

Christendom Academy

Humane Letters

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

Humane Letters is the heart of the Christendom Curriculum. The course takes an integrated approach to the humanities with the understanding that the various fields of literature, history, and philosophy form a cohesive whole in understanding humanity.

While the Socratic method will be used in every Christendom course, the Humane Letters seminar offers an elevated form of the Socratic method in which students are guided in a discussion of texts, asked to articulate responses to carefully crafted questions, and invited to reason through such responses together with their peers. By discussing, students learn to read closely, think analytically, keep to the topic, uncover meaning, grow in intellectual humility and the ability to listen and understand. These discussions are neither lectures nor debates, but rather a testing of the veracity of ideas through charitable dialogue.



Great Books and Good Books

Lewis: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Til We have Faces, Mere Christianity*

Tolkien: *The Hobbit, On Fairy Stories; Chesterton: Orthodoxy, Ballad of the White Horse*

Shakespeare: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Julius Caesar, Twelfth Night, Henry V, Macbeth, The Tempest, Sonnets*

The Song of Roland, Jerusalem Delivered, Beowulf, King Arthur Le Morte d'Arthur (King Arthur), Canterbury Tales, Three Musketeers (Dumas), Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Brideshead Revisited (Waugh), My Antonia (Cather), Scarlet Letter (Hawthorne), The Old Man and The Sea (Hemingway), A Christmas Carol (Dickens), Jane Eyre (Bronte), Frankenstein (Shelley), Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States

Selections from: Homer, Virgil, Augustine, Plato, Cicero, Marcus Aurelius, Boethius, Plotinus, Dante, Chaucer, Tennyson, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thomas Aquinas, Hildegard of Bingen, St. Julian of Norwich, St. Anselm, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Alexis de Tocqueville, Orestes Brownson, Abraham Lincoln, Robert Frost, T.S. Eliot, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, The Federalist Papers, Christopher Columbus, Whitman, Longfellow

Humane Letters will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To enroll, visit:

www.christendom.academy/join