

Katherine Curtis

High School Course Descriptions

English

Credits

(½) **Communication: Oral & Written** focused on communicating clearly, concisely and concretely through written papers and verbal speeches. She had weekly writing assignments included several reports and persuasive papers. The public speaking aspect of the course was fulfilled in a public communications course taken with other high school students. This course covered appearance, fear, confrontation, personality, communication skills, and of course, giving speeches and presentations.

(½) **Western Literature** introduced classic literature from various centuries and countries. She completed a workbook, wrote three book reviews, and book reports were written for all books. Katie Beth read the following books: Around the World in Eighty Days, A Doll's House, The Arabian Nights, Tanglewood Tales, Cyrano de Bergerac, Aesop's Fables, The Last Days of Socrates, The Count of Monte Cristo, The Necklace, The Metamorphosis, Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea, The Odyssey, Madame Bovary, Journey to the Center of the Earth, Anna Karenina, Confessions of St. Augustine and In His Steps.

(½) **Research & Nonfiction Writing** required Katie Beth to learn to skillfully use research tools in the library for writing/speaking assignments. She wrote outlines, paraphrases, precis, essays and assorted business letters. Most of the course time was spent researching and writing a literary research paper entitled "*The Effect of Jane Austen's Life and Background on her Writing Style*." She also read Elements of Style.

(½) **American Literature** Katie Beth read The Scarlet Letter and completed a companion study guide. She wrote literary essays on theme, characterization, plot, setting, use of imagery and symbolism. She read and wrote book reports on the following books: The Glass Menagerie, The Prince and the Pauper, Main Street, The House of Seven Gables, The Red Badge of Courage, The Miracle Worker, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, The Turn of the Screw, Puddinhead Wilson, The Lottery, The Grapes of Wrath, Martian Chronicles, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and The Great Gatsby.

(½) **Fiction Writing** was a delight-directed course designed to help Katie Beth pursue her dream of writing children's literature. She read Someday You'll Write, Elements of Style, and Writing for Children. She completed Alpha-Omega English 1208 Lifepac, writing several short stories and poems. She adapted old writing papers for children's literature and wrote several short stories specifically for young children, one of which was made into an illustrated book.

(½) **Shakespeare** was studied in a classroom setting with other home schooled high school students. This was an enthusiastic introduction to the works of Shakespeare. She studied the following works: The Taming of the Shrew, The Merchant of Venice,

Midsummer Night's Dream, Richard the Third, Henry the Eighth, Hamlet, MacBeth, A Winter's Tale, The Tempest and selected sonnets. There were group discussions, quizzes, exams, essays, and a literary/historical research paper.

(½) **Writing for Publication** is another delight-directed course she is currently taking designed to equip Katie Beth to be a published author. Writing Strands: Creating Fiction is a thorough study into the different aspects of writing fiction (Narrative voice, identification, flashback, character sketch). She also will read How to Write for Christian Magazines and submit articles to two different magazines. She also rewrites old writing papers, transforming them into “magazine articles.”

(½) **British Literature** requires the completion of two Lifepacs: The Development of English Language and Medieval English Literature. The rest of the year is fun! Just reading the following books: Beowolfe, Canterbury Tales, Ivanhoe, Robin Hood, Men of Iron, Paradise Lost, Emma, Pride & Prejudice, Sense & Sensibility, Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights, Kidnapped, Gulliver's Travels, A Modest Proposal, Silas Mariner, Middlemarch, David Copperfield, A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations, Robinson Crusoe, Return of the Native, The Hound of Bakervilles, Kim, 1984, War of the Worlds, Animal Farm, Pygmalion, Brave New World, Chronicles of Narnia, The Screwtape Letters, Perelandra, and Lord of the Rings trilogy.

(½) **Classic Short Stories** is Grandpa Curtis' (a retired twelfth-grade English teacher) contribution to Katie Beth's education. He teaches via audio tape. Tests and papers are mailed, graded and returned. Each week Katie Beth and two other students listen to an hour lecture and then discuss the short stories among themselves, focusing on the topic covered in the lecture (e.g. imagery or tone). They will be writing a research paper in the spring. The Pocket Book of Short Stories is used as well as hand-outs of classic short stories not included in the book.

Math

- (1) **Algebra I** Completed Saxon: Algebra I independently with weekly tests.
- (1) **Algebra II** Completed Saxon: Algebra II independently with weekly tests.
- (1) **Geometry** Completed Alpha-Omega Geometry Lifepacs 1001-1010 independently with sectional and Lifepac tests.
- (1) **Advanced Mathematics** Completed Saxon: Advanced Mathematics independently with weekly tests.
- (1) **Calculus** Completed Saxon: Calculus independently with weekly tests.

Social Sciences

(1) **World History** from earliest times to modern day was presented through two textbooks: Streams of Civilization Volumes I and II with tests at the end of every chapter and final exams. Supplemental books were read: Famous Men of Greece, Famous Men Of Rome, Ancient Rome and How it Affects You Today, Augustus Caesar's World, Famous Men of the Middle Ages, Famous Men of the Reformation and the Renaissance, and a number of children's historical fiction. She also listened to several audio tapes on early civilizations. Writing assignments included book reports, tape reports, essays, and writing several chapters on ancient history for little children to be part of a future book.

(1) **Law, Government & Politics.** Katie Beth completed two textbooks: Land of Fair Play and Constitutional Law for Christian Students. She also read various books: Federalist Papers, Anti-Federalist Papers, What Ever Happened to Justice?, Are You Liberal, Conservative or Confused?, Evaluating Books: What Would Thomas Jefferson Think About This?, Is Politics a Dirty Word or a Sacred Responsibility?, The Election Book: People Pick a President, The New Tyranny, and In His Majesty's Service. She also complete a workbook on citizenship and kept up with current events by reading the *Orlando Sentinel* and *World* magazine. There was discussion of all books, articles and columns read.

(1) **American History** was an independent study covering the period of history beginning with colonization and ending with recent history (1600---2000). She listened to a set of 16 audio tapes (America: The First 350 Years), completed a "tape report sheet" for each tape and completed the author's study guide.

She also read several historical books: Plimoth Plantation, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God, Common Sense, Autobiography of Ben Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanack, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Up From Slavery, and The Grapes of Wrath. She researched the twentieth century in the library using several books and magazines.

(1) **Church History/The Great Commission** studied the history of the Church from Pentacost to 2003 in her own personal life. She wrote a report on John Wesley and make an historical timeline. She read the following books: Fire Upon the Earth, From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya, The Fathers of the Western Church, Holy Men of God, Confessions, Martin Luther, the Great Reformer, Erasmus: Man Who Laid the Egg, Billy Sunday, Reese Howell: Intercessor, Paula the Waldensian, Charles Spurgeon, Master Plan of Evangelism, Eternity in their Hearts, Discipling One Another and In His Name. She is also meeting with a young woman who is a new believer to take her through some basic discipleship material.

(1) **Economics, Business & Careers** was taken with her sister. There were weekly lectures and discussions on all topics. Her writing assignments included book reports, essays on debt and paying mortgages off early, completing study guides and workbooks, and filling out personality, skills and interest surveys. She played career games, interviewed people about their jobs, and will attend work with a family friend. She also worked for her father doing his automotive paint business' financial books. Katie Beth and her sister will at the end of the year plan and execute an entrepreneurial business venture. She also created and lives within a personal financial budget.

She read the following books: The Ultimate Book of Economics for the Ultimate Teenager, What Ever Happened to Penny Candy?, The Story of Checks & Electronic Payments, The Story of Foreign Trade & Exchange, The Money Mystery, Ump's Fwat, Money Matters for Teens, Buying Your First Car, Renting Your First Apartment, Uncle Eric Talks about Personal, Career and Financial Security, A Banker's Confession, Debt-Free and Prosperous Living, The Clipper Ship Strategy, Preparing for College, and Guide to College Majors and Career Choices.

(1) **World Religions & Apologetics** She read the following: Evidence that Demands a Verdict I and II, The Battle for the Mind, Understanding the Times, and Comparative Religions. She researched ten religions including Islam, Hinduism and Wiccan. She completed Understanding the Times workbook and wrote a paper defining Orthodox Christianity.

Science

(1) **Biology/Biology Lab.** Katie Beth completed a set of ten biology Lifepacs from Alpha-Omega which included sectional and final tests. She also listened to a musical biology course (Lyrical Life Science I & II & III) and completed attending workbooks. Here lab work was completed in a classroom setting with other homeschoolers. Lab work included nine dissections, making models, molding and lots of microscope work.

(1) **Physics/Physics Lab** was taken in a classroom setting with our home school support group's high school enrichment classes. Exploring Creation with Physics was completed with regular tests. The lab experiments were numerous and a lab notebook was maintained. Katie Beth also researched, helped build and launched a trebuchet.

(1) **Human Anatomy & Health** was taken with other home schooled students with Grace Home Schoolers Enrichment classes. There were lectures, classroom lab work, tests, reports on diseases, homework, and a large science fair project. Textbooks used were: Cells: Building Blocks of Life, Heredity: The Code of Life, and Human Biology and Health. The body was studied system by system, ending with genetics. There were many dissections in the lab.

(1) **Chemistry/Chemistry Lab** was taken for two semesters at Seminole Community College for a total of eight college credits: Chemistry I with Quantitative Analysis (CHM2045) and Chemistry II with Quantitative Analysis (CHM2046).

Bible

(1) **Old Testament Survey** involved reading the Old Testament, learning the pertinent history and geography, and learning to use Bible study tools (handbooks, commentaries, concordances, Greek & Hebrew interlinear Bibles) for personal study. Katie Beth completed worksheets, made timelines and detailed maps for various time periods in the Old Testament. She read the following books: The World's Most Wonderful Book, How to Read the Word of God Effectively, Men of Destiny, Elijah:

Prophet of Power, King Solomon's Navy, Journey for Tobiyah, and The Old Testament Speaks.

(1) **New Testament Survey.** Katie Beth read the New Testament, Josephus: Thrones of Blood, The Life that Changed the World and Ben Hur. She enjoyed a study guide on the Gospel of John and another on basic Christian doctrines.

Foreign Language

(1) **Latin** was studied on the computer. Artes Latinae included a CD Rom, notebook work, readers, and frequent tests.

(1) **Spanish I** This class was taken with our home school support group's Friday enrichment program. Spanish Now, an Hispanic culture report, Bible translations and cultural studies were completed. They also listened to Teach Me, Spanish every week. This was a good basic introduction to Spanish.

(1) **Spanish II** was private tutor instruction. Baron's Basics in Spanish and many other resources were used. She translated, read children's Spanish storybooks, cooked from Spanish recipes and spoke conversationally in Spanish. She also has to write book summaries in Spanish.

(1) **Spanish III** consists of Elementary Spanish II (SPN1121) and Intermediate Spanish I (SPN2200) taken at Seminole Community College for a total of seven college credits.

Fine Arts

(1) **PE: Ballet** involved taking two years of weekly ballet lessons. She performed in one recital. She choreographed a worship dance for children to perform. She also choreographed and performed a worship dance during her church's Sunday service.

(1) **Art/Music Appreciation & History** covered a wide range of music, art and performances. She listened to and evaluated: Gregorian chants, Bach, Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, and early rock-n-roll music. She observed and "copied" (with pastels) several classical works of art such as Auguste Renoir's *A Girl with a Watering Can*. She attended classical music concerts, a ballet (*The Nutcracker*), several operas (*The Marriage of Figaro*, *MacBeth*, *Porgie & Bess*), a college play (*Lucky Stiff*), a musical play (*The Easter Story in Living Pictures*) and several pop concerts (*Third Day*, *DC Talk*, *Ezekiel's Eye*). Each was critiqued and analyzed. We also attended museums and art displays.

She read several books and wrote book reports: How Then Shall We Live?, Spiritual Lives of Great Composers, Living Biographies: Great Composers, Masterpieces in Art, Young People's Story of Fine Art and several "coffee table art books". She wrote a papers and make a historical booklet for children on art and music history.

(½) **Drama & Performing Arts** This class was taken with Grace Home Schoolers Enrichment classes. She read The Crucible, learned mime, and participated in improvisation. She was chosen for the lead role in a melodrama called “*High Noon in Gloomtown.*”

(½) **Performing Arts: Chorus** This class was taken with Grace Home Schoolers Enrichment classes. She learned to sing alto, performed several songs at a Fine Arts Nite, and performed in a musical at the end of the year, of which Katie Beth was the choreography director.

(½) **Fine Arts: Drawing & Painting** introduced sketching and drawing techniques for the first half of the year. The remainder of the year will be spent watercolor painting. This class is taken with Grace Home Schoolers Enrichment classes.

Other Courses

(1) **Homemaking** This class was actually done over all four years. This was completely hands-on. She baked, cooked, sewed, decorated cakes, photographed, scrap booked, created cards, needle crafted, cleaned, decorated, and designed furniture placement. She studied child development and applied knowledge in many child-care and training situations. She also studied fashion, etiquette, poise, and make-up.

(1) **Marriage, Family & Motherhood** This was an intense study meant to prepare Katie Beth for future healthy relationships. She read many books and discussed them with her parents. She interviewed people and evaluated various family situations. She wrote several papers, memorized numerous Scriptures, and made books for small children about these topics.

(½) **PE: Hip Hop** Katie Beth took weekly hip hop lessons through Seminole Community College Community classes.

(½) **Personal Fitness/ Health** Katie Beth participated in the following sports: soccer, running and aerobics. She began and continues a daily exercise regime. She took a class through our home school support group where they stretched, exercised and discussed health issues such as nutrition, exercise, drugs, smoking, stress and weight control.

(1) **Life Management** Part of this class was taken with other high school students learning about time management, money management and character issues. A large portion of this class is devoted to community service projects. In addition, Katie Beth did independent studies on management (self, time, money, home), traditions, celebrations, hospitality, home schooling and managing a home. She read many books, wrote several reports and discussed these topics thoroughly with her parents. She planned and hosted many social events including birthday parties, showers, and holiday dinners.