

Sixth Year Small Rhymers for Great Books

1
Aeschylus: Prometheus Bound

Prometheus suffered tortures
For giving to mankind
The secrets of the arts and fire
For gods alone designed

2
Plato: Phaedrus

The rhapsodies of love and art
Delight, as well as blind;
The winged soul of beauty though
Leaves all else far behind.

3
Aristotle: Metaphysics, Bk. XII

Of form and substance and their cause,
Of thought, and motion, too,
We find that Aristotle gives a ~~learned~~ point of
A learned point of view.

4
Longinus: On the Sublime.

For lofty style and eloquence
In writing and in speech,
We find this ancient essay
Has much that it can teach.

5
St. Augustine: On Nature and Grace;
On Grace and Free Will.

Save by God's grace, St. Augustine
Believed all men were lost;
Unless redeemed by Jesus Christ
In hell must pay the cost.

6
St. Thomas Aquinas: The ~~Existence~~ and Simplicity
of God: qq. 2-3 from the Summa Theologiae I

Five ways to prove the God exists,
St. Thomas sought to show;
Not only what the Bible says,
But reason makes it so.

Sixth Year Great Books (Continued)

7

Chaucer: Canterbury Tales, selections.

Now Chaucer knew that sprightly tales
Would ease the Pilgrim's way;
Though written very long ago
They cheer us yet today.

8

Shakespeare: Richard II

King Richard thought his rights divine,
Both young and brave was he,
But lost his throne and then his life
Through base conspiracy.

9

Cervantes: Don Quixote, Part I.

Eccentric Don Quixote tried
To be a daring knight,
But Sancho Panza, though not bold,
More oft was in the right.

10

Spinoza: Ethics, Part I

With mathematics as his guide
Spinoza thought he could
Demonstrate that God exists,
Let others doubt who would.

11

Hume: Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion.

Analysis of God and man,
Take what approach you will,
Leaves Natural Religion,
An unsolved myst'ry still.

12

Voltaire: Philosophical Dictionary, selections.

Voltaire, a genius and a wit,
Renounced all superstition,
And tried to ascertain the truth
Of every supposition.

Sixth Year Great Books (Continued)

- 13 Hegel: Philosophy of History, Intro. and
Classification of Historic Data.

The evolution of the State
From Hegel's point of view,
Embodied all that's good and great,
And even Freedom too.

- 14 Darwin: The Origin of species, selections.

The evolution of all life,
To higher forms from low
Through Natural Selection climb,
And better yet may grow.

- 15 Melville: Billy Budd, Foretopman.

Brave Billy died a martyr's death, -
No thought to kill had he,
The victim of a liar's spite,
And heartless rules of sea.

- 16 Henry James: The Turn of the screw.

As evil thoughts may penetrate,
Just like a phantom screw,
They twist and turn within your brain
And cloud your point of view.

Mabel L. Rees