

# POEMS EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW *in Cursive*

A *D'Nealian Cursive* copywork book with  
Thirty-two original poems by various authors from Poems Every  
Child Should Know, Part I, edited by Mary E. Burt. Each lesson  
includes the original poem to read followed by the poem in  
D'Nealian cursive with practice lines for handwriting practice.

by Classical Charlotte Mason

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Poem Every Child Should Know in Cursive

Poems and D'Nealian Cursive Copywork Book

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## **How to Teach Copywork:**

Copywork can seem simplistic. Give your child a sentence or two and have them copy it. It can also seem like busy work, but the benefits are great! Copywork is a simple introduction to handwriting, spelling, and composition. Have children copy only the best authors, with the best writing, and ideas to fill their growing minds.

## **When to begin copywork:**

Once a child learns how to write their letters comfortably, they are ready to start simple copywork. Start with very short sentences and have them copy it, always in their best handwriting. It is important that they give their best effort. If you find them struggling, give them less to copy. In the beginning, it's okay if they only do a few words per sitting as long as it is in their best handwriting. You can gradually increase the length of the model as they become more and more comfortable. However, it is important to take their age into consideration. As they gain age and experience with copywork the quantity and quality of their work should improve.

## **Why copywork:**

Copying models of good writing teaches children what good writing looks and sounds like, thereby improving their own writing. Many of the world's greatest writers learned how to write through copywork. Benjamin Franklin would copy or outline essays and then try to recreate them on his own to see if he could write them better.

## **How to use this book:**

Poems Every Child Should Know in Cursive, Part I, copywork book includes the original unabridged poems to be read prior to each copywork lesson. No need to purchase the book if you do not already own it. Read the passage, and in the child's best handwriting, copy the poem on the lines provided paying close attention to capitalization and punctuation. Every student does not have to complete each lesson in the book; or even an entire lesson in one day, depending on age and ability. Choose the original poems and copywork lessons that work best for your family, not all may be suitable. Schedule chosen lessons over one or more years as desired.

For additional resources please visit [www.ClassicalCharlotteMason.com](http://www.ClassicalCharlotteMason.com)

D'Nealian® Cursive

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

A B C D E F G H I J

K L M N O P Q R S T

U V W X Y Z , ' . ?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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**Lesson 1:** Read the poem and complete the copywork that follows in your best handwriting.

**The Arrow and the Song**

I shot an arrow into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight  
Could not follow it in its flight.  
I breathed a song into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For who has sight so keen and strong  
That it can follow the flight of song?  
Long, long afterward, in an oak  
I found the arrow, still unbroke;  
And the song, from beginning to end,  
I found again in the heart of a friend.

-Henry W. Longfellow

## *The Arrow and the Song*

*I shot an arrow into the air,*

*It fell to earth, I knew not where;*

*For, so swiftly it flew, the sight*

Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,

It fell to earth, I knew not where;

For who has sight so keen and strong

That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak

I found the arrow, still unbroke;

And the song, from beginning to end,

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I found again in the heart of a friend.

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- Henry W. Longfellow

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**Lesson 2:** Read the poem and complete the copywork that follows in your best handwriting.

**The Babie**

"Her face is like an angel's face,  
I'm glad she has no wings."  
Nae shoon to hide her tiny taes,  
Nae stockin' on her feet;  
Her supple ankles white as snaw,  
Or early blossoms sweet.  
Her simple dress o' sprinkled pink,  
Her double, dimplit chin,  
Her puckered lips, and baumy mou',  
With na ane tooth within.  
Her een sae like her mither's een,  
Twa gentle, liquid things;  
Her face is like an angel's face:  
We're glad she has nae wings.  
-Jeremiah Eames Rankin

*The Babie*

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*"Her face is like an angel's face,*

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*I'm glad she has no wings. "*

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Nae shoon to hide her tiny taes,

Nae stockin' on her feet;

Her supple ankles white as snaw,

Or early blossoms sweet.

Her simple dress o' sprinkled pink,

Her double, dimplit chin,

Her puckered lips, and baumy mou',

With na ane tooth within.

Her een sae like her mither's een,

Twa gentle, liquid things;

Her face is like an angel's face:

We're glad she has nae wings.

- Jeremiah Eames Rankin