

Homemade Books!

Yes! You Can Be a
Writer Too!
Manual

By
Cindy Rushton

"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)

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Other Books by Cindy Rushton...



A Charlotte Mason Primer
A Cup of Tea???

A Wise Woman Builds Her Home Bible Study
CHRIST-Centered Christmas

Enlarge the Place of Your Tent...KEEP Your Home! Bible Study
Fill Your Cup Back Up...

High School! YES! It CAN Be Easy Too!
Homeschooling: Digging Into All of the Options
Homeschooling...The Easy Way MEGA Issue
Homeschooling...The Easy Way Workshop Manual
Homeschooling The Easy Way Reprint Book Volume 2
Homeschooling The Easy Way Reprint Book Volume 3
Inspiring Our Children Toward Greatness Using Great Literature
Language Arts...The Easy Way
Make Your Own Alphabet Notebook
Make Your Own Alphabet Book
Make Your Own Brain-in-A-Binder Printables
Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook for Boys
Make Your Own Discipleship Notebook for Girls
Make Your Own History Timeline Notebook
Make Your Own English from the Roots Up Notebook
Make Your Own Mommy Journal
Make Your Own Mommy Record-Keeping Notebook
Make Your Own Never-Ending Reading List Book
Make Your Own Never-Ending Reading List Notebook
Make Your Own Recipe Notebook
Make Your Own Science Notebook
Make Your Own Student Record-Keeping Notebook
Marriage 101: Hey! What's This All About??? Bible Study
Ministering to the Heart of Your Child Bible Study
Ministering to the Heart of Your Child
Nature Study...The Easy Way
Notebooking...YES! You CAN Be A Binder Queen Too!
Notebooking! Yes! You CAN Be A Binder Queen Too Workshop Manual
Organization 911! Help for the Messy Homeschool Mom
Organization 911! Help for the Messy Mom!
Spiritual Mothering: The Call to Mentoring, Mothering, and Ministry Bible Study
Step-by-Step Through Daniel
The Great I AM: A Study Through the Names of God—ABBA FATHER
The Great I AM: A Study Through the Names of God—ISHI
The Hidden Woman of the Heart: A Bible Study for YOUR Heart
The Never-ending Rushton Reading List
The Ultimate Mommy Menu Planner!
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volumes 1 and 2
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 3
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 4
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 5
Time for Tea Reprint Book for Volume 6
Time for Tea Reprint book for Volume 7
Who? Me? A Virtuous Woman???

PLUS! Lots More Coming Soon!!!
Stay Tuned!

Table of Contents...



About the Author... Page 9

A Special Note-To YOU The Reader...Page 11

Special Thanks...Page 13

In Loving Dedication...Page 15

Come Write with Me...

Come Write with Me... Page 19

Yes! YOU Can Be A Writer Too!

Homemade Books! Yes! YOU Can Be a Writer Too...Page 23

Why Write Books...Page 25

20 Reasons Why YOU (as a Student) Would LOVE Creating Your Own
Homemade Books...Page 33

Ok...But FIRST...I Am Dealing with a Reluctant, Frustrated, Wore-Out,
Extremely Resistant Writer...Page 35

Slow and Steady! Understanding the Process of Learning... Page 41

Where Do I Begin???

Step-by-Step From Start to Setup to Selling...Page 49

Choosing the Perfect Topic... Page 53

Ideas To Get You Started... Page 55

Oh! The Final Choice! The Topic For THIS Book...Page 79

Get a Vision...The Cure for Writer's Block... Page 81

Let's Try Outlining...Page 87

Writing Your Heart Out... Page 97

Making It Great by Proofreading... Page 101

Taking a Look at Great Books for Ideas... Page 105

The Parts of a Book...What To Include in a Book...Page 109

An Easy Guide to Binding Options... Page 113

What About Illustrations? Ideas To Get You Started...Page 117

Get Ready to Publish...Creating Your Own Book...Page 121

Make a Mock Up... Page 123

Time to Design Your Book Cover...Page 125

Easy Laminated Covers... Page 127

Time to Edit! Yes! YOU! An Editor...Page 129

Making a Comb-bound Book...Page 131

Share Your Treasure...Page 133

Oh! Help Me Make It Great!

Let's Keep an Idea Notebook...Page 137

Secrets to Your Own Style: Read! Read! Read...Page 141

Choosing the Very Best Resources for Read Alouds...Page 143

Set Up Your Very Own Writer's Nook...Page 149

Tips for Terrific Titles...Page 149

Taking Care of Your Treasures...Page 151

Ideas for Helping the Struggling Writer... Page 153

Tips for the Stressed Out Mom...Page 155

Easy Books! Do You Have A Book Already???

Quick Tips for Making a Book—NOW...Page 159

Hey! What About Using Copywork to Make a Book? Is THAT Ok???

Page 161

Make a Book Using Your Copywork...Page 171

Wouldn't Narrations Make CUTE Books...Page 175

Love Notebook Style Books???

They are EASY Too...Page 181

Let's Make Easy Booklets... Page 185

Introducing Lapbooking By Suzanne Schatzle...Page 287

Let's Try Lapbooking...Page 191

Easy E-books and Books on CD... Page 193

Extra Help!

Quick Tips for Staying Organized in the Midst of Projects... Page 199

What Ya Need To Get Started...Our Easy Supply List... Page 201

Tips for Using Your Computer... Page 209

Beyond Traditional Print...Page 213

Recommended Resources... Page 215

NOTE! Great Websites to Check Out...Page 219

❖ **Samples of Children's Books...Page 231**
Our Products...Page 260

About the Author...



Cindy Rushton...

Cindy Rushton is the wife of her very best friend, Harold Rushton, and the mother of Matthew (17) and Elisabeth (14) who have always been homeschooled. Cindy lives in the beautiful mountains of North Alabama in her dream cedar cabin.

Cindy is the author of over 75 books, Bible studies and homeschool resources. She edits and publishes two magazines, *Time for Tea* and *Homeschooling The Easy Way* and *Scrap-A-Latte* Newsletter. She has become a beloved and favored speaker for homeschool conventions and retreats across our country.

Cindy began homeschooling Matthew and Elisabeth over twelve years ago. Her homeschooling journey, tips, and ideas that she has learned along the journey are recorded in the following pages in our humble effort of sharing an EASY way to homeschool.

As you pour yourself a cup of tea and pour through the following pages, you will find a dear, dear friend to give you a great big hug, loving smile, and take you by the hand into a journey of homeschooling the EASY WAY! Get ready...you are definitely in for a treat!



"I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint." Jeremiah 31: 25

A Special Note...To YOU The Reader!



I am so excited to share this journey with you. I am excited about what you will learn and apply from this book. Every single chapter has been written just for you and with a deep desire to help you create the very best books possible!

I believe that there is something here for every writer—student, parent, or professional! My goal is to pass on my addiction to writing to each and every one of you! I believe that once you see how easy this process really is and that you can write your book on what you really love, you are going to be addicted too!

In the following pages, you will find everything you will need to write a book, beginning today—

- ⇒ Step-by-step instructions.
- ⇒ Tips for making your book great!
- ⇒ Help for tweaking out the problems in the process.
- ⇒ Ideas to get you started or to trigger your own ideas. Of course, you may find your own ideas here already. If not, we left space all throughout the book for YOUR ideas!
- ⇒ Options for your preferences.
- ⇒ Help for wherever you are! Whether you have never written a book or you have written stacks of books!

Yes! This book is JUST for you! My prayer is that you will find this book to be a constant companion for all of your writing projects—for years!

Now, all of that said, I do have one thing that bugged the “editor” in me! In the pages of this book, you will notice that I talk very seriously about knowing your audience and writing specifically to your audience. I share that tip because it makes a world of difference when writing anything. Now, my dilemma!

Just KNOWING my audience, presented a problem. Some chapters in this book are written specifically for the parents of a young writer. Other chapters are written directly to the writer. Still others are just written. See? BIG DILEMMA! I mix and match my audience ALL throughout this book. It breaks ALL of the rules!

So, I come before you begging for mercy—do you know how hard it is to write a book to writers about writing books??? Instead of limiting this book by determining only one "audience" and eliminating all chapters to the rest of you, I am going to risk "hypocrisy" and deep editorial "error" by just including ALL OF YOU! ☺ Deal? I just KNEW you would understand!

Now, I will bring you into the world of writing. Enjoy each and every page. Apply each chapter to fit your needs AND WHO YOU ARE! Consider this book to be written friend-to-friend. Imagine me there at your desk as you are working through this process. It is going to be FUN! So, without any further ado—let's write homemade books!

Love Your Forever Grateful
Rule-breaking Friend,
Cindy Rushton



"My heart overflows with a good theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready writer."

Special Thanks...



There are times that words are SO insufficient! This is one of those times. As you glance through this book and its companion CD, you will see some of the most adorable clips taken from various homemade books. These clips come from so many of my precious friends across the miles.

We asked for samples and pictures of books that all of you had already created. We NEVER expected the blessing that we received!

As you take a peek through the book, don't you just LOVE them? Can you see how they make the whole book PERFECT? My prayer is that you will enjoy them as much as we have as they have come into our offices. I hope that you get ideas for your set-up, topics, and even writing style.

As for those of you who so willingly shared your books, THANKS! This book would not be complete without your "part" in sharing your ideas and your love for writing. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for making *Homemade Books* great. Now, I pray that you will be blessed as you join us for this time together. Hope you find even more great ideas to help make your upcoming books what God has planned for them to become!



"And let the beauty and delightfulness and favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and confirm and establish the work of our hands—yes, the work of our

In Loving Dedication...



To My Heavenly Father.. Thanks again for the trust that You have placed in my to finish such a fun task! Thanks for Your wisdom, direction, guidance and confidence! I want to be like YOU!

To Mom... For instilling in my life a deep passion for books since as far back as I remember. Thanks for the memories!

To Matthew and Elisabeth... For *living* this book first. For thrilling my heart with your precious homemade books through the years. And...for helping in big and small ways to make this book possible!

To Harold... For your support, encouragement, ideas, and all that editing. Thanks for listening as I brainstormed and for cooking while I pecked away on this computer! Now, ready for that homemade bread? ☺

To Pooh... Our precious puppy. For being my constant companion and foot warmer through all of the hours of writing, proofing, and printing this book. There is nothing like a puppy to be there, especially when listening to all of these chapters 45 times!

To YOU, my beloved reader... This book would be unnecessary without YOU! Thanks for joining me in this adventure. May you enjoy making awesome memories over books!

With Love, Cindy



"Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Come Write with Me...



Bear buddies read together

"Thus says the Lord, The God of Israel: Write all the words which
I have spoken to you in a book."
Jeremiah 30:2

Come Write with Me...



My love of books goes back, way back. Well, I think it began "once upon a time" when my mother began doing what mommies do—reading to me each and every day. I remember snuggling up close to my mother listening to her every breath as she would take me back in time to long, long ago. The adventures I took part in...the friends that I made and have since introduced to MY children...the information that fed my hungry mind...yes, all that went into those books, went into making me--ME.

If there was ONE thing that mommies were "supposed" to do, I thought it was read to their children. Well, not just read. They had to get "into" the book. You know, BEING Eeyore one moment and Pooh, the next. They had to have those mysterious giggles that set the "wicked" people apart from the "good guys." They had to read not just once...or twice...but three, four, five times...until the very next breath could be predicted! So, as a real live Mommy, Matthew was not even out of my womb before I began to read aloud to him.

I should have known that the book addiction would pass straight through my lineage to my dear children. The hours we spent reading are some of my greatest treasures of life that I keep stored away safely in my heart. I remember the day that Elisabeth actually paid attention to her first chapter book, so much so, that she begged after hours of reading, "Can't we just skip EATING today Mommy and keep reading???" (You might just have to KNOW her to know that books have POWER, especially if they are better than food!!) I remember us rolling in laughter each time I "laughed" like the grandmother from the story, *The Little Preacher*. We still just KNOW what each other means as someone in our family says, "Woe is me," that phrase we heard time and time again as we shared the journey together with Christian through the pages of *Pilgrim's Progress*. What would life be like without those memories? Just a little dull if you ask me!

I guess it was inevitable. If you read that many books... if the books become your companions throughout life... if memories are forged for families through the pages of books... I guess at some time or another, it is inevitable that you will get the "idea" that you can write a book too. That is just what has happened in our home, but that is not all! Now, we are all addicted to writing books! As soon as a topic becomes our passion, you can almost see the heart beating wildly until it pours out completely into yet another book.

That is why I just had to write this book. I believe that those of you who LOVE books just as passionately as we do MUST begin to create your own homemade books with your family.

As I have looked at the various books that teach about how to create books, I have found that *I* really don't GET IT or if I do understand what they are saying, I seriously doubt I would ever actually create books using their methods because it looks just too time consuming for my already busy home or I am concerned about using the original creations that my children have labored so hard to create. I wanted a FUN and EASY way to create books, so I had to make up my own way that I hope will become a fun and easy way for your children to create their own heirloom books. So, this book offers two things to you: inspiration to try your hand at creating books AND practical help to begin creating fun and easy homemade books with your children TODAY!

Ready? Have fun! You are in for a treat!

With Much Love,
Cindy

Yes! YOU Can Be A Writer Too!



My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the King;
My tongue is like the pen of a ready writer."

Psalm 45

Homemade Books! Yes! YOU Can Be a Writer Too!



Always loved books and wanted to write your own? But...

Great news! YOU can be a writer too! Yes! You!

This is where I get SO excited! I have never seen one book by a student that I did not love! Just look at this book. See all of the samples? They are all wonderful! Every one has a different slant. Every one of them has a different style. Every writer had varying abilities. In fact, I noticed that every one of them cover different subjects and studies. It is amazing! Yet! Aren't they ALL wonderful?

Call me addicted to writing, but something in me really believes that every person with a life has something to write. There is an interest in there somewhere. There is information inside of that mind that someone else out there needs to know. It may be hidden under doubts and fears. It may be a bit reluctant. It may have no idea where to begin. Or it may be busting at the seams ready to pour onto paper! But, you, YES YOU, can be a writer too!

All Ages!

Who? Me? Am I old enough? Is my child able to do this? What age do you need to be to write a book?

Well, this is perhaps the most exciting part about creating your own books! All ages can create a book. They will all turn out wonderful, regardless of where you are or how much you can do by yourself!

Preschoolers can begin their own books today! Nothing is more fun than making little books that are made "just the right size" for little hands. Books

can be made by toddlers to recognize their letters or to review Bible stories. Yep! Even a Preschooler can make a book!

Enthusiastic Elementary age students make great writers. It may be developing a book on a topic of study or an area of personal interest. It may be a project to record what is to be remembered or just fun family stories. The sky is the limit! Yep, Elementary age students are perfect writers too!

Reluctant???

Reluctant to write? OH! This is the best way to learn all of those Language Arts details in a fun way! Once you get started writing a book (and that is what this book is ALL ABOUT!), even the most reluctant writer is sure to be addicted!

OH! Everybody! EVEN You!

High-schoolers needing a challenge, a place for all of that information they have researched, or ready to pour forth all of those great thoughts will find themselves equally enjoying a fun book project. Nothing can wrap up a long-term study like writing a book. Nothing can share a heartbeat passion like a book. For the High School student wanting to write something that really matters...something that can share hope and a passion with others... or something that will live on—writing a book is the perfect answer!

Oh, don't you see? You, even YOU, can be a writer too! You will treasure creating your own homemade books! Wherever you are. Whatever your interest. Creating homemade books will addict you!

Why Write Books???



I guess of all the quirks that I have in my character, my mother would have to say that my greatest quirk is that I simply cannot do ANYTHING without knowing WHY? Just tell me the "perks" and you have "got me" addicted! I want for every moment of my life to be used with purpose and meaning. What about you? Relate?

Well, if you are one of those readers that simply must know the benefits and "perks" of writing books with your children, I want to help ease your mind so you can enjoy every minute that it takes to write those works of art. Let me give you a quick list of my favorite benefits of creating books with your children...

- ♥ **Creating books shows your children that what they have to say is not only worth keeping; but it is a valuable family treasure!** The books that our children have created are photocopied so we are able to keep the original without something happening to it. This action speaks loudly that we VALUE their work. Want a great writer? It begins with treasuring their work. ALSO, we are able to make copies for grandparents, friends, family, and for them to sell in their own businesses. We may not always verbally articulate how precious the things that our children spend their time doing are to us; but as we share their books with others, we communicate how important their words are to others, especially to us! This shows them that their work is meaningful, special, unique, and with a great purpose.
- ♥ **Creating books is an EASY way to teach our children.** Just try creating homemade books with your children. You will see SO much more really being learned and "sinking in" for keeps! Not only does your child learn about their topic in the greatest depth possible, but because the studies are hands-on, learning sticks! If that is not enough, as they create their books, they learn and practice writing

skills that are necessary for life. This cannot be taught in a writing curriculum very easily. Plus, there is nothing like the process of writing a book to open the doors for communicating how to make writing great—the children will be desperate to make their book the very best that they can. Then, the doors are open to teach mechanics of writing. The same mechanics that usually go in and go out of the brain without making any sense at all! Easy! Need a dose of easy?

♥ **Creating books with your children is the perfect way to record (and see!) what is really being learned.** Tests, worksheets, and completed textbooks are usually what everyone looks to for evidence that our children are learning or meeting educational requirements. Yet, do they really show what the children are really learning?? Do they possibly record what is really being learned by the student. Rarely. As we have homeschooled over the past twelve years, I have seen that the bulk of our children's education does not come from the lessons that I plan and teach. The bulk of their knowledge comes from their daily life, those things that we learn along the way or that are learned in their free time. We found those lessons extremely hard to document...well, until we began creating books and notebooks based on their interest. Studies show that we learn AND remember 5% of the things we hear, 10% of the things that we see, and a whopping 95% of the things we teach. If a child is able to articulate (or teach) about an area of interest so much that an entire book is filled to overflowing, then we can REALLY see what they know on a topic. The more they write, the more you can see of those things that are ruminating inside their minds. Yes, books DO show what is really being learned.

♥ **The way you create books with your children is flexible and totally unique...AND that is OK!** Are you scared, but you are hanging in there so far? Well, I hope that we ease your mind here! Regardless of your approach, curriculum, or current areas of study, creating books with your children is the perfect project to teach writing skills, test, and document those hard studies; but it does not have to be a hard project. Your children can create books as simple as little cards or as elaborate as hand-sewn heirlooms. Their books

can complete a big unit study OR go along with a long-term study OR be a study of their own, covering all of the subjects. In fact, if the publishing bug hits them too hard, they can choose publishing as a craft or a lifelong career! There is no right way or wrong way—just YOUR way!

- ♥ **Creating books is an inexpensive, but PRICELESS, method for teaching children to write!** You probably already have everything that you will ever need to produce a book right in your home. Supplies and tools usually just have to be rounded up from all around the busy home. At the most, a book project need not break the piggy bank! Even with the purchase of some basic supplies and tools, the treasure created and lessons learned far outweigh any investment! Priceless!
- ♥ **When children create books, they produce a REAL product!** Children are created by God with a deep need for purpose and meaning. Typical writing courses, by design, do not meet these deep needs. In fact, most deny the student any opportunities to write with any purpose or meaning. The assignments seem to instill the lesson that the student "not ask questions." The overwhelming message is that they just need to "do it" and not worry "WHY!" This is just one reason that I love going back to the "old paths." What has happened to education in our day? What changes have occurred in the past hundred to two-hundred years that have convinced us that writers are a minority? That have quenched the addictions to writing? Just look back to education centuries ago. Look at the writers. What instilled a love of writing in so many great writers? What encouraged the greatest writers to write so prolifically? As I have studied the lifestyles of my favorite writers, I have found some common denominators. Great news! These same common denominators are a few of the "perks" of creating books with our children! Yep! You have guessed them: writing with purpose and meaning, producing a product, and having something that goes on and on! So, if we want to encourage our young writers to write passionately for life, we need to insure that what they do has purpose and meaning. Not something we do just to check off an arbitrary list written by a committee. Rather, our children are just like us! They want to use their time

wisely to produce something that matters—a real product! Creating books obviously meets this need!

♥ **Creating books with your children IS NOT just another thing for YOU to do!** It doesn't have to wear YOU out! Oh! You must KNOW this! In fact, the very best books our children have created were when I was taken completely out of the picture. One (Matthew's book *Fearless Warriors*) was created while I was in bed having TWO different miscarriages back-to-back over Christmas break!!!! I was totally wiped out! Of course, that gave Matthew TIME to really work on the details of writing, set-up, and publishing. Are you noticing that I was very little help? AND did you think about the fact that NO normal children choose to WRITE over their Christmas Break? So, if you are not having to WRITE books, then what DO you, as a parent, do?

1. Learn HOW.
2. Train your children so they know how to write and produce a book.
3. Give your children TIME to work on their books—time to write, proof, set up, and produce their books.
4. Give your children access to materials that they need to make their books the way they want them.
5. Turn them LOOSE!

That is ALL! Well, I say that is all. Humm...you still MUST be their biggest cheerleader and enjoy making sweet, sweet memories that you can KEEP forever! This is certainly not another thing for the busy mom to do!

♥ **Creating books with our children lays an excellent foundation in writing!** Besides teaching our children how to develop their ideas into great texts, our children also find writing to be enjoyable. Nothing lays a foundation for writing like working on a project with purpose and meaning. The project however simple or complex will ignite a passion for writing. Then, our children will become addicted to writing and love writing all of their lives! Great perk if you ask me!



- ♥ **Creating books appeals to all children—EVEN YOURS!** Yep! All ages... all writing abilities... boys AND girls... individuals or families or support groups... every age...All learning styles...**EVERYONE** can enjoy writing books! There is just something about creating books with our children that seems to reach them all! Have a child who is pencil-resistant but absolutely loves art? They will love creating books especially if they can fill them with their very own illustrations. Have a child who is bored and needs extra stimulation? Again, your child will love a project that is based upon his or her interests AND that goes at his or her own pace of learning. If that is not enough, it can be entirely complementary to his or her personal learning style. It **WILL** reach that child! Your child is still not sure about this thing called writing or they are just a bit bored with their school lessons? They will love creating books because it appeals to their personal interests and style preferences of books—nonfiction, fiction, collections, historical... Not to mention, the more they do, the more they will want to keep trying!
- ♥ **When creating books with your children, your children can go THEIR OWN pace!** I know that I mentioned in the last point that the books could be written at their pace, but this needs extra emphasis. Only in "school" do writers have to be at a "grade-level." (Whatever that may be???) I challenge you to break-free from this temptation with your young writers. Base their pace upon their *writing abilities*, wherever they are. Feel free to let your ambitious children dig into those studies that challenge them. Relax and let those children that struggle to even hold a pencil for one full sentence **SLOW** down to their own comfortable pace. There is no need to rush them by unnecessary deadlines. Now, **DO** use your judgment to set some deadlines so they learn the importance of keeping a challenging pace. When you sense your child getting a bit harried, then slow down. It is perfectly fine to go the pace of your child. The fruit is worth any and all delays that may occur. **ALSO...** do remember that very young writers are having to balance many new skills as they put them all together to write—handwriting, language usage, composition, proofreading, etc. Their greatest needs are

TIME and ENCOURAGEMENT. Mothers are perfect for this job! Creating books with your children is the perfect way to meet this need. No pushing. No pressing. No pressure. Just going the pace of the child!

- ♥ **Creating books encourages your young writers!** If you want for your children to love writing, constantly encourage them to become great writers. How? Write books, of course! ☺ Well, creating books with your children is a perfect way to encourage your young writers. The whole process is a natural way to develop their writing style and their writing skills easily while encouraging a love of writing and a love of learning. The sheer addiction to writing on a beloved topic requires the writer to develop the disciplines of writing without even knowing it! Not to mention, as your children continue to write on topics that they love, you will find that they will develop deeper studies, which will set the pattern of self-education from their early years. They develop research skills using all types of resources and all types of research avenues—library, internet, people, places, etc. Once they have the skills to learn, they can continue learning for their entire life—well, as long as they have a passion for learning. What greater way to instill the skills of learning AND a passion for learning than through the process of creating books?
- ♥ **By creating homemade books, our children put their heart and their interests into an heirloom!** Those moments that our children are pouring into their work are not wasted away. Their work is not thrown away or tucked away into the attic “just in case.” Instead, their work has meaning and purpose. It is SO much more than just another assignment! It is meaningful, special, unique, and best of all, it goes on and on! Those abilities and interests of TODAY are captured for tomorrow. Not only do they capture these memories of today, but they make memories that will be treasured tomorrow.
- ♥ **Creating books is an INCREDIBLE way to forge strong bonds between you and your child!** Homeschooling is more than just academics. Homeschooling is more than just another method of

education. It is so much more! One of the biggest "perks" to homeschooling is also one of the sweetest "perks" to creating books—yep, building relationships! There is just something about the whole process of writing books with our children! Our children really need to know how precious they are to us. Creating books with them shows that we really do care about what they think. It shows that we are interested in what they have to say and write. It speaks volumes as we pay attention word-for-word, help them work out the kinks along the way, and encourage them through each step of the process. Just imagine how much it excites and blesses our children when we "want" to know more about something that they love so much? Volumes are spoken just by spending the time at their side AND enjoying the process with them! Volumes that forge a special bond! Not only does it show our heart for our children, but it also gives us a glimpse into their hearts. We can see what is precious to them—it is on paper! We get to know the most precious thoughts and ideas that are pressing on the hearts of our children. This is just priceless! This is much more than just a school project! We get back to God's design for the godly home—we build relationships! Talk about an eternal treasure!

Sold? Ready to begin right now? Let's begin making memories as you create fun and easy books with your children!

"These are not books, lumps of lifeless paper,
but minds alive on the shelves."

Gilbert Highet

20 Reasons Why YOU (as a Student) Would LOVE Creating Your Own Homemade Books!



Inevitably, there are those of you who are students reading through this book. I want to encourage you to create your own books. There is nothing as fun and exhilarating as wrapping up your very own book. As you look back over your books later on, you will be SO proud of each and everyone of them! Well, I will tell you why...

- ♥ Creating books is easy!
- ♥ The whole process of writing a book is FUN!
- ♥ Homemade books show what YOU enjoyed learning during your study!
- ♥ You can write at your own pace!
- ♥ Great (and fun) way to wrap up your study!
- ♥ The delight on your parents face is a treat!
- ♥ You KNOW that your work is all for a great purpose!
- ♥ Great way to begin your own business!
- ♥ They become unique gifts for those in your family (and the grandparents!)
- ♥ Each book captures your creativity!
- ♥ You get to write your book JUST like you want!