

Fall 2012 Prose & Poetry Recitation

For each season of the year, we endeavor to commit some verse or a prose selection to memory. There's no better way to relish the beauty and power of our native tongue or reflect deeply on the truth that makes us free.

Past selections have included David Middleton's **Of Magnanimity**, Christina Rossetti's **In the Bleak Midwinter**, and a letter of moral counsel, "**Few Words**," written by Thomas Jefferson to a little lad, the son of one of Jefferson's friends.

For the fall of 2012, our selection is William Cowper's **God Moves in a Mysterious Way**. Cowper (1731--1800) is generally regarded as the greatest evangelical poet of 18th-century England.

Families and friends are encouraged to join us in making poetry, rhyme, and eloquent expression an enjoyable aspect of life in American homes again.

God Moves in Mysterious Way

William Cowper (1731--1800)

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill
He treasures up his bright designs, and works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding ev'ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter, and he will make it plain.

(bonus selection)

To A Young Lady

William Cowper

Sweet stream, that winds through yonder glade,
Apt emblem of a virtuous maid---
Silent and chaste she steals along,
Far from the world's gay busy throng:
With gentle yet prevailing force,
Intent upon her destined course;
Graceful and useful all she does,
Blessing and blest where'er she goes;
Pure-bosom'd as that watery glass,
And Heaven reflected in her face.