

# Horizons

Teacher's Guide

# Penmanship



# Week 1: Lessons 1–5

**Words of Wisdom:** *Aesop’s Fable, The Crow and the Pitcher, Part 1*

## LESSON 1: CURSIVE PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Lowercase letters with initial undercurve and slant strokes

Trace and write the words:	fable	Aesop	tale
	moral	characters	Crow
	Pitcher	perishing	thirst

## LESSON 2: CURSIVE PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Write the Greek letters. Alpha: Αα, Beta: Ββ, Gamma: Γγ, Delta: Δδ

Trace and write the words:	delight	flew	reached
	discovered	grief	contained
	possibly	animals	hoping

## LESSON 3: MANUSCRIPT PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Vertical and horizontal strokes

Practice writing the Aesop’s Fable:

A fable is a short tale used to teach a moral, often with animals as characters.

The Crow and the Pitcher.

A crow perishing with thirst saw a pitcher, and hoping to find water, flew to it with delight.

When he reached it, he discovered to his grief that it contained so little water that he could not possibly get at it.

## LESSON 4: FINAL CURSIVE PRACTICE

Practice writing the Aesop’s Fable:

A fable is a short tale used to teach a moral, often with animals as characters.

The Crow and the Pitcher.

A crow perishing with thirst saw a pitcher, and hoping to find water, flew to it with delight.

When he reached it, he discovered to his grief that it contained so little water that he could not possibly get at it.

## LESSON 5: PENMANSHIP PERFORMANCE

Penmanship performance page for writing: *The Crow and the Pitcher, Part 1*

Additional writing selection: *Aesop’s Fable, The Dog and His Reflection*

## Week 2: Lessons 6–10

**Words of Wisdom:** *Aesop's Fable, The Crow and the Pitcher, Part 2*

### LESSON 6: CURSIVE PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Lowercase letters with initial undercurve and slant strokes

Trace and write the words:

tried	everything	reach
efforts	vain	collected
stones	dropped	

### LESSON 7: CURSIVE PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Write the Greek letters. Epsilon: Εε, Zeta: Ζζ, Eta: Ηη, Theta: Θθ

Trace and write the words:

brought	Necessity	mother
invention	saved	beak

Write and answer the comprehension question:

What does the moral of this story mean?

### LESSON 8: MANUSCRIPT PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Vertical letters and numbers

Practice writing the Aesop's Fable:

He tried everything he could think of to reach the water, but all his efforts were in vain.

At last, he collected as many stones as he could carry and dropped them one by one with his beak into the pitcher, until he brought the water within his reach and thus saved his life.

The moral of this fable is:

Necessity is the mother of invention.

### LESSON 9: FINAL CURSIVE PRACTICE

Practice writing the Aesop's Fable:

He tried everything he could think of to reach the water, but all his efforts were in vain.

At last, he collected as many stones as he could carry and dropped them one by one with his beak into the pitcher, until he brought the water within his reach and thus saved his life.

The moral of this fable is:

Necessity is the mother of invention.

### LESSON 10: PENMANSHIP PERFORMANCE

Penmanship performance page for writing: *The Crow and the Pitcher, Part 2*

Additional writing selection: Write a fable with the same moral as *The Crow and the Pitcher*

## Week 17: Lessons 81–85

**Words of Wisdom:** *Medieval Riddles, Part 4*

### LESSON 81: CURSIVE PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Uppercase letters with initial curve forward strokes

Trace and write the words:

winsome	richly	embellished
revelers	battle	adornment
swallow	bright-shining	breath

### LESSON 82: CURSIVE PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Write the Old English words. girl: mæden, world: woruld, had: hæfde, poor: wanspedig

Trace and write the words:

chest	strains	heroes
proudly	spoil	spoiler
sounding	foemen	put to flight

### LESSON 83: MANUSCRIPT PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Forward circle letters

Practice writing the riddle:

At times I hang winsome on wall, richly embellished, where revelers drink.  
At times a warrior bears me on a horse, a battle adornment, and I swallow, bright-shining,  
the breath from his chest.  
At times with my strains I summon the heroes, proudly to wine.  
At times I win back spoil from the spoiler, with sounding voice, put foemen to flight.  
Now ask what I'm called.

### LESSON 84: FINAL CURSIVE PRACTICE

Practice writing the riddle:

At times I hang winsome on wall, richly embellished, where revelers drink.  
At times a warrior bears me on a horse, a battle adornment, and I swallow, bright-shining,  
the breath from his chest.  
At times with my strains I summon the heroes, proudly to wine.  
At times I win back spoil from the spoiler, with sounding voice, put foemen to flight.  
Now ask what I'm called.

### LESSON 85: PENMANSHIP PERFORMANCE

Penmanship performance page for writing: *Medieval Riddles, Part 4*

Additional writing selection: Write your own riddles

## Week 18: Lessons 86–90

**Words of Wisdom:** *Thomas Jefferson's Rules for the Good Life, Part I*

### LESSON 86: CURSIVE PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Uppercase letters with initial curve forward strokes

Trace and write the words:	Rules	Good Life	Thomas
	Jefferson	tomorrow	trouble
	cheap	dear	Never

### LESSON 87: CURSIVE PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Write the French words. cow: vache, walking: promenade, paper: papier, book: livre

Write and answer the comprehension questions:

Did you ever put something off “till tomorrow” that you should have done “today?” What?

How can you “spend your money before you have it?”

Did you ever buy something just because it was on sale and never really used it? What?

### LESSON 88: MANUSCRIPT PRACTICE

Skill Builder: Forward circle numbers

Practice writing the rules:

Rules for the Good Life

Thomas Jefferson

1. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
3. Never spend your money before you have it.
4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap; it will never be dear to you.

### LESSON 89: FINAL CURSIVE PRACTICE

Practice writing the rules:

Rules for the Good Life

Thomas Jefferson

1. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
3. Never spend your money before you have it.
4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap; it will never be dear to you.

### LESSON 90: PENMANSHIP PERFORMANCE

Penmanship performance page for writing: *Thomas Jefferson's Rules for the Good Life, Part I*

Additional writing selection: Selected quotes from Thomas Jefferson

# **Week 1: Lessons 1–5**

## **Words of Wisdom**

### **Fables**

#### ***Aesop’s Fable, The Crow and the Pitcher, Part 1***

Passage for the week:

**A fable is a short tale used to teach a moral, often with animals as characters.**

#### **The Crow and the Pitcher**

**A crow perishing with thirst saw a pitcher, and hoping to find water, flew to it with delight. When he reached it, he discovered to his grief that it contained so little water that he could not possibly get at it.**

#### **Materials needed for the week:**

- Copy of quotation enlarged and displayed in the room.
- Individual student copies of the quotation in cursive from the back of this Teacher’s Guide.
- Dictionary.
- Additional practice pages as needed.

#### **Suggested extension activities:**

- Binder or folder in which to keep the penmanship performance pages.
- Look up the word “fable” in a dictionary. Have the student create his/her own definition for the word “fable.”
- Research the history of Aesop’s Fables.
- Look at famous fables from other countries.

# Lesson 1: Skill Builder, Quotation, & Cursive Practice

## Teaching Tips:

1. Each lesson page should be removed from the student book prior to doing the penmanship lesson.
2. Review the basic cursive strokes of undercurve and slant. An undercurve is a curve under and up stroke. A slant is a slant down and left stroke.
3. Review letters i and t which have an undercurve followed by a slant stroke.  
i—Undercurve; Slant, undercurve, (lift); Dot.  
t—Undercurve; Slant, undercurve, (lift); Slide right.
4. The Skill Builder section of the lesson targets specific and narrow objectives. This gives the students an opportunity to focus on a few skills rather than on everything about their handwriting.
5. Provide a copy of the fable for each student and post the fable in a place where the students can see it. Reproducible copies are in the back of this Teacher's Guide.
6. Introduce the fable for the week which is a portion of *Aesop's Fable, The Crow and the Pitcher*. Have the students read the fable.
7. If needed, review the use of the dictionary to look up words and their definitions. Review the elements of a definition: word, pronunciation, and most commonly used definitions. Review ways to find the appropriate definition for the context of the word.
8. Ask the students what they know about fables like Aesop's, *The Crow and the Pitcher*.
9. Trace and write the words in cursive on the line where the word is given. The words can be used in a sentence or the students also have the option of defining the words.



10. Answer the self-evaluation question in a complete sentence.