



**CHESTERTON ACADEMY
OF THE SACRED HEART**

***St. Francis of Assisi*, by G. K. Chesterton
Junior Summer Reading Guide**

This is the first book Chesterton wrote after his conversion to Catholicism, and it is a more personal book than many of his other books. Thus, as you enter this next school year, you should also think about the profound lessons contained in this book, how this book might help you personally, and how it could help you become a better follower of Christ.

Many of these questions are designed to ensure that you note some of the essential aspects of Chesterton's commentary on this frequently misunderstood saint, and we will explore many deeper questions as we enter the discussions on this book in the first weeks of Literature 11 in August.

Chapter 1 and Pre-Reading

1. Before you read: What do you think of when you think of St. Francis? Though it need not be lengthy, please prepare a detailed and specific answer to this question
2. Research: What is a troubadour? What is a jongleur? What is mysticism?
3. According to Chesterton, there are three different approaches one could take to writing a biography of St. Francis. What are they? Which one does Chesterton choose? Why?

Chapter 2

1. Why is it important to understand the deeper background to St. Francis? Describe Chesterton's perceptive and quite original analysis of western history.
2. What makes Chesterton's historical account different from other accounts of the same period?
3. What happens when men set out to be natural?

Chapter 3

1. What is the real name of St. Francis? What does "Francis" mean?

2. Why does Chesterton describe Francis as a troubadour?
3. Describe the incident with the beggar at his father's merchant booth.
4. Describe the personality and characteristics of St. Francis.

Chapter 4

1. What happens to St. Francis in this chapter and how does he respond?
2. What were the passages from the Gospel that Francis read randomly, and how did he respond?
3. Is Francis a builder? Is there any irony in the title of this chapter? How does the building end?

Chapter 5

1. Why does Chesterton spend so much time talking about tumblers, and what is the story of Our Lady's Tumbler?
2. What do we DESERVE?

Chapter 6

1. In the previous chapter, Chesterton says that the man who went into the cave was not the same man who came out of it. In this chapter, how does he describe the man who came out of the cave?
2. What art form did Francis start?
3. How can Chesterton say that Francis was not a lover of nature?

Chapter 7

1. How is a friar freer than an ordinary man, or even than a monk?
2. What is Francis' "democratic optimism?"

Chapters 8-9

1. In what ways is St. Francis a mirror of Christ?
2. What miracles are described in Chapter 9? Why don't people believe in miracles?

Chapter 10

1. What does Chesterton say is the "chief suggestion of this book?"