Narration...

Now you may say, "That is great, but how do you use literature as the foundation of your Homeschool and still test and figure their grades???" Well, Narration is the key to being sure that your children are learning from read-alouds. Narration is as old as the Bible. In fact, much of the Bible happens to be divinely inspired Narration (Want to see how different writers with totally different personalities narrate? See the first four books of the New Testament!). If it works for God, you can rest assured that it will work for your young writers!

Narration is simply telling back what the book or story is about. In Narration, the child is able to naturally relate back the information that they deem as important as they read or listened to you read. No need for tests because you hear them tell back what they really learn. You will know that they understand what has been read if they are able to put it into their very own words and retell the passage to you. In fact, studies have been done which show that we learn 5% of what we hear, 10% of what we see, and a whopping 95% of what we teach. Narration is a perfect method to allow the child to "teach" or re-tell what they are learning in their own words. Once they have it, they will keep it!

Some other benefits of Narration are that the children are able to learn to create stories without the toil of making one up because they already have the characters, plot, vocabulary, and story line. All that they must do is articulate the story! What is neat about Narration is that the greatest writers and thinkers are actually tutoring your children. If you had a choice between a textbook written by a committee or lessons taught directly by a skilled author such as Robert Louis Stevenson, C.S. Lewis, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Martha Finley…what would your choice be? My choice is clear, I want for my children to learn from the greatest writers of all time. As a result, their writing style is influenced by those they read and study. However, they do not become clones. Instead, their writing becomes more unique than with any other approach to Language Arts. Their writing skills become more advanced quicker because they have had non-threatening experience with composition. Plus, they find writing to be easy, ntural, and fun! All because of Reading and Narration!

Do you remember when they were little how they had that one little book that you had to read over and over? They could look at the pictures and tell it word for word. If you were reading it and you missed one word, they knew it?? Well, guess what? That is Narration in its simplest form. You were reading the book and they learned the story and could retell it. It is amazing how we trade in the natural for the artificial! If you will think back, your children were even learning vocabulary without the dictionary...

grammar without a grammar text...how to tell a story without a lesson on how to write...how to love books without a word of instruction by you! Give it a try and really listen to what comes out!

To use Narration in your home school, simply read a book to them, let them re-tell the story and that is it! After we have used this technique in our Homeschool for the last 9 years, I have found that there is more being learned through Narration than I first realized. If there is one thing, other than reading aloud that EVERY family could truly benefit from, Narration is that one thing (well, there are a few more things, but that is coming in a moment!)!

If we want to encourage our young writers to really develop a love of writing, we have to find ways to let them REALLY know that what they are sharing is very, very important and very, very special to us. Narration does this. Actually Narration could easily be called discussion or relationship building. As the years have gone by, if I were to be "pinned down" on the one thing that has really spoken volumes to my children about my interest in their writing, Narration would have to be it. It takes TIME to really listen, with interest, to what another person is learning about a topic. This is exactly what we have found to be essential in making Narration work in the Homeschool.

The foundation that is laid as we "listen" to our little ones as they talk on and on and often ON about a topic is simply irreplaceable. Just listening to them talk about Indians…or Glock Pistols…or the Circulatory System…or the History of Dance…just listening communicates to them that what they KNOW is really interesting to others. This is a crucial stone in the foundation of a great writer. EVERY writer needs to know that what they are writing is interesting to others. As our children learn that THEY are the "professional" on their topic, we will find them bubbling over with enthusiasm to share with others about what they know.

Now, note! This is mostly ORAL. There is a time. I repeat…THERE IS A TIME to learn how to write their Narrations and thoughts down on paper. But, children need many, many years of Oral Narration before they ever begin to write on paper about their thoughts and ideas. They also need Oral Narration for the rest of their lives. Just because they can put their thoughts on paper, it is not the time to cut off the discussions and time of listening to them.

For more formal, Written Narration, you can begin by taking Dictation as the child retells the story to you. Re-copy the Narration neatly and assign the children to copy the Narration into their Copybooks. As they have gotten older, my children do this for

themselves. Do keep in mind that my children are in 10th and 7th grade. If there is one danger for Homeschooling mothers, I think it is that many rush into this step just to "document" what their children are learning rather than to move into this step as they are really ready. Oh, and I only know this because I DID!

Want to know when they are ready? Well, I recommend moving gently into Written Narrations as the children develop ease in daily Copywork selections. We did not begin writing Narrations until our children were able to easily copy a whole page of Copywork neatly and with great ease. Also, by that time, their Narrations were very good, sounding much like the story and following the story line without leaving out much and without chasing rabbits. If you need more help with this area, check out our books on Language Arts *(they are on special this month)*.

Another thing that I think is very, very important is to realize that it can be VERY, VERY exhausting to require daily Written Narrations, EVEN if they could do it. I say this because I have been guilty myself in the beginning of wanting to have every book that my children read recorded by a Written Narration in their notebooks. Just in case you secretly hate Narration because you have a long-winded child, I want to encourage you that Narration can become JUST as "school-at-home" as any other technique for teaching children. If we sacrifice our children at the altar of "our way" rather than dying daily to our wishes, ideas, preferences, and techniques (Romans 12: 1-2), we will find even the best ideas not working.

Want Narration to be EASY and really work? Make it as natural as possible. Break free from the trap of "documenting" all that they know. Eventually, you will find that a real education cannot ever be accurately presented on paper. Enjoy what they are learning. Get to KNOW your child. Don't substitute knowing your child for documenting all that you are doing in your Homeschool. Yes, you CAN document an overview of their education. But, the best things are those things that you will have as treasures to ponder in your heart. Breaking the heart of your child is simply not worth a few pieces of paper that will just be stuffed in the attic. Plus, hold on and we will get to a FUN and EASY way to document their real learning in a bit *(Notebooking and Creating Books!!!!)*.

Copywork...

Ok! But! What about learning how to write? What about developing the skill of handwriting? What about Spelling? What about Grammar? What about Punctuation? Oh! Beloved, this is where Copywork comes in!

Copywork is another way that I teach Language Arts. We do Copywork the easy way too. Copywork may seem to be a foreign word, but it is a very simple concept with far reaching benefits.

With Copywork, my children simply copy a selection (of their choice) each day into their Notebooks. My focus in not on the subjects, but rather on the skill being used as they pursue areas of interest. For those of you who are familiar with the benefits of Unit Studies or Literature Based Learning, you will know that deep studies on topics of interest easily cover subjects as our children are given a full education. Actually, we have found that our children have covered the subjects more fully and in greater detail than they would have by simply receiving a nodding acquaintance with a textbook study, plus they remember what they are learning!

Their Notebooks are simply 3-ring binders with loose-leaf paper. We found a few years ago that it helped to use plastic sheet protectors in which you slide paper into from the top to protect the work as soon as it is written. We keep paying Wal-Mart employee salaries with the number that we buy each year but it is worth the cost as our children have created wonderful Notebooks full of beautiful Copywork! *(more on that in a bit!)*

When we first began, I chose short selections from Bible verses and poems in which we liked. I would write the selection at the top of a page and let them copy underneath my copy. Now, my children choose their own Copywork from gems that they find along the way. They choose from Narrations of books we read aloud, favorite passages of Scripture, great narratives that we find along the way, favorite poems and quotes, or neat facts that they run across and just want to keep in their special Notebooks. I do want to note that their Notebooks are their own collections of treasures.

This in no way eliminates formal instruction although it changes it from how you may be thinking of it. You see, as they are copying the passages, they ask about punctuation, grammar, and spelling that they have never seen. It is in this natural way that I seize the moment to teach how things should be and why or how to look up the answer. We have used general resource books like ***Learning Grammar through Writing*** and ***The Writer's Reference*** as basic texts to look up our questions. We have also made "Grammar and Spelling Rules" Notebooks to collect the different rules and examples of their use. This is so much more applicable to our real life than a workbook that does not address the areas in which we really need help. Not only do they remember the rules better, but they also learn how to research problem areas for the future.

Back to Copywork…After they copy their selection for the day, they check for any errors and to make sure that their copy is as neat as possible. If their work is not neat, I make them re-copy. In all of the years that we have used Copywork, this has only been necessary a couple of times (of course, our children KNOW that I will make them re-copy if their work is not the best that they can do). This has been a great encouragement as they have learned to do their nicest work, plus they have the incentive that their Notebooks are their very own special treasures which makes them take pride in each and every page!

In using Copywork, I have found that we have eliminated much of the busy work as we eliminated dry workbooks, spelling and vocabulary tests, and even the silly assignments that give children a bad taste for writing. Their work has had a purpose and in turn, has had meaning. The daily lessons are not for a time filler or "just because." Their work builds a real life project, a notebook. It also has developed disciplines that have prepared them to be good citizens and great writers.

As we look back over the last 9 years, we can see their improvements as they have developed the skills of writing. We can also see their character as we take a peek into the selections that they have chosen along the way. All of the benefits have gotten better as the years have passed.

This brings me to another great point about Copywork. It does not end just because children get to a certain age. Up until about 100 years ago, Copywork was an integral part of every child's education and lifestyle as they grew into adulthood. In fact, I found in one of my favorite books, ***The Imitation of Christ***, that the author, Thomas A' Kempis was noted to have copied the Bible at least 4 times in his life. This was hardly an accomplishment of an elementary age child. This was a life discipline that probably was one of the major contributors to his wonderful literary style that has shaped generations of godly men and women. This is not the only example of great men and women being disciplined and taught by Copywork. There are many, many more examples dating as far back as the Old Testament. In fact, take a peek at Deuteronomy 17: 18-20. The Kings were trained by copying the law in a book that could be carried with them. Yes. This model has worked and continues to work in discipling great writers and great leaders.

We still use Copywork. As matter of fact, as our children have entered junior and senior high, we have found even more great benefits. Their Copywork has entered a new realm as they have gotten older. Now, they are creating their own "textbooks" (notebooks) with truly dependable information on all of the subjects that

we are studying. It just does not get any better than this! Besides having reliable information, our children are blessed with studying topics much deeper than they would study if they were merely cramming for a test. As they copy the information, they are still having the benefits of "seeing" spelling, grammar, and great writing models. However, there is more. They are learning how to research any topic of interest to find the gems of information. The lessons that have been learned reach much, much further than a mere bunch of facts learned for a test. This old method is just as sure and true as it was hundreds of years ago!

Dictation...

Dictation is another area of teaching Language Arts that greatly prepares children for their adult life. I took copious notes by dictation in college and still continue to do so during Church, Bible Study, classes, and seminars. This skill is necessary for all of life and should not be neglected in the Homeschool.

Just begin to use Dictation by allowing your children to become familiar with one or two lines...you may want to begin by dictating your grocery list, including spelling aloud the words slowly. If your children are a bit older and familiar with spelling through read alouds or Copywork, they may be ready for you to use a Bible verse or a neat quote. Let them study over the spelling and punctuation until they feel that they KNOW it! Then, review the selection pointing out spelling that looks confusing, punctuation marks (explaining why they are there!), and noting how it should be set it up on the paper (indented, skip lines...whatever). When they are ready, SLOWLY dictate the selection along with even spelling words that may be difficult after they have had a chance to try to spell it on their own. This will keep from having error instilled in their minds. After you are finished, give them the copy and let them check it themselves correcting any errors. That is all there is to it!

Again, just as Written Narrations come after years of Oral Narration and Copywork, so do Dictation exercises. I have found that my visual learner does better with Dictation than my Auditory Learner. She seems to "see" the spelling of words in her mind. Students are not ready for Dictation exercises until they have had much, much experience with "seeing" the spelling and punctuation through reading and Copywork. If you have an older child who is still not a great speller, try Dictation. Do note: even as the children develop a great skill in this area, they still need for most of their efforts in Language Arts to be expended in their Reading, Oral Narration, and Copywork.

As your students get older, they can handle greater challenges with their Dictation

exercises. The same longer passages that they use for Copywork, they can use for their Dictation exercises. You can use anything from speeches, to narrations, to Bible passages, etc. Just give this old model a try!

Notebooking…

Ok…You love ALL of these ideas. You are completely convinced about the power of great literature. BUT…you have one very real problem. Your child loves workbooks. Not because the workbooks are interesting…or full of information…or even challenging. The reason they prefer workbooks is because they really do like "seeing" the work they need to do AND looking back to see all that they have accomplished. Your questions are, "Do I have any options here? How can I implement a Literature Based Approach to education AND meet these very real needs?" My dear friend, there really is an answer! Notebooking!

Now, this is a topic that makes me hyper! This is the one technique that pulls everything above together. All of those books that you have read have great material, pictures, and information that can be kept in Notebooks. All of those precious Narrations can be safely protected in Notebooks. All of those daily Copywork lessons can find their home in Notebooks on each of the topics that your children love so much.

So, how do you do it? You are ready to jump right in? Getting started is as easy as A, B, C. First of all, **begin with one notebook for each child**. When we began Notebooking, we bought one big 3-ring notebook for each child. They kept just one until that one notebook was filled to overflowing. Then, we divided their notebooks into natural divisions, not by subjects. You will find your children with lots of great interests. Many will deepen over the years while others will die out. Don't make "Notebooking" the goal…instead, make their delights in learning the goal and use Notebooking to develop their interests.

Have no idea what you need? Notebooking can be as economical or as extravagant as you want. You have much freedom in what you choose to use. You will need some **basic supplies** such as one notebook per child, plastic sleeve protectors, paper (Use card-stock for mounting specimens or lined paper for Journaling, Copywork, quotes, notes, or lists! You may want to consider Acid free/lignin free paper if you are mounting pictures of your walks and findings!), sketch paper for watercolor pictures or sketches from nature, top quality sketch pencils, top quality watercolors and brushes, index cards for data entries, and scissors! This allows versatility in what goes into our notebooks. We put EVERYTHING that we can press flat in ours! For things needing

mounting, we use mounting tape or archival safe glues for mounting.
Then **add your goodies!** Add sketches, Copywork, samples of nature specimens, or photos...we find that our notebooks can include whatever we want to add for that subject!

As you see a subject developing into it's own notebook of interest, take it from the general notebook and make a notebook of its own. In just one year after Matthew began Notebooking, he divided his binders into many different topics... Poetry, General History, Military History, Civil War History, Bible Verses, Book of Centuries (timeline), Science, Scouts, God's World Papers...so on! The focus is not upon subjects or a number of notebooks. Instead, the focus is upon his favorite areas of interest and learning to use the skills of learning in a daily disciplined study. Before you get the wrong idea, I do want to note that he does not work in each notebook each day. As you begin Notebooking, you will soon find that just one passage of Copywork per day added to your notebook adds up fast! The purpose is to learn skills so that the writing delight will grow naturally!

Allow your children to work back and forth on different notebooks. This is EXACTLY what I do in my personal life/writing. In fact, as I have studied the disciplines of professional writers, I see that most have many studies and writing projects going on at any given time. If writers need this change of pace, how much more so will our children? Allow room for them to change their pace and their focus. If they seem to get frustrated with one topic and a breather does not bring back the passion, let them put aside the notebook for a period of time. This always allows my children a breather. Either they come back later with a renewed interest OR we just let the notebook wait. Personally, I have notebooks that **I** began 16 years ago that I work on maybe once a year. Children may or may not have a renewed interest in an old study…that is OK! Ministering to our children and encouraging a love of learning are far more important than anything that they may or may not DO.

So, Language Arts IS Easy Too…

So, what do you think? I know that there are many, many more models for teaching Language Arts the EASY WAY. We use so many other models in our home like writing booklets and books…doing research papers…writing articles…writing book reviews…keeping data lists…creative writing…essay writing…But, I just had to stop somewhere. My point is to take a look at the old paths. By an "old path," I mean take a look beyond the way that education is today. Go back to the ancient paths. Jeremiah 6: 16 says…

"Thus saith the Lord: Stand by the roads and look; and ask for the eternal paths, where the good, old way is; then walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."

Teaching our children should not be stressful. It should not bring us to tears. Teaching our children should be easy. It can be very, very easy. Teaching our children should not cost a fortune. It can be as reasonable as we make it. Teaching our children should remain as natural as possible. It can be as natural as a mother cuddling up with her children and great literature followed by a time around the kitchen table copying gems that they find along the way.

All of these ideas for implementing Language Arts are an easy, cost-free, natural, and fun approach to teaching Language Arts. I pray that you will enjoy Homeschooling and teaching Language Arts as never before. You have before you a child. You have the whole world of literature before you. Why not dig in? How about giving the EASY WAY a try? You know where to begin…

"COME TO ME, all you who labor and are heavy laden and overburdened, and I WILL CAUSE YOU TO REST, [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take MY YOKE upon you and LEARN OF ME, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For my yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is LIGHT and EASY TO BE BORNE." Matthew 11: 28-30 (Amplified Bible)

Happy Homeschooling!

Copywork...Answers To Your Questions!

Featuring Cindy Roushton

Who???

What???

Why???

How??? Quick How-To's To Get You Going...

When??? A Typical Day...

The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers
The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers
The breaking waves dashed high
On a stern and rock-bound Coast,
And the woods against a stormy sky
Their giant branches tossed.

And the heavy night hung dark
The hill and water o'er
When a band of exiles moored their bark
On the wild New England shore.

by Felicia Dorothea Hemans

Keep steadily in the view of the great principles for which you contend... The safety of your homes and the lives of all you hold dear depend upon your courage and exertions. Let each man resolve to be victorious, and that the right of self-government, liberty and peace shall find him a defender.

—Robert E. Lee's speech to his soldiers, September 9, 1861

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Even though I walk though the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil: for Thou art with me Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and loving kindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in in the houses of the Lord forever.

Patrick Henry

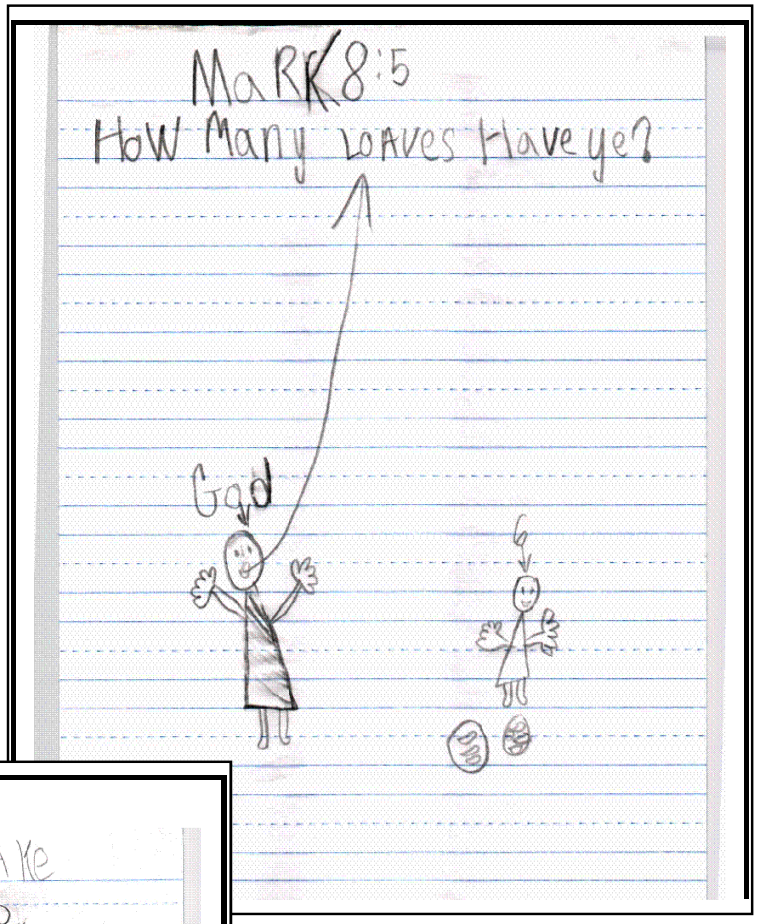
"There is no longer room for hope. If we wish to be free, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Host is all that is left us! We are not weak. We shall not fight alone. God presides over the destinies of nations, and will raise up friends to help us. I do not know what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Scattered Crumbs

When winter winds are blowing
And clouds are full of snow,
There comes a flock of little birds
A-flying to and fro,
About the naked garden,
Around the empty field,
In any roadside shrub or tree
That may a berry yield.
You'll see them flitting, flitting,
And hear their merry song.
The scattered crumbs of summer's feast
Feed winter birdies long.

Keep steadily in the view of the great principles for which you contend... The safety of your homes and the lives of all you hold dear depend upon your courage and exertions. Let each man resolve to be victorious, and that the right of self-government, liberty and peace shall find him a defender.

—Robert E. Lee's speech to his soldiers, September 9, 1861



The PANCAKE

Mix a pancake,
STIR a pancake
POP it IN a PAN.

Fry a pancake,
Toss THE PANCAKE
CATCH IT if YOU CAN.

by Christina Rossetti

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not
want. He makes me lie down in green
pastures; He leads me beside quiet
waters. He restores my soul; He guides
me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake. Even though I walk
though the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil: for Thou art with me
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort
me. Thou dost prepare a table before
me in the presence of my enemies;
Thou hast anointed my head with oil;
my cup overflows. Surely goodness
and loving kindness will follow me all
the days of my life, And I will dwell in
in the house of the Lord forever.

"Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and supreme call for Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to pray...Let there be prayer at sun-up, noon day, at sun-down, at midnight, all through the day. Let us all pray for our children, our youth, our aged, our pastors, our homes. Let us pray for our churches. Let us pray for ourselves, that we may not lose the word 'concern` out of our Christian vocabulary. Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders. Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice."

-Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), Commander in Chief of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia

Ideas For Your Mommy Copywork…

Proverbs 31 10-31…

10: Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.
11: The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
12: She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
13: She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
14: She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
15: She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.
16: She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
17: She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
18: She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.
19: She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
20: She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
21: She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
22: She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
23: Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
24: She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
25: Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
26: She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
27: She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
28: Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.
29: Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
30: Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.
31: Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Proverbs 31 Amplified Bible…

"A capable, intelligent, and virtuous woman—who is he who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far above rubies or pearls. The heart of her husband trusts in her confidently and replies on and believes in her securely, so that he has no lack of [honest] gain or need of [dishonest] spoil. She comforts, encourages, and does him good as long as there is life within her. She seeks out wool and flax and works with willing hands [to develop it]. She is like the merchant ships loaded with food stuffs; she brings her household's food from a far [country]. She rises while it is yet night and gets [spiritual] food for her household and assigns her maids their tasks. She considers a [new] field before she buys or accepts it [expanding prudently and not courting neglect of

her present duties by assuming other duties]; with her savings [of time and strength] she plants fruitful vines in her vineyard. She girds herself with strength [spiritual, mental, and physical fitness for her God-given task] and makes her arms strong and firm. She tastes and sees that her gain from work [with and for God] is good; her lamp goes not out, but it burns on continually through the night [of trouble, privation, or sorrow, warning away fear, doubt, and distrust]. She lays her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She opens her hands to the poor, yes, she reaches out her filled hands to the needy [whether in body, mind, or spirit]. She fears not the snow for her family, for all her household are doubly clothed in scarlet. She makes fr herself coverlets, cushions, and rugs of tapestry. Her clothing is of linen, pure and fine, and of purple [such as that of which the clothing of the priests and the hallowed cloths of the temple were made]. Her husband is known in the city's gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes fine linen garments and leads others to buy them; she delivers to the merchants girdles [or sashes that free one up for service]. Strength and dignity are her clothing and her position is strong and secure; she rejoices over the future [the latter day or time to come, knowing that she and her family are in readiness for it]! She opens her mouth in skillful and godly wisdom and on her tongue is the law of kindness [giving counsel and instruction]. She looks well to how things go in her household, and the bread of idleness (gossip, discontent, and self-pity) she will not eat. Her children rise up and call her blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied); and her husband boasts of and praises her, [saying] Many daughters have done virtuously, nobly, and well [with the strength of character that is steadfast in goodness], but you excel them all. Charm and grace are deceptive, and beauty is vain [because it is not lasting], but a woman who reverenty and worshipfully fears the Lord, she shall be praised! Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates [of the city].

"Through skillful and godly wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation], and by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches."
Proverbs 24: 3-4

Isaiah 54: 2-4…

2: Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;
3: For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.
4: Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

Isaiah 54: 2-4 Amplified…

"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations; spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou

confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of the widowhood any more."

"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." *Proverbs 14:1*

"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." *Genesis 2:18*

Philippians 4:8...
"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Charlotte Mason, *"A child has not begun his education until he has acquired the habit of reading to himself, with interest and pleasure, books fully on a level with his intelligience. I am speaking now of his lesson books, which are all to apt to be written in a style of insufferable twaddle, probably because they are written by persons who have never chanced to meet a child. ...Therefore, the selection of their first lesson-books is a matter of grave importance, because it rests with these to give children the idea that knowledge is supremely attractive and that reading is delightful. Once the habit of reading his lesson books with delight is set up in a child, his education is—not completed, but ensured; he will go on for himself in spite of the obstructions which school too commonly throws in his way."*

Charlotte Mason in her book ***Home Education*** shares, *"Let him...linger pleasantly over the history of a single man, a short period, until he thinks the thoughts of that man, is at home in the ways of that period. Though he is reading and thinking of the lifetime of a single man, he is really getting acquainted with the history of a whole nation for a whole age. Let him spend a year of intimacy with Alfred, 'the truth-teller' with the Conqueror, with Richard and Saladin, or with Henry V.—Shakespeare's Henry V.—and his victorious army. Let him know what other nations were doing while we were at home doing thus and thus. If he comes to think that the people of another age were truer, larger-hearted, simpler-minded than ourselves, that the people of some other land were, at one time, at any rate, beter than we, why, so much the better for him."*

Gladys Hunt, **Honey for a Child's Heart,** *"As Christian parents we are concerned about building whole people—people who are alive emotionally, spiritually, intellectually. The instruction to train up a child in the way he should go encompasses so much more than teaching him the facts of the gospel. It is to train the child's character, to give him high ideals, and to encourage integrity. It is to provide largeness of thought, creative thinking, imaginative wondering—an adequate view of God and His world. He can never really appreciate the finest without personal redemption. But many a redeemed person lives in a*

small insecure world because he has never walked with God into a larger place which is His domain. We have books and The Book at our disposal to use wisely for God's glory. A young child, a fresh uncluttered mind, a world before him—to what treasures will you lead him? With what will you furnish his spirit?

Gladys Hunt, **Honey for a Child's Heart,** *" Take all the words available in the human vocabulary and read them from the dictionary, and you have only a list of words. But with the creativity and imagination God has given human beings, let these words flow together in the right order and they give wings to the spirit. Every child ought to know the pleasure of words so well chosen that they awaken sensibility, great emotions, and understanding of truth. This is the magic of words—a touch of the supernatural, communication which ministers to the spirit, a gift of God."*

Terry Glaspey, ***Great Books of the Christian Tradition,***
"God Himself chose the medium of a book as His primary way to communicate to us the truth of His love and grace. The Life of Christ is forever revealed and offered to us in the medium of a book. When we ponder church history, we find that many great leaders and thinkers were set on their path through the agency of a book which transformed their life or their way of thinking..."

Books are like people:
fascinating, inspiring, thought provoking,
some laugh,
some meditate,
others ache with old age, but still have wisdom;
some are disease-ridden,
some deceitful;
but others are a delight to behold,
and many travel to foreign lands;
some cry, some teach, others are lots of fun.
they are excellent companions,
and all have individuality—
Books are friends.
What person has too many friends?
Unknown

C.S. Lewis, *"No book is really worth reading at the age of ten which is not equally (and often far more) worth reading at the age of fifty and beyond."*

Copywork To Get You Started!

Excited? Ready To Go? Yet, wondering just what COULD you do bright and early Monday Morning for Copywork? Well, these ideas are taken from our books ***Language Arts...The Easy Way*** and ***Nature Study...The Easy Way.*** *There are MANY, MANY MORE selections for you to choose from in those books. We pray that these will get you going!*

From Elisabeth's Notebook…

Names of the books of the Bible
John 3:16
Romans 3:23
John 17:17
Psalm 46:1
Matthew 6:21
1 John 2:12
1 Samuel 3:1
1 John 1:8
Romans 3: 23-24
1 John 1: 9
Luke 1:13
Romans 4:13
Romans 1:16
Matthew 5:4
Matthew 5:1
Mark 8:5
Psalm 23 (Elisabeth took a phrase a day to copy and illustrate…Soooo cute!)

From Matthew's Notebook…

Psalm 119: 1-6
Psalm 24: 1-6
Psalm 91: 7-9
Ephesians 6: 10-13
Matthew 5:9
Matthew 5: 3-4
Matthew 5: 3-12
Psalm 1:2
James 1: 2
Psalm 1:3
Psalm 23: 1-6
Proverbs 22:6
Proverbs 27:17
Proverbs 3:21
Proverbs 3:20
Psalm 46:1
Proverbs 15:21
Matthew 6: 9-13
Psalm 90:12
Psalm 127: 4
Psalm 1:1
Proverbs 10:1
Psalm 141:3
John 3:16
Romans 1: 16
John 3:3
John 1:1
Psalm 15:1
Psalm 101:3
Psalm 1:6
Romans 6:23
Romans 3:23
Genesis 1: 1-2
1 John 1: 1-2
Psalm 23: 1-5
1 Timothy 6:10
Matthew 5:9

Matthew 27:46
Judges 7:18
Psalm 46:1
Joshua 24:14-15
Isaiah 9: 16, 17a
Proverbs 11:13
Psalm 1
Proverbs 10:1
Matthew 5: 3-9
Romans 5:8
Job 1: 21-22
Matthew 5: 10-12
James 1: 1-2
Romans 5:8
Psalm 13: 1-3
Psalm 120: 1-3
Psalm 13:1-3
Psalm 100:1
Psalm 134: 1-3
Psalm 117: 1-2
Psalm 43: 1-2
Psalm 130 1-3
Psalm 67: 1-2
Ephesians 6: 10-11
Ephesians 6: 12-14
Ephesians 6: 15-17
Psalm 4: 1-2
Psalm 52: 8-9
Exodus 20: 3-17
Proverbs 1: 8-9
Romans 1: 16-17
Proverbs 1: 10-13
Romans 12: 19-21
Psalms 10: 1-3
Romans 12: 10-12
Romans 12: 13-14
Romans 13:8
Romans 13: 8-9
Proverbs 1: 1-3
Hebrews 11: 20-22
Books of the Bible

Poems...

Try, Try Again
Author Unknown

Here's a lesson all should heed
Try, try again.
If at first you don't succeed—
Try, try again.
Let your courage well appear,
If you only persevere,
You will conquer, never fear—
Try, try again.

Thanksgiving Prayer
By Edna Mae Busch

Help us, dear Lord, our good to share
With those who have no one to care,
So that they, too, may say
This is a blest Thanksgiving Day!

Weather
Anonymous

Whether the weather be fine,
Or whether the weather be not,
Whether the weather be cold,
Or whether the weather be hot,
We'll weather the weather
Whatever the weather,
Whether we like it or not.

Sunbeams…

Kind words are like sunbeams
That sparkle as they fall;
And loving smiles are sunshine,
A light of joy to all.

The Pirate Story
By Robert Louis Stevenson

Three of us afloat in a the meadow by the swing,
  Three of us aboard in the basket on the lea.
Winds are in the air, they are blowing in the Spring,
  And waves are on the meadow like the waves there are at sea.

Where shall we adventure, to-day that we're afloat,
  Wary of the weather and steering by a star?
Shall it be to Africa, a-steering of the boat,
  To Providence, or Babylon, or off to Malabar?

Hi! but here's a squadron a-rowing on the sea—
  Cattle on the meadow a-charging with a roar!
Quick, and we'll escape them, they're as mad as they can be,
  The wicket is the harbour and the garden is the shore.

Who Has Seen the Wind?
By Christina Georgina Rosetti

Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you:
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I:
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.

Make Much of Time…
Robert Herrick

Gather ye rosebuds, while ye may,
  Old time is still a-flying,
And this same flower, that smiles today,
  To-morrow will be dying.

A Thought
By Robert Louis Stevenson, ***A Child's Garden of Verses***

It is very nice to think
The world is full of meat and drink,
With little children saying grace
In every Christian kind of place.

I am…
By Amy Carmichael

I am the God of the stars,
They do not lose their way,
Not one do I mislay.
Their times are in My Hand,
They move at my command.

I am the God of the stars,
Today as yesterday,
The God of thee and thine,
Less thine they are than Mine;
And shall Mine go astray?

I am the God of the stars,
Lift up thine eyes and see
As far as mortal may
Into Eternity;
And stay thy heart on Me.

Neat Quotes…

"The best things are nearest: breath in your nostrils, light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of God just before you."

Robert Louis Stevenson

"Whatever your circumstances may be, no matter how long your tough times may have lasted, wherever you may be today. I bring you this reminder, the stronger the winds… the deeper the roots, and the longer the winds…the more beautiful the tree."

Chuck Swindoll, ***Living Insights Bible***

"The world will never starve for want of wonders."

G.K. Chesterton

"If you desire to be more Heavenly minded, think more of the things of Heaven, and less of the things of earth."

Stonewall Jackson

"Changes come all the time…"

LM. Montgomery

"Solitude is as needful to the imagination as society is wholesome for the character."

James Russell Lowell

"Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and supreme call for Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to pray… Let there be prayer at sun-up, noon day, at sun-down, at midnight, all through the day. Let us all pray for our children, our youth, our aged, our pastors, our homes. Let us pray for our churches. Let us pray for ourselves, that we may not lose the word 'concern' out of our Christian vocabulary. Let us pray for our nation. Let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ and redeeming love, for moral forces everywhere, for our national leaders. Let prayer be our passion. Let prayer be our practice."

Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), Commander in Chief of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia

"There is a true glory and honour: the glory of duty done-the honour of the integrity of the principle."

Robert E. Lee, Appomattox, 1865

"I know that Heaven is in store for me, and I should rejoice in the prospect of going there tomorrow. But, still, I am ready to leave it any day…for that Heaven which I know awaits me…I would not agree to the slightest diminution of one shade of my glory there, not for all the fame which I have acquired, or shall ever win in this world."

Stonewall Jackson, 1862

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for that day."

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)
Sixteenth President of the United States

"Our present political system has been achieved in a manner unprecedented in the history of nations.... It illustrates the American idea that government rests on the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or establish them at will whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established. Obstacles may retard, but they can no longer prevent the progress of a movement sanctified by its justice and sustained by a virtuous people."

President Jefferson Davis's Inaugural Address, Montgomery, Alabama February 1861

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