

◆◆◆ **THE LITTLE FLOWER** ◆◆◆

THE STORY OF SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

COURSE PLAN METHODOLOGY: *The Little Flower* by Mary Fabyan Windeatt is represented by the abbreviation LF. Each weekly assignment is summarized in the first line of the week’s daily course plan. The specific daily assignments are outlined in the following lines indicated by the **MON, TUES, WED, THUR** and **FRI** abbreviations. We suggest assigning the weekly written assignment at the beginning of the week to be completed by the following Monday. This will allow the student time to think about the assignment while he is reading. **The chapter study questions, chapter vocabulary and glossary are located in the Elementary Literature Study Question booklets available for purchase from Kolbe Academy.** Answers should be given in complete written or oral sentences.

WEEK 1	
LF	<p>Chapters 1 – 8. Note there are NO vocabulary words for <i>The Little Flower</i>. Study questions may be completed as the student reads or at the end of the week when reading has been completed.</p> <p>Written Assignment: Describe Therese’s experiences with death starting at an early age. How do her parents use these experiences to teach her about life here and in the hereafter?</p>
MON	<p>Read Chapter 1-2 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 1. Mr. and Mrs. Martin get married in 1858. After eight children are born to them, four of which die in childhood, Therese is born in 1873. She is a sickly baby, so she is sent to live in the country until she becomes healthy and strong. She becomes quite attached to the country woman who cares for her. Chapter 2. As a small girl, Therese is a bit spoiled and begins to show signs of pride. Her family tells her that she must not grieve the Little Jesus and that she must try to become a saint by saying “Yes” to him. Mama becomes ill; the girls pray for her and she makes a pilgrimage to Lourdes, but there Mary tells her that she is to die.</p>
TUES	<p>Read Chapter 3-4 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 3. Mama dies, surrounded by her family. Therese chooses Pauline to be her “Little Mother.” Shortly afterwards, the Martins move to Lisieux to a home called “The Elms.” Therese makes her first Confession at the age of six. Pauline helps prepare her for this, and teaches her many other things about her faith as well. Chapter 4. One day when Papa is away, Therese has a vision of him walking through the garden with a veil over his face. At school, Therese is unhappy because she is younger than all the other girls, and they are cruel to her. Pauline enters the Carmelite monastery, and Therese misses her so much that she falls seriously ill. Everyone prays very hard for her. She feels the devil wrestling with her, but suddenly she feels healing come over her and sees the statue of Mary in her room seem to come to life and smile at her.</p>
WED	<p>Read Chapter 5-6 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 5. When the sisters at Carmel hear about Therese’s miracle, they question her about it so strenuously that she begins to doubt that it happened. Under Marie’s instruction, Therese receives First Communion and Confirmation. She begins to be tormented by scruples, thinking that she is always doing something wrong. She grows sickly again because of her interior struggle, and her aunt lets her stay at her beach house to make her feel better. She cannot go to school, but has a private tutor. Then Marie enters Carmel, and Therese is heartbroken. At her wit’s end, she prays to her little brothers and sisters in Heaven to cure her of the scruples. Her prayer is answered. Later, at Christmas Mass, the Child Jesus makes her feel as if she has finally grown up. Chapter 6. At age fourteen, Therese decides to enter Carmel. Celine wants to</p>

	<p>as well, but she agrees to stay with Papa as long as he lives. Papa consents to let Therese enter the convent at age fifteen, but Canon Delatroette, the priest in charge of Carmel, feels differently. Papa and Therese ask for an interview with the Bishop of Bayeux to ask him for permission. While awaiting this interview, Therese prays for the conversion of a hardened criminal, who ends up kissing the crucifix right before his execution. When Therese goes to visit the bishop, she tries to act brave and grown up. However, he does not think she should enter Carmel so young, and Therese breaks down. Papa says that they will go to Rome and ask the Pope.</p>
<p>THUR</p>	<p>Read Chapter 7-8 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 7. Papa, Celine, and Therese go on a pilgrimage which begins in Paris and ends in Rome. They see many important religious sites and much beautiful scenery. At the Coliseum, Therese prays to be allowed to be a martyr. She is also very moved by the opportunity to touch the nails from the True Cross. On the day they get to meet the Pope, Therese dares to speak to him despite the fact that she is instructed not to. She begs him to let her enter Carmel at age fifteen. He speaks kindly to her, but only tells her that if it is God's will, she will enter. Therese bursts into tears again. Chapter 8. Therese comforts herself with the thought that she is Jesus' little plaything, and that she must allow Him to do His will with her. Finally, Mother Mary Gonzaga, the Prioress at Carmel, announces that Therese will be allowed to enter after Lent the year she turns fifteen. On the day Therese enters, everyone is sad except herself, and the priest in charge of Carmel is still disapproving. She loves her life there right away, but Mother Mary Gonzaga is quite tough on her. Therese makes a Confession of her life and is told that she has never committed a mortal sin. She hopes to begin her novitiate after six months of being a postulant, but Mother Mary Gonzaga makes her wait an extra three months.</p>
<p>FRI</p>	<p>Work on written assignment, due Monday.</p>
<p>Notes</p>	