



Waldorf Handwork Educators

Verses for the Grades

Table of Contents

1st Grade Verses for Opening and Closing	2
2 nd Grade Verses to Begin and End Handwork	3
3 rd Grade Verses for Opening and Closing Handwork.....	5
4th grade opening and closing verses	9
5th Grade Handwork Verses	10
6th Grade Handwork Verse.....	11
7th grade handwork verses	12
8th Grade Handwork Verses	13



1st Grade Verses for Opening and Closing

Accompany these with consistent and rhythmical meaningful movements. The students will learn and internalize the verses more easily and will benefit from large motor stretching movements before and after the challenging fine finger coordination of knitting.

Opening Verses

I reach up to the ceiling
I reach down to the floor.
I stretch my arms and stretch my arms
Till they can stretch - a little bit – more.
Now bring them in and let them fall,
And now you bend your knees.
You bend your knees and bend your knees,
But do not wobble please!

Some trees stand tall and reach for the sky.
Some droop low and so do I.
The gum tree spreads its branches wide,
And gently sways from side to side.

From as far as the stars
To here where I stand,
I come to use my right and left hand.
To plan and create, to stitch and to knit,
Until for my work my hands are fit



My hands are a bowl
They hold water just fine
My hands are a shelter, a pillow, a line
My hands are a nail and a hammer too
My hands are my most useful tools

Closing Verses

Our time for now has ended
Our work for now is done
Our busy hands have served us well
Head, heart, and hands are one

Our time for now has ended
Our hands have come to rest
Thank you hands both left and right
For helping me do my best

2nd Grade Verses for Opening and Closing

Opening Verses

I look at my hands with fingers so fine
And I want to be proud that they are mine
For deep in my heart lies a golden chest
With secret treasures that no one can guess
Unless my hands do their very best
To work and work and open that chest



I reach up to the ceiling
I reach down to the floor.
I stretch my arms and stretch my arms
Till they can stretch - a little bit – more.
Now bring them in and let them fall,
And now you bend your knees.
You bend your knees and bend your knees,
But do not wobble please!

Some trees stand tall and reach for the sky.
Some droop low and so do I.
The gum tree spreads its branches wide,
And gently sways from side to side.

From as far as the stars
To here where I stand,
I come to use my right and left hand.
To plan and create, to stitch and to knit,
Until for my work my hands are fit

Cleaning Up Verse

Many stitches beautiful we have made today
Now the time has come when we must put away
Gather, gather, and into baskets place
Our hands will work gracefully on another day

Revised 8/6/2023



Closing Verses

Our time for now has ended
Our hands have come to rest
Thank you hands both left and right For
helping me do my best

Our time for now has ended
Our work for now is done
Our busy hands have served us well
Head heart and hands are one

Now my doing has come to an end
What I have learned will rest
When I have done my very best
Wisdom, love, and strength will grow And
I shall bless all I know

3rd Grade Verses for Opening and Closing Handwork

Opening Verses

The sheep has given us his wool
The plants the colors bright
Needles are made out of wood
For me to work by golden light



My hands that can knit and crochet
Can sow a seed or cut the hay
Can cast a seam or dig a ditch
Can hammer a nail or sew a stitch
Into my work I'll put thought and care
As I and my friends the quiet do share

From as far as the stars
To here where I stand
I come to use my right and left hand
To card, to fluff
To wind, to knit.
For work so fine, my hands are fit.

From the wild sheep's fleece
The wool is won, and washed and spun.
Sheep give the wool,
We give it form
With line on line, and row on row,
The one long thread begins to show
How the work of our fingers
With patience transforms.
Now the wild sheep's fleece
Can clothe our forms.



With quiet in my mind
With peace in my heart
With strength in my hands
I am ready to start.

Now it is time for my hands to work
They will work with patience
With joy and with ease
Towards a useful creation
Which also shall please

This hour demands
That we work with our hands.
So we work with goodwill
And engage all our skill
To produce for the earth
Objects of worth,
And imbue from our heart
All that we start

We come to you,
Dear Mother Earth
With gifts our hands
Have brought to birth.
These gifts are
Presents from the stars

Revised 8/6/2023



Which center in these hands of ours.

Closing Verses

What I learned today to know

In my being let it grow

Like a seed so thin and small

To a deed that helps us all

Now my doing all has ended,

What I have learned will rest.

When I have done my very best

Wisdom and Love and Power will grow,

And I shall bless all I know

Poems

Song of the Sky Loom

○ our Mother the Earth, ○ our Father the Sky, Your children are we, and with tired backs We bring you the gifts that you love. Thus weave for us a garment of brightness; May the warp be the white light of morning. May the weft be the red light of evening, May the fringes be the falling rain, May the border be the standing rainbow. Thus weave for us a garment of brightness, That we may walk fittingly where birds sing, That we may walk fittingly where grass is green, ○ our Mother the Earth, ○ our Father the Sky.

Author of original: Tewa Oral Tradition

Revised 8/6/2023



Waldorf Handwork Educators
www.WaldorfHandwork.org

4th grade opening and closing verses

Opening Verses

With quiet in my mind

With peace in my heart

With strength in my hands

I am ready to start

I look at my hands with fingers fine

And I am proud that they are mine

One long thread begins to show with each stitch how my works grows

When I work with patience, joy and ease

my useful creations shall always please

Another verse:

Little drops of water ,

little grains of sand,

make the mighty oceans and the pleasant lands.

Little deeds of kindness, little words of love,

make the earth an eden as the heavens above

Closing Verses

Work together hands and heart

Truth and beauty are never apart

Revised 8/6/2023



5th Grade Handwork Verses

Opening Verses

May our work be done with patience
May our work be done with care
May our fingers work as friends together
May I my laughter share

Closing Verses

We've done our work with patience
We've done our work with care
Our fingers worked as friends together
And I my laughter shared

The Modern Hiawatha

Rev. George A. Strong (1832-1912)
He killed the noble Mudjokivis
Of the skin he made him mittens
Made them with the fur side inside
Made them with the skin side outside
He, to get the warm inside,
Put the inside skin side outside.
He, to get the cold side outside,
Put the warm side fur side inside.

Revised 8/6/2023



That's why he put the fur side inside,
Why he put the skin side outside,
Why he turned them inside outside

6th Grade Handwork Verse

Opening Verses

Within my heart there is an image
Of all that I can be
The more that I grow towards it
The more I shall be free

Closing Verses

Steadfast I Stand
Steadfast I stand in the world
With certainty I tread the path of life
Love shall be in the depths of my being
Hope shall be in all my deeds
Confidence I shall impress into my thinking.



7th grade handwork verses

Opening Verses

Joy and woe are woven fine
A clothing for the soul divine
Under every grief and pine
Runs a joy of silken twine
It is right it should be so
Man is made for joy and woe
When this we rightly know
Through the world we safely go

Closing Verses

Steadfast I Stand
Steadfast I stand in the world
With certainty I tread the path of life
Love shall be in the depths of my being
Hope shall be in all my deeds
Confidence I shall impress into my thinking.



8th Grade Handwork Verses

Opening Verses

Let us give a gift of beauty
That long may last when we are gone
Let us give a gift of beauty
For humble souls to feast upon
Whether it be wood or wool,
Leather, cloth, or clay
Let us give a gift of beauty
Lifting spirits in this way

I stand in the light of my own being
And I recognize my powers
I am reason and nothing stands above my choice
I am truth and so I live in the spirit
And so I live forever
I am one with the whole
What happens to the world happens to me

Closing Verses

Steadfast I Stand
Steadfast I stand in the world
With certainty I tread the path of life

Revised 8/6/2023



Love shall be in the depths of my being
Hope shall be in all my deeds
Confidence I shall impress into my thinking.

Revised 8/6/2023



Waldorf Handwork Educators
www.WaldorfHandwork.org