

Scent of Water Curriculum Highlights 2023-2024

K/1 Near & Far – I am part of God’s community, and I love my neighbors, near and far! (Mark 12:31, Gal 6:10)

Sept/Nov	Community & Country – geography, local and national; appreciating helpers and being helpers in community and country; maps; our state; the science of our setting
Dec	Christmas in Community, Near & Far – Christmas, local and global
Jan/Feb	Tales & Traditions – folktales and legends, national and global
Mar/Apr	Earth & Space – our galaxy: sun, moon, stars, planets; our world: layers and landforms; gravity, rotation, lunar cycles
May	Wrap it up!

2/3 Hidden & Revealed – I reverence God and He reveals His mysteries to me! (Ps 25:14, Deut 29:29, Dan2:28)

Sept/Nov	Eyes & Ears, Light & Sound – how they work, what they are; Socratic seminar
Dec	Christmas Sights & Sounds
Jan/Feb	Surprise & Disguise – Haydn’s <i>Surprise Symphony</i> ; optical illusions; camouflage in nature; Arcimboldo, the Renaissance artist and his surprising works; plot twists; reading/writing mysteries
Mar/Apr	Time & Eternity – the science and history of time and its measurement; progression of time in writing; pursuing and developing efficiency in tasks; literature that creates a sense of “timelessness”; writing stories with a solid “beginning,” “muddle” (a “middle” that is about solving a “muddle” or conflict) and an “end.”
May	Wrap it up!

4/5 East & West – God has made a home for me! (Phil 3:20, Ps. 90:1, John 14:3)

Sept/Oct	First Americans – Eastern Woodland Tribes; <i>Song of Hiawatha</i> by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; <i>Sign of the Beaver</i> ; Native American myths, traditions, contributions; Native American intimacy and cooperation with nature
Nov/Dec	New Americans – founding of the 13 colonies; colonial gardens; colonial life and celebrations; <i>Little Pilgrim’s Progress</i> ; <i>The History of US</i> by Joy Hakim throughout year; <i>Benjamin West and his Cat</i> , <i>Grimalkin</i>
Jan/Mar	New Nation, Westward Bound, a Nation Divided – spies during the Revolutionary War (Phoebe <i>the Spy</i> ; <i>The Scarlet Stocking Spy and others</i>); <i>Ben and Me</i> ; any from the <i>Little House on the Prairie</i> series; technologies of the Industrial Revolution; Civil War
Apr	Our state – our government system
May	Wrap it up!

6/7/8 God's Grace and Truth in MY Story – God's grace and truth are seen in *my* story, which is part of God's great Story, and He invites me to participate in His grand adventure! (Eph 2:10, 2 Cor. 5:20, Jer. 29:11)

This is a year of focus on identity: Who we are, and what role we play in God's world! Students study figures from literature and history to discover how those who bear God's image will always be engaged as people who lead, or participate, or resist – and that all of these roles can be played in disobedience to God, or to His great glory.

Students take the student version of the Clifton Strengthsfinders test, to explore how God has designed them uniquely and beautifully with gifts to participate in His kingdom work.

Middle School students do a deep dive on key apologetics topics from “Why is there evil in the world?” to “Is Jesus Christ *really* ‘the only way’ to God?” to “Is the Bible *really* authoritative?” They conduct surveys of the learning community to address the most prevalent questions and to help bring light to places of perplexity.

The “Hero Project” is a capstone endeavor in which students identify, interview, and honor a local Hero, defined as someone who **H**elps, **E**ncourages, **R**escues, or **O**rganizes others to help, encourage or rescue those in need in the community and in the world.

Key books:

K/1 – variety of picture books and read-alouds pertaining to year's themes and “Near & Far.”

2/3 – *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis

Variety of Beverly Cleary books such as those from the *Henry* or *Ramona* series

My Father's Dragon Trilogy by Ruth Stiles Gannett

Winnie the Pooh and the House at Pooh Corner by A. A. Milne

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

The End of the Beginning and *A Beginning, a Muddle, and an End* by Avi

The Magician's Nephew by C. S. Lewis

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader audiobook by C. S. Lewis

4/5 – *A History of Us* – several volumes – by Joy Hakim

Little Pilgrim's Progress by Helen L. Taylor

The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare

Song of Hiawatha – poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Benjamin West and His Cat, Grimalkin by Margeurite Henry

Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by His Good Mouse Amos by Robert Lawson

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Seaman's Journal: On the Trail with Lewis and Clark by Patricia Reeder Eubank

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan

Bull Run by Paul Fleischman

Middle School –

Fall *Cold Case Christianity for Kids* and other apologetics books in this series by J. Warner Wallace

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien

Prince Caspian by C. S. Lewis

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'engle

Choices from *The Green Ember* series by S. D. Smith, *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie, *Mary Poppins* series by P.L. Travers, other fantasy fiction

The Silver Chair by C. S. Lewis

Variety/choices of biographies and autobiographies in young readers' versions, such as

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

"Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry

Winter *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park

The Player King by Avi

The 21 Toughest Questions Your Kids Will Ask About Christianity by Alex McFarland

The Case for Christianity/The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel

Moo by Sharon Creech

The Dreamer by Pam Muñoz Ryan

The Sword in the Stone by T. H. White

Art Forms in Nature by Ernst Haeckel

Spring *A Kingdom Far and Clear* by Mark Helprin and many choices of books, fiction/non-fiction