



Teach Language Arts: 5 Stages

Stage One: Infancy through Pre-School

- Read aloud from infancy on.
- Let the child see the page you are reading from, and occasionally point out phonetically-consistent words the child may enjoy trying to find later in the text.
- Read a wide variety of things- children's books, poetry, the Bible, field guides, interesting literature, etc.
- Encourage pencil play and offer letter samples, both written and in other forms such as cookie cutters or refrigerator magnets.

Stage Two: Pre-School through Early Elementary

- Keep reading aloud! It is a good idea to have one longer book going at all times, from which you read one or two chapters a day.
- Begin brief narrations- have the child tell back something that has been read once.
- Short lessons in penmanship- I recommend *Barchowsky Fluent Handwriting* (www.bf-handwriting.com).
- When the child is ready, introduce reading instruction. I used, and recommend, *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons*.

Stage Three: Mid-Elementary Age 7-9

- Encourage narration (oral composition) of increasingly lengthy pieces in all school subjects.
- Continue reading aloud longer books; encourage reading silently for 5-10 minutes per year of age (depending on ability). **Copywork**- 10-15 minutes per day of copying quality literature provides penmanship practice and intimacy with well-written work.
- Introduce **dictation** following Charlotte Mason's instructions (*Home Education*, 241-242). One paragraph is about right for this age group.

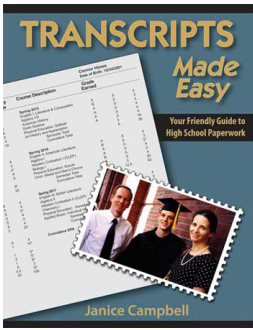
Stage Four: Age 9-12+/-

- Narration transitions to written composition. "They will describe their favorite scene from 'The Tempest' or...Plutarch... or narrate from English, French, or General History, the Old...New Testament, Bulfinch's *Age of Fable*... or Wordsworth's poems..."
- Vocabulary, basic spelling, grammar, and penmanship are all practiced through narration/composition. I recommend *Spelling Made Easy* for this level as well.
- Spend 1-2 years in a good grammar book. My choice is *Grammar Made Easy: Writing a Step Above* by Connie Schenkelberg. (www.GrammarMadeEasy.com)

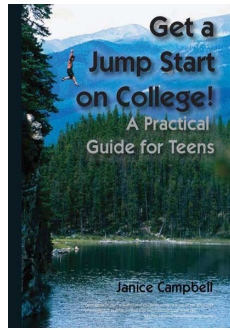
Stage Five: Age 12-16+/-

- Spend at least one year each in a survey of classic American, British, and World Literature (www.ExcellenceInLiterature.com).
- Literary analysis sharpens language arts skills, and encourages logical, analytical thinking. It also prepares students for college-level writing.
- The editorial pages of the newspaper contain samples of tight, vivid, contemporary writing. Read them at least once a week.
- Read Strunk and White's *Elements of Style* at least twice during this stage. *On Writing Well* by William Zinnser is another good resource.

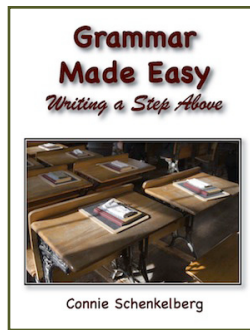




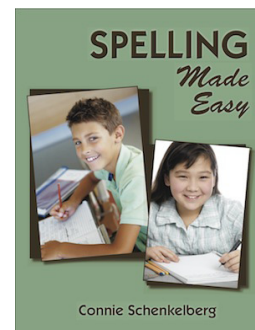
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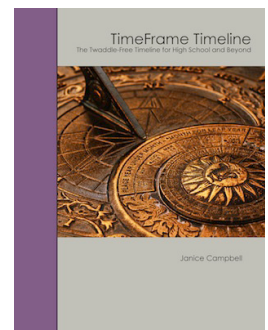
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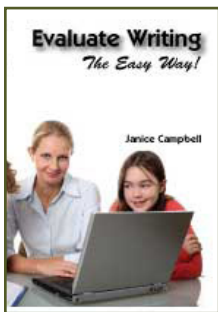
Did you know that grammar can be simple? I fell in love with Connie Schenkelberg's *Grammar Made Easy* when my boys were younger. We used this non-consumable, multi-level grammar book with all the boys at once. We talked through each of the scripted lessons, then they did the practice sentences. It was simple, intuitive, streamlined, and even a little bit fun!
140 pages, \$29
www.GrammarMadeEasy.com



Spelling doesn't have to be a chore! Connie Schenkelberg's *Spelling Made Easy: The Homonym Way to Better Spelling* teaches middle-school students about spelling with the use of homonym groups and puzzles. Answer keys and a suggested assignment schedule for one or two years makes it super easy to use.
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TimeFrame: The Twaddle-Free Timeline for High School and Beyond is a study tool with a unique century-at-a-glance system of colored lifelines that helps students organize information and see exactly what happened when. It's simple, streamlined, and yes, it's even fun!
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32 pages, \$7 (or \$5 with any Excellence in Literature purchase)

Evaluating writing is so much more than just "correcting papers." It can affect your student's feelings about writing, his or her chance of academic success, and even the relationship you share. In this simple, approachable little booklet, you'll learn the things you need to know in order to become a better writing evaluator.



"If children haven't been read to, they don't love books. They need to love books, for books are the basis of literature, composition, history, world events, vocabulary, and everything else." Edith Schaeffer



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"The sole substitute for an experience which we have not ourselves lived through is art and literature..."

They possess a wonderful ability: beyond distinctions of language, custom, social structure, they can convey the life experience of one whole nation to another.

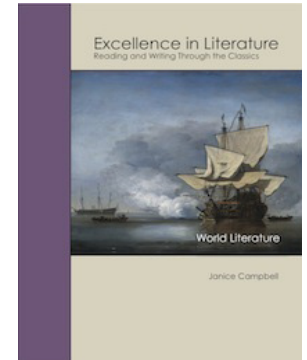
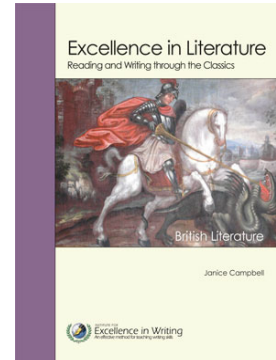
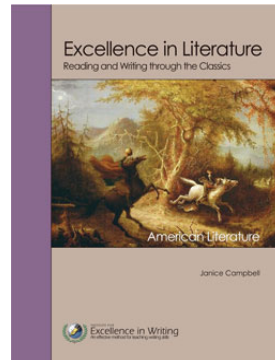
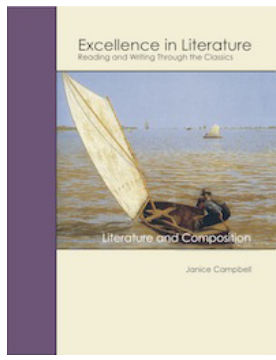
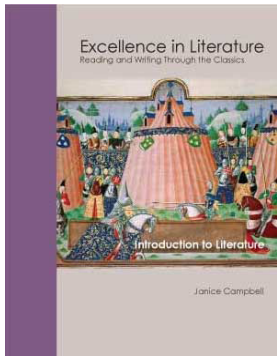
Literature conveys irrefutable condensed experience... from generation to generation...

Thus it becomes the living memory of the nation."

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Excellence in Literature

Introduction to Literature	Literature and Beyond
<p>Unit 1: Short Stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Orne Jewett Edgar Allan Poe Guy de Maupassant O. Henry Eudora Welty James Thurber 	<p>Unit 1: Daniel Defoe Robinson Crusoe</p>
<p>Unit 2: Jules Verne Around the World in 80 Days</p>	<p>Unit 2: Henry David Thoreau Walden</p>
<p>Unit 3: Mark Twain A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</p>	<p>Unit 3: Alexandre Dumas The Count of Monte Cristo</p>
<p>Unit 4: Charlotte Bronte Jane Eyre</p>	<p>Unit 4: Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness</p>
<p>Unit 5: George B. Shaw Pygmalion</p>	<p>Unit 5: C.S. Lewis 'Til We Have Faces</p>
<p>Unit 6: Robert Louis Stevenson Treasure Island</p>	<p>Unit 6: Willa Cather Death Comes for Archie</p>
<p>Unit 7: George Orwell Animal Farm</p>	<p>Unit 7: William Shakespeare Julius Caesar</p>
<p>Unit 8: William Shakespeare The Tempest</p>	<p>Unit 8: Sir Walter Scott Ivanhoe</p>
<p>Unit 9: Jonathan Swift Gulliver's Travels</p>	<p>Unit 9: Oscar Wilde The Importance of Being Earnest</p>



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- American and British Literature co-published with the Institute for Excellence in Writing.
- Each volume is available as a print book or e-book, and will eventually be presented as an online book.
- You'll find a lot more information, including a sample unit and reviews at www.ExcellenceInLiterature.com.
- \$29 each; \$139 for The Complete Curriculum (all five levels) in a binder

Literature: Reading and Writing Through the Classics

Composition	American Literature	British Literature	World Literature
<p>Unit 1: Benjamin Franklin Autobiography</p> <p>Unit 2: Washington Irving and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rip Van Winkle • The Legend of Sleepy Hollow • Selected Works <p>Unit 3: James Fenimore Cooper The Last of the Mohicans</p> <p>Unit 4: Nathaniel Hawthorne The House of Seven Gables</p> <p>Unit 5: Herman Melville Moby Dick</p> <p>Unit 6: Mark Twain The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</p> <p>Unit 7: Edith Wharton House of Mirth</p> <p>Unit 8: F. Scott Fitzgerald The Great Gatsby</p> <p>Unit 9: Ernest Hemingway The Old Man and the Sea</p>	<p>Unit 1: Beowulf</p> <p>Unit 2: Geoffrey Chaucer Canterbury Tales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prologue • The Nun Priest's Prologue and Tale • The Reeve's Prologue and Tale • The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale • The Magistrate's Prologue and Tale • The Canon's Yeoman's Prologue and Tale <p>Unit 3: Edmund Spenser, Sir Gawain, and the Arthurian Legend</p> <p>Unit 4: William Shakespeare King Lear</p> <p>Unit 5: John Milton Paradise Lost</p> <p>Unit 6: Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice</p> <p>Unit 7: Charles Dickens Great Expectations</p> <p>Unit 8: Emily Bronte Wuthering Heights</p> <p>Unit 9: Virginia Woolf To the Lighthouse</p>	<p>Unit 1: Homer The Odyssey</p> <p>Unit 2: Sophocles Antigone</p> <p>Unit 3: Virgil The Aeneid</p> <p>Unit 4: Dante Alighieri Inferno</p> <p>Unit 5: Miguel de Cervantes Don Quixote</p> <p>Unit 6: Victor Hugo Les Miserables</p> <p>Unit 7: 19th-Century Russian Reader: Selections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pushkin, • Dostoyevsky, • Tolstoy, • Chekov <p>Unit 8: Johann Wolfgang Goethe Faust</p> <p>Unit 9: Isak Dinesen Out of Africa</p>	

Teaching Teens

Charlotte Mason From "A Liberal Education in Secondary Schools" in *A Philosophy of Education*

What must be taught:

"First and chiefest is the knowledge of God, to be got at most directly through the Bible; then comes the knowledge of man, to be got through history, literature, art, civics, ethics, biography, the drama, and languages; and lastly, so much knowledge of the universe as shall explain to some extent the phenomena we are familiar with and give a naming acquaintance at any rate with birds and flowers, stars and stones; nor can this knowledge of the universe be carried far in any direction without the ordering of mathematics..."

How to teach it:

"...Believe in mind, and let education go straight as a bolt to the mind of the pupil. The use of books is a necessary corollary, because no one is arrogant enough to believe he can teach every subject... with the original thought and exact knowledge shown by the man who has written a book on...his life-study... Treat children in this reasonable way... the minds of a score of thinkers who meet the children, mind to mind, in their several books, the teacher performing the graceful office of presenting the one enthusiastic mind to the other... [There must be] a great deal of consecutive reading from very various books, all of some literary value..."

What is the result of this teaching?

"...The introduction of the methods I advocate has a curious effect on a whole family...The whole household thinks of and figures to itself great things, for nothing is so catching as knowledge... Children so taught are delightful companions because they have large interests and worthy thoughts; they have much to talk about and such casual talk benefits society. The fine sense, like an atmosphere, of things worth knowing and worth living for, this it is which produces magnanimous citizens, and we feel that Milton was right in claiming magnanimity as the proper outcome of education."

All content © 2010 by Everyday Education, LLC. Janice Campbell and her husband Donald homeschooled their four sons from preschool into college. We didn't do everything perfectly, but are simply sharing a few simple things we learned along the way and in the years since.. You can read more at www.Everyday-Education.com. We wish you abundant joy in the journey.

How to Make Time for Things that Matter

- Have a vision for your home
- Create a structure for serenity.
- Teach with models and classics.
- Build relationships with communication.
- Be patient in the seasons of learning.
- Grow with daily solitude and silence.
- Enjoy creative, constructive activities.

Remember . . . children remember atmosphere more than activities.



Janice Campbell

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"Many hours of solitary occupation and enjoyment, will lead to the development of the highest intellectual and moral traits of character; in fact, his mental resources may be considered entirely unknown and unexplored, who cannot spend his best and happiest hours alone." Jacob Abbott



"Only a blockhead can fail to realize that our characters are the result of our conduct. It is our choice of good or evil that daily determines our character, not our opinion of good or evil. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts... Our moral dispositions are formed as a result of the corresponding activities in each moment and each day." Aristotle



Home...

The sweetest type of heaven is home— nay, heaven is the home for whose acquisition we are to strive the most strongly.

Home, in one form and another, is the great object of life. It stands at the end of every day's labor, and beckons us to its bosom; and life would be cheerless and meaningless, did we not discern across the river that divides us from the life beyond, glimpses of the pleasant mansions prepared for us.

- Josiah Gilbert Holland