# LEARNING The Charlotte Mason Way









#### **MY FAMILY**

- Homeschooling since 2012
- Kids in Gr7, Gr5, Gr1
- Enjoys the flexibility of time
- Loves that we can customize curriculum
- Loves using CM Method

FAMILY ADVISOR
Homeschool Global, Philippines

- Guides families in their homeschool journey
- Conducts training to parents
- Conducts CM enrichment classes to homeschooling children

# Who is Charlotte Mason?

- Charlotte Mason (1842-1923) was a British educator who ushered in revolutionary ideas about the way education is taught.
- Envisioned and developed a generous and broad curriculum for all children, regardless of social class.
- She set down a list of 20 Principles which form the basis of the Charlotte Mason philosophy.
- Authored the six volume of Charlotte Mason Homeschool Series



# Children are born persons

Charlotte Mason

# Children are born persons

- Children are Persons with minds already capable of taking in rich ideas
- Must educate the whole person not just his mind

Charlotte Mason



"Education is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, a Life"

Education is

# an ATMOSPHERE

#### **EDUCATION IS**

#### an ATMOSPHERE

"...there is nothing in the way of direct teaching that will ever have so wide and lasting an effect as the atmosphere of home. The atmosphere emanates from ourselves—literally ourselves; our children live in it, and breathe it. and what we are is thus incorporated into them."

Charlotte Mason



# "What ideas rule your life?"



# What is the rhythm of our children nowadays?

Do they still have...

- Time for free play
- Time to create
- Time to rest
- Time to be outdoors
- Time for yourself

Education is

# a DISCIPLINE

#### **EDUCATION IS**

#### a DISCIPLINE

"By education is a discipline, we mean the discipline of habits, formed definitely and thoughtfully, whether habits of mind or body."

Charlotte Mason



#### **EDUCATION IS**

#### a DISCIPLINE

Charlotte emphasized the importance of training our children in good habits—habits that will serve them well as they grow.





# Habits

- Habits are inevitable.
- Habits produce character.
- Habits can be more powerful than natural tendencies.

"A mother who takes pains to endow her children with good habits secures for herself smooth and easy days!"

Charlotte Mason



- Moral habits (like self-control, good use of time, and personal initiative),
- Mental habits (like logical thinking, memorizing, and observing),
- Physical habits (like fortitude and self-restraint in indulgences),
- Faith-based habits (like regular devotions, thanksgiving)



Education is

a LIFE

#### **EDUCATION IS**

## a LIFE

"all the thought we offer to our children shall be living thought; no mere dry summaries of facts will do."

Charlotte Mason





- The mind feeds on ideas.
- Charlotte believed that we should give children living thoughts and ideas, not just dry facts.

# Generous Curriculum

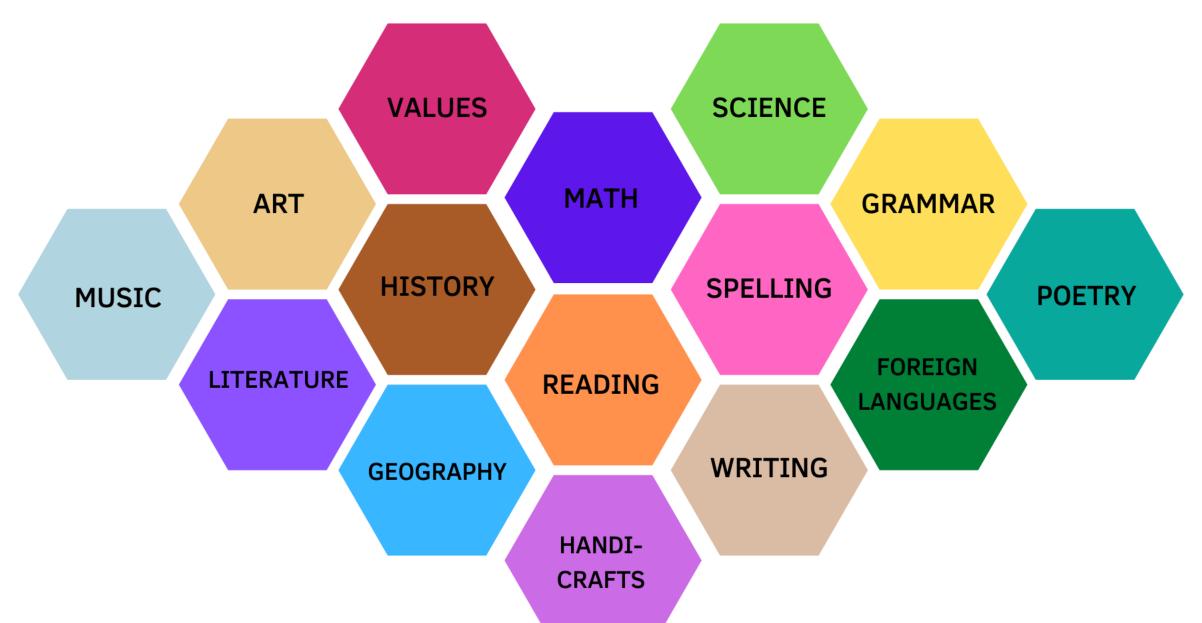
# Offering a wide variety of subjects spread before a child.

 like a feast, banquet of ideas presented to a child

"The mind feeds on ideas, and therefore children should have a generous curriculum" (Vol. 6, p. 111).



# Generous Curriculum



# Charlotte Mason's Living Methods

LIVING BOOKS

NARRATION

NATURE STUDY

HANDS ON MATH

BOOK OF CENTURIES PICTURE STUDY

MUSIC APPRECIATION

COPYWORK

DICTATION

# Living Methods

Education Is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, a Life by Sonya Shafer

Charlotte

Mason's



# Living books

## Foundation for educating children

- are usually written by one person who has a passion for the subject and writes in conversational or narrative style.
- they tell us the facts while they give us the story.
- The books pull you into the subject and involve your emotions, so it's easy to remember the events and facts.

## **EXAMPLE**

Biographies about Albert Einstein and both are aimed toward a middle-elementary age.

#### Textbook version:

"Einstein was a scientist during the early 1900s and came up with some of the greatest discoveries and theories in science. People referred to him as one of the most intelligent people of the 20th century. His name and face are often presented as the description or picture of the consummate scientist."

### Now let's read the first few sentences from a living biography:

"Have you ever wondered what it would be like to ride upon a beam of light? In the first years of the twentieth century, there lived a young man who wondered about that. In fact, he wondered about a lot of things, and what became of his wondering you shall see.

## Now let's read the first few sentences from a living biography:

"In 1905 Albert Einstein spent his days in an office in the Swiss city of Bern, working as a patent clerk. He helped inventors fill out the paperwork so they would own their creations and no one else could claim them. He typed out the forms and filed them in their proper places, chatted with his friend in the office next door, and ate his simple lunch every day at his desk.

## Now let's read the first few sentences from a living biography:

When evening softened the sky, he walked home and greeted his wife and newborn son, and then shared with them a dinner of beef and potatoes, or pea soup and cabbage. "But all the while he was doing these normal, homely deeds, his mind was somewhere else. He might be typing or chatting or eating, but he was thinking about light and time"

(Stories of the Nations, Volume 2, "On a Beam of Light" by Lorene Lambert).

Can you tell the difference?



# Narration

## The Act of Knowing

 Asking the child to tell back in his own words what he just saw, read, or heard. "As knowledge is not assimilated until it is reproduced, children should 'tell back' after a single reading or hearing . . . A single reading is insisted on, because children have naturally great power of attention; but this force is dissipated by the re-reading of passages"

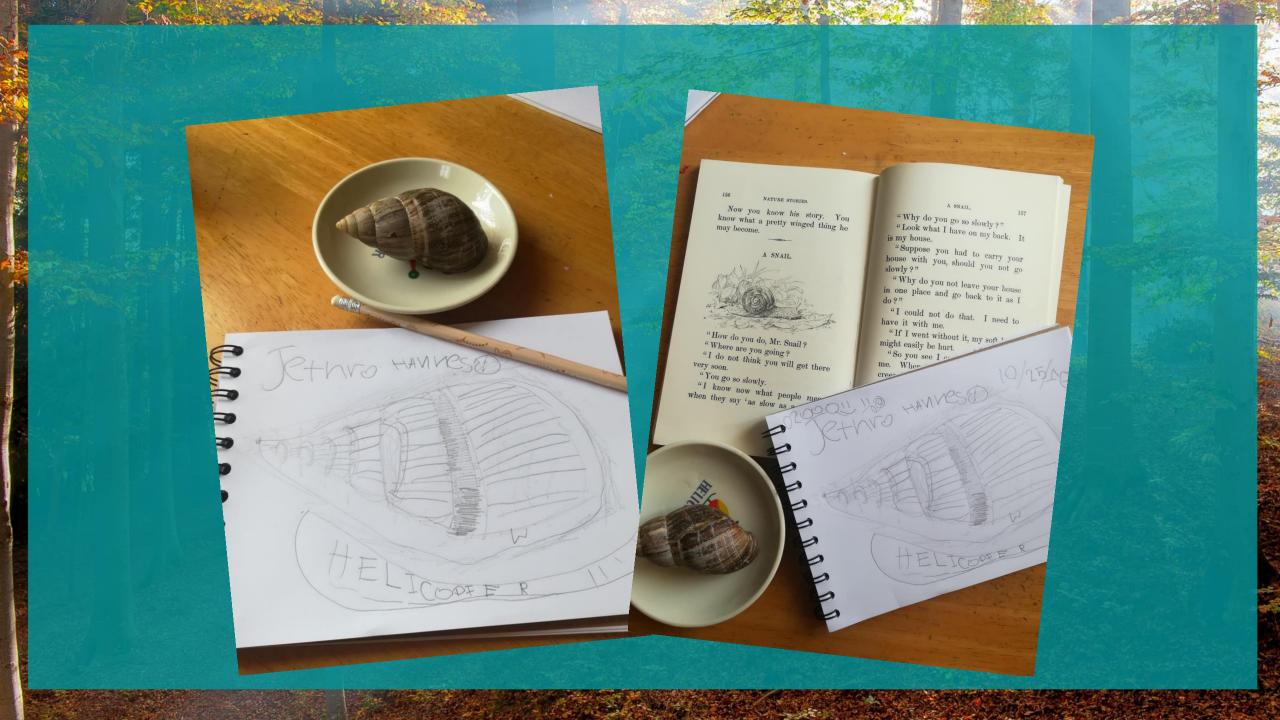
CM HomschoolSeries (Vol. 6, preface)



# **Time Outdoors**

## **Nature Study**

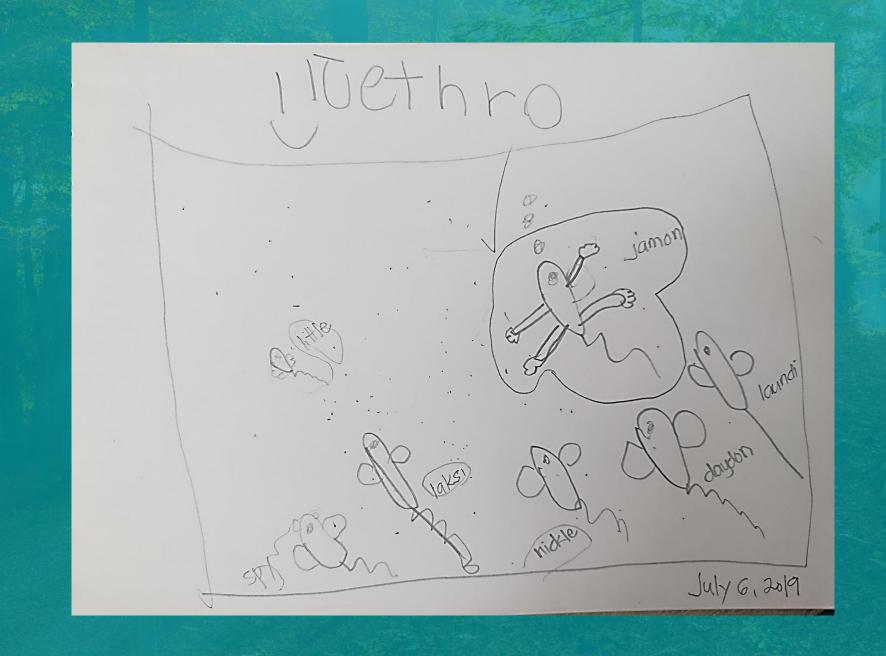
- interacting and learning the ways of nature firsthand
- spending time outside observing and sketching nature.
- learning science in the natural world not just through the face of a textbook









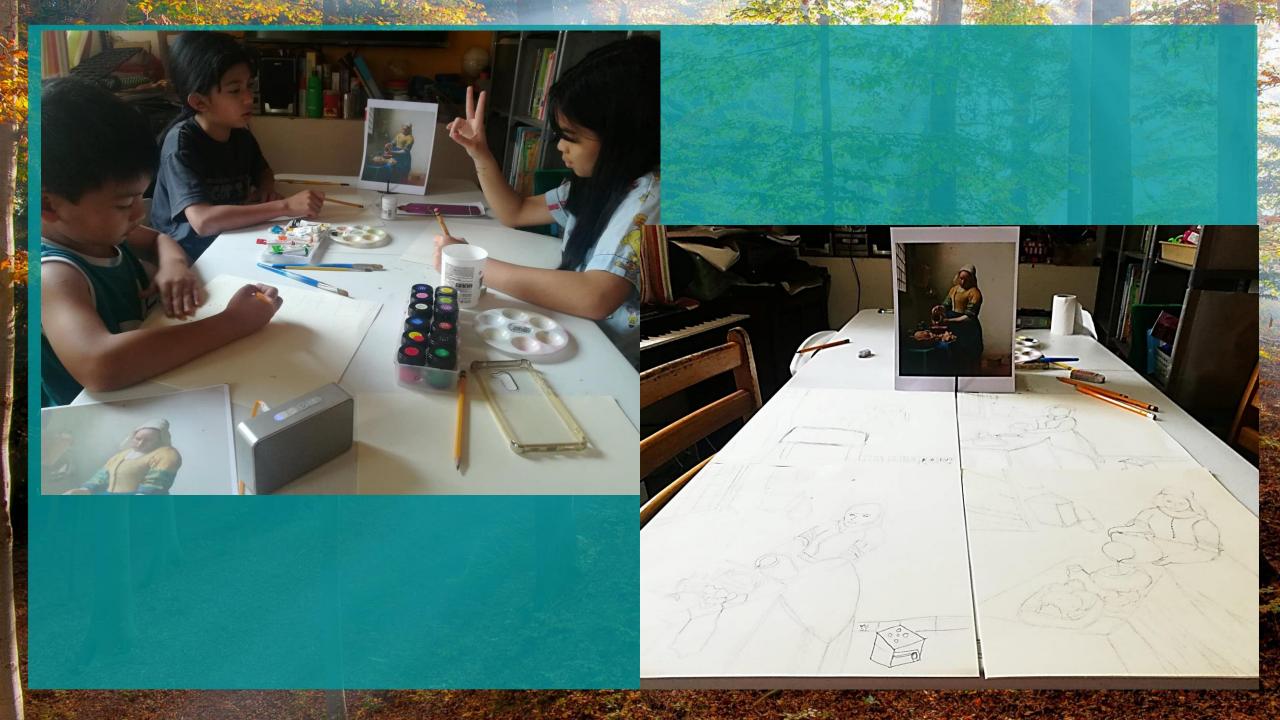


"We were all meant to be naturalists, each in his degree, and it is inexcusable to live in a world so full of the marvels of plant and animal life and to care for none of these things." (Vol. 1, p. 61)



# Picture Study

 Looking at an artist's work until a child can see it clearly in his mind's eye, then hiding the original work and narrating what it looks like.

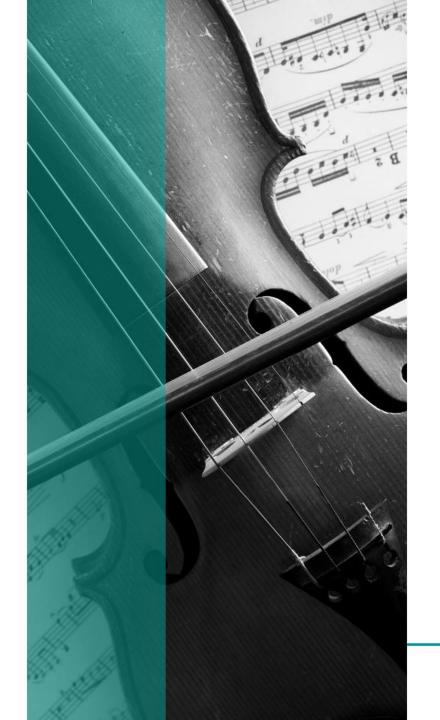












## Music Study

 Listening to a composer's work until the child become familiar with his music and style of composition.



## **Book of Centuries**

- like a timeline in a notebook
- record of historical events and names of importance, along with pictures, poems, quotes, and anything else that a child encounters in reading living books



# Copywork

#### Handwriting and Spelling

 Practicing handwriting by carefully copying passages from living sources



## Dictation

### Handwriting and Spelling

 Learning spelling (and reinforcing punctuation and grammar) by studying a selected sentence or passage from a living book rather than just a list of words.

### Three Basic Principles to Remember



 build the habit of full attention



 habits of attention and perfect execution A VARIED ORDER OF SUBJECTS

use different parts
 of the brain and
 body

...we are limited to three educational instruments - the atmosphere of environment, the discipline of habit, and the presentation of living ideas.

Charlotte Mason

### Resources

https://simplycharlottemason.com

https://www.amblesideonline.org

Education Is An Atosphere, A Discipline, A Life - Sonya Shafer

## **Contact Information**

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