

Charlotte Mason Homeschooling



By Cindy West
Shining Dawn Books

Who was Charlotte Mason?



What is a Charlotte Mason Education?



Gentle
Loving
Meaningful
Living
Rigorous
Active
Promotes Love for Learning

Living Literature



Living Literature

Book Lists

- ❧ [Ambleside Online](#)
- ❧ [Classical Christian Homeschooling](#)
- ❧ [Paula's Archives](#)



Living Literature



Living Literature Homeschool Companies

- ❧ [Beautiful Feet Books](#)
- ❧ [Living Books Curriculum](#)
- ❧ [Shining Dawn Books](#)
- ❧ [Sonlight](#)
- ❧ [Veritas Press](#)
- ❧ [Winter Promise](#)



Short Lessons



“You want the child to
remember? Then secure his
whole attention,”

Charlotte Mason

Narration



Quite simply narration is the retelling of something in your own words.

Narration is a very important skill for many reasons:

- It requires focused attention.
- It encourages attention to details and information.
- It builds long-term memory.
- It helps a child organize his thoughts.
- It teaches him to speak clearly and expressively.
- It is the precursor to writing well.

Copywork & Dictation



Copywork

When a child is given a sentence, poem or passage, depending on his ability, and is expected to simply copy it word for word, capital for capital, and punctuation for punctuation.

Dictation

An older child (around ten years old) is given a poem or passage and asked to read and reread until she feels comfortable with spelling all the words and adding the correct capitalization and punctuation. The parent then reads one phrase or sentence at a time expecting her child to write it correctly. Incorrect spelling, grammar and punctuation are corrected immediately so that bad habits don't form.



Poetry



Step One: Just read poetry aloud to your children.

Step Two: Consider using a line, stanza or entire poem for narration, copywork, transcription or dictation.

Step Three: Continue to read poetry aloud, but spend some time reading various works from a single poet.

Step Four: Encourage your child to begin writing her own simple poems in nature journals, writing journals, or Bible journals.

Step Five: After many, many, many poems have been read for the pure joy of it, begin analyzing poems for meanings. Also, begin analyzing the structure of poetry. Finally, begin writing poetry following examples of the masters.

Poetry



My Favorite Books of Living Poetry

For Younger Children

[A Child's Garden of Verses](#)

[Favorite Poems Old and New](#)

[Lavender's Blue](#)

[The Random House Book of Poetry](#)

For Older Children

[One Hundred and One Famous Poems](#)

Shakespeare



- Read children's versions first.
- Read modern translations in tandem with the originals.
- Consider books on tape every once in a while. The voice inflections often help in comprehension.
- Read through [Sparks Notes](#) or some other online book summary to help get the gist of confusing parts.
- Read slowly, drawing pictures of characters as they are introduced. Consider character charts to include things you learn about each character in order to keep them straight throughout the play.
- Dramatize acts with people, puppets, stuffed animals, play dough figures, etc. (Count this as narration!)
- Preview movie versions of plays you are reading and watch them with your children if appropriate. You can also find some [free online versions](#) to watch.
- Take in a play when it comes to town.
- As a last resort, be a sissy like me and find someone else to teach for you!

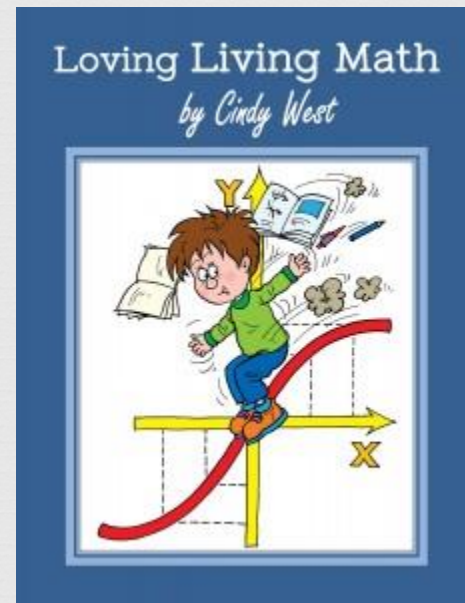
Living Math



Living math can take on MANY forms – including textbook lessons – IF the lessons have meaning. Each lesson then, should build on a previously mastered concept, practice concepts that haven't yet been mastered, or introduce entirely new concepts.

Other things to consider:

- living literature
- logic
- problem solving
- technology
- projects
- real-life activities
- games



Artist Study



Picture Study

- Enjoy quietly for a time.
- Tell about picture.
- Recreate.

Artist Study

- Read book about artist.
- Gather art pieces to study.
- Have art supplies on hand to recreate.

See Cindy's premade plans for artist studies.



Composer & Hymn Study



Some of my favorite
composer study resources
include:

[Classical Kids](#)

[Classics for Kids](#)

[Music Masters CD's](#)

[Opal Wheeler Biographies](#)

Some of my favorite
resources for hymn & folk
song study include:

A good old-fashioned hymnal

[Hymn Time](#)

[Contented At Home Hymn](#)

[Study Series](#)

[History Alive Through Music](#)

Nature Study



Why Study Nature?

- God teaches us through nature and helps us to grow closer to Him.
- It involves most of the sciences and opens the door to other academic areas.
- It stimulates excitement about learning, curiosity, discrimination/comparison skills, memorization, research and more.
- It allows for family time, fresh air, sunshine and exercise.



Handicrafts & Life Skills



A Love for the Word of God



“The Word is full of vital force, capable of applying itself. A seed, light as thistledown, wafted into the child's soul will take root downwards and bear fruit upwards. What is required of us is, that we should implant a love of the Word; that the most delightful moments of the child's day should be those in which his mother reads for him, with sweet sympathy and holy gladness in voice and eyes, the beautiful stories of the Bible; and now and then in the reading will occur one of those convictions, passing from the soul of the mother to the soul of the child, in which is the life of the Spirit.”

Charlotte Mason

Habit Training



Write a {short} list of habits your child needs to improve. Circle the most irksome and make a plan. How are you going to take that habit from bad to glad? What is the new responsibility of your child? What will you need to do in order to help, encourage and/or keep your child accountable?

Sit down with your child and talk about why the particular habit needs to change. Give her the new plan (or come up with the new plan with her.) Make a serious commitment to stick with the plan to the bitter end of the bad habit!



Typical Daily Schedule



Here's the short and sweet of it...

We do chores and bookwork in the morning and the less "academic" things in the afternoon.

CM Resources



Original Homeschooling Series by Charlotte Mason

A Charlotte Mason Companion by Karen Andreola

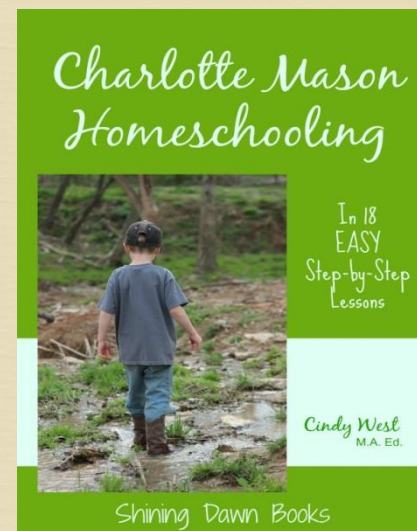
A Charlotte Mason Education by Catherine Levison

For the Children's Sake by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

When Children Love to Learn: A Practical Application of
Charlotte Mason's Philosophy for Today by Susan
Schaeffer Macaulay

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\$5.00!

