6 weeks
 - 1. Selections from *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*
- IV. Survey of English Poetry during the Late Middle Ages
 - A. Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (selected tales)
 - B. Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Suggested Readings

The Golden Ass (bks 4-6, incl. the Tales of Cupid and Psyche) by Apuleius
On the Nature of Things by Lucretius
Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queen*
The Trojan Women by Seneca