

Book List for *Language & Epic*

You will need to buy the books highlighted in red below. All other documents and reading material are provided in a printable PDF at the start of the course.

Preparatory Study

Please ensure your child reads *A Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan before the course begins. It doesn't matter whether you choose a traditional or modern language version. We will take some time to talk through the story in the first lesson (discussing the characters, plot structure, and themes).

From September 2026

Please purchase the editions recommended below so we can all work from the same page numbers during discussions. The prices indicate expected cost of new/second-hand copies.

The Roar on the Other Side: A Guide for Student Poets by Suzanne Rhodes

Canon Press, ISBN: 9781885767660 (£12/£10)

Fierce Wars and Faithful Loves (Book I of Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*) annotated by Ray Maynard

Canon Press, ISBN: 9781885767394 (£15/£7)

From January 2027

Paradise Lost by John Milton

Oxford World's Classics, ISBN: 9780199535743 (£8/£5)

Richard II by William Shakespeare.

Oxford School Shakespeare, ISBN: 978-0199137008 (£8/£5)

Simon by Rosemary Sutcliff.

Penguin Random House ISBN 9781782950936 (£9/£7)

This is the only text where page numbers are not important so if you find a cheaper vintage edition, please feel free to purchase that instead!

Note

The Faerie Queene and *Paradise Lost* both contain mature themes. If your child is used to reading Greek and Roman legends, this may well be familiar territory but I prefer to let parents know just in case! We will look at the way in which much of classical imagery is symbolic (particularly in *The Faerie Queene* where Spenser is representing ideas about the church and faith through the characters of the story). It is possible to take the course without reading these texts if you prefer but they are usually enjoyed and encourage a confidence in tackling trickier language.