

What's an IG?

New homeschoolers and seasoned veterans alike delight in the unparalleled support in each Sonlight® Instructor's Guide. Put simply, these guides just make your life easier. They come with each Core Package, Language Arts course and Sonlight Science program.

"Everything is put together and organized better than I could have done in a million years. The kids have my time instead of my stress!" —
Lois M, Aug. 2010

Be prepared to teach—with almost no effort!

Imagine having a personal homeschool mentor outfit your family with customized schedules, pertinent activities and lessons, and thoughtful questions to test your students' comprehension. What if she left you

handy notes to help you teach more effectively and know exactly what to do when throughout the year?

Imagine falling asleep tonight relaxed, with no worry about what you're going to teach in the morning. And finally, imagine waking up refreshed, eager to learn along with your children.

Experience all this from day one, with every Sonlight Instructor's Guide (IG). The IG is your roadmap for the entire school year ... with virtually all the planning done for you.

Spend time teaching your kids, not planning lessons.

Sonlight Instructor's Guides provide:

- **Complete 36-week schedules** that integrate your children's various subjects into an exciting, unified learning experience.

- **Activities, teaching tips, discussion questions, counter-balancing commentary** & more.

- **Two schedule options** to fit your needs (in many of the IGs for early grades). The **5-day schedule** provides a robust, compelling 180-day academic calendar. The **4-day schedule** gives a slower pace, or time for a full day of extra-curricular activities like sports practices, field trips or homeschool group gatherings. The 4-day schedule only has light reading and optional activities on the 5th day.

Bottom line: Each Sonlight Instructor's Guide, the result of multiple hundreds of hours of research and experience, saves you significant time, stress and frustration. You'll teach your children like a "pro," and you'll have time to enjoy the journey along with them.

Core IGs



Know what to do each day. Your complete lesson plans are included!

Core IGs have 4 main parts:

1. Daily schedules

Daily schedules outline 36 weeks of material. You can choose between four- and five-day options in younger Cores, but the schedules aren't dated, so you can do your 36 weeks anytime throughout the year without re-marking the schedule pages.

Laid out in an easy-to-follow matrix, the schedule enables you and your students to easily choose your preferred method of learning: small portions of each subject each day, or larger chunks of certain subjects on different days of the week.

2. History Guides

These guides help you:

- Compare what your children retain to key learning objectives.
- Develop geography skills using maps that show places from your reading.
- Remind your children of key facts and gain perspective from time line activities drawn from the history readings.
- Train your children to read discerningly. Notes (sometimes extensive) help you counter biased articles and teach students by experience that virtually every author has a bias. We

need to "listen to the other side"—as Proverbs 18:17 suggests—in order to hone our understanding.

3. Reader Guides

Readers are the books your children read to themselves. The Reader Guides provide comprehension questions to gauge your children's understanding of the books they read. No need for you to read each one (unless you want to—which you just might!).

4. Read-Aloud Guides

Read-Alouds are the books you read to your children. The Read-Aloud Guides:

- Highlight useful vocabulary words in the books you read.
- Include cultural literacy notes that add depth to your reading. When a book mentions something students should know but likely don't (e.g., hoop skirt or potpie), we explain it. You and your children become "educated" naturally each day!
- Offer plenty of comprehension questions to ensure your children understand what you're reading.
- Supply many creative narration ideas to spark the storyteller inside. As students re-tell stories, their verbal communication skills grow.

Language Arts IGs



Teach writing naturally and with confidence!

Language Arts IGs feature:

- A full Language Arts curriculum that integrates with what students are reading in their Core program.
- Manageable, relevant assignments. Weekly copywork or dictation assignments help them learn to write based on the models of master writers.
- Daily writing assignments (including lots of creative writing) enable your children to acquire skills necessary for effective written communication.
- Freedom for four-day users, and challenge for five-day students, with optional Friday activities.
- Complete guided schedules for optional workbooks.
- Built-in phonics (reading and spelling) training in Cores A through C.
- Maximum interplay between students' Core and Language Arts studies. This helps reinforce concepts and spurs students to new heights in their writing.

Science IGs



Science lessons made easy (and fun)!

Sonlight Science IGs (for Science A-G) include:

- Complete, ready-to-use lesson plans, with all science books and experiments fully scheduled for the entire year. No need to create your own plans!
- Detailed notes to help you guide students through each lesson or activity.
- Engaging activity sheets with hundreds of illustrations, charts and pictures to help students remember what they've learned.
- The organizational tools you need to stay on top of upcoming science experiments. See at a glance what supplies you need each week.
- Complete, time-saving Parent Answer Keys for all questions in all the activity sheets.

For a full 3-week sample of any IG, go to sonlight.com/3-week-samples

Core Instructor's Guides



Core

Want a ready-to use homeschool plan?

We've done the daily, weekly and yearly planning, so you can focus on interacting with your children.

- Just open up and teach with this tool.
- Each Core IG includes a **complete learning plan**. Whether you want to do everything "by the book" or pick and choose

your favorite activities, find the perfect fit for your needs (and your children's learning style)—with little or no planning.

- Be amazed at how much you cover and learn in **manageable daily portions**.
- Confidently **guide your children** through robust material; we include plenty of notes and tips.

- Give your kids a **great education**. Your guide supplies ample notes, teaching aids, and day-to-day guidance to assist you each step of the way.

We've done what we do best, so you can do what you do best—enjoy learning at home with your family.

Flexibility to work the way you want. If you prefer to do a week's worth of a single subject in one day, work horizontally. If you prefer doing a little bit from every subject each day, work vertically.

- * 36 "weekly" pages provide a 180-day plan for your school year. It covers all you need for each day of the year.
- * A complete schedule saves you hours of planning time and frustration every week & maximizes quality time with your kids.

In addition to bold daily column heads, a smaller-print continuous count tracks the entire year.

- * Gives you the familiar feel of a weekly schedule, yet ...

- * Does not tie you to a traditional Monday through Friday calendar, and ...

- * Permits you to see where you are in the school year.

Beginning in Core D, the History books, Readers and Read-Alouds are closely intertwined.

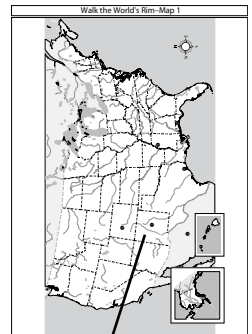
This means your child will learn about key historical events through a variety of resources, including colorfully illustrated histories and Newbery Award-winning novels.

And, of course, we don't forget other literary genres—like poetry!

CORE D	WEEK 1					FIVE-DAY
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	
Bible						
Reading	Luke 1:1-23	Luke 1:24-38	Luke 1:39-56	Luke 1:57-80	Luke 2:1-20	
The Discoverer's Bible for Young Readers	Genesis 1:1-23	Genesis 3	Genesis 4:1-16	Genesis 6:5-22	Genesis 7	
American Indian Prayer Guide—Maya	Day One p. 9	Day Two p. 9	Day Three pp. 10-11	Day Four p. 11	Day Five p. 12	
Memorization & Sing the Word: Great in Counsel and Mighty in Deed	Psalms 8 —Track 1					
History/Geography: See Study Guide						
The Story of the USA, Book 1 st		chap. 1 — Exercise 1A	Exercises 1B-E	chap. 2 — Exercise 2A	Exercises 2B-E	
North American Indians	pp. 5-11	pp. 12-19	pp. 20-27	pp. 28-32		
Readers						
Regular: A Lion to Guard Us	chaps. 1-2	chap. 3-4	chaps. 5-6	chap. 7-9	chap. 10-11	
Advanced: The Corn Grows Ripe	chap. 1	chaps. 2-3	chap. 4	chap. 5	chaps. 6-7	
Read-Alouds						
Walk the World's Rim	Preface & chap. 1	chap. 2	pp. 28-34	pp. 35-41	chap. 4	
A Child's Introduction to Poetry		"Introducing Professor Driscoll" pp. 7-8				

Daily Bible reading and weekly memorization.

Space to record your child's initials and completion dates so all your records are in one place for reporting requirements.



We highlight map and timeline activities for you. Many books have their own map keys to give you the instant location for assignments. The Timeline Schedule tells you the key events to add to your timeline.

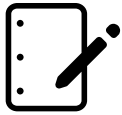
Find what you need in seconds. The Core Instructor's Guide binder with reinforced tab dividers keeps your plans organized and accessible.

"When asked about Sonlight's IG, one word enters my mind," writes Kimberly S of New Port Richey, FL. "Balance. I open the IG for the week, review what is covered, gather the few items I need, and I am ready to teach. Grand total of about 30 minutes preparation. The Guide does not micromanage me or the school work, and it is not a broad outline that leaves it to me to create a plan and gather supplemental supplies for the curriculum. Best of all, I can tailor the curriculum for my children and not skip a beat." Kimberly has used Sonlight for 2 years with her two sons. After trying many curricula in 10 years of homeschooling, she's never regretted the decision to finally switch to Sonlight.



For a full 3-week sample of any IG, go to sonlight.com/3-week-samples

Language Arts Instructor's Guides



Language Arts

Help your children love to read and write

Each Sonlight® Language Arts Instructor's Guide features a complete Language Arts program. Notes and schedules guide you through each week with assignments, creative writing and engaging activity sheets.

They'll get a unified learning experience and you'll have the joy of watching them

learn to love expressing themselves through writing.

Get ready for:

- Exciting creative writing adventures.
- Copywork or dictation practice from your children's favorite books to improve their punctuation and spelling.

- Carefully sequenced spelling and phonics practice in the lower levels.
- Extra Grammar or Vocabulary practice if you choose to use the optional workbooks scheduled into your IG.
- Lots of innovative exercises to strengthen vocabulary and overall ability to write well.

Begin each day with confidence knowing where you are, where you've been and where you're going. Your ready-to-use, 180-day schedule lays it all out for you. It gives your family structure and consistency, but also makes it easy for you to be flexible and adjust as you want. Expert guidance every day ensures you cover what your children need to know.

Weekly notes give you well-thought-out assignments and lots of variety. These notes walk you through what to teach your children and help you guide them in their assignments. They also include example answers for many assignments.

Your children learn to write based on models of excellent writing. Most of their copywork or dictation assignments come from Sonlight's award-winning Readers. The opportunity to write based on stories they enjoy reading will capture their attention and aid their comprehension.

Activity Sheets provide assignments that make your children eager to learn how to write well.

Your weekly Notes (shown above) help you guide your children in these assignments.

Large print dictation/copywork assignments mean your children can read and complete these assignments on their own. You're free to concentrate on other things while they work.

Your children learn from examples in your Notes and in the books they read, then practice those concepts (such as similes) here.

LA FOR GRADE 2 READERS		WEEK 2					SCHEDULE
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	
Spelling/Phonics							
Spelling	Rule & Write	Pre-Test	Check	Post-Test	Optional: Write a Sentence		
Activity	Index Cards						
Optional: Explore the Code 4	pp. 9-10	pp. 11-12	pp. 13-14	pp. 15-16			
Handwriting							
Handwriting							
Readers							
The Beginner's Bible	"A New Home" pp. 39-45	"The Visitors" pp. 46-51	"A Bride for Isaac" pp. 52-57	"Isaac's Blessing" pp. 58-62	"Jacob's Dream" pp. 63-65		
Vocabulary Development							
Optional: Wordly Wise A							
Writing							
Assignment				Like What?	Optional: Simile Shout Out		
Activity Sheets	Activity Sheet 2: Copywork	Activity Sheet 2: Apply	Activity Sheet 2: Similes				
Other Notes							

Week 2—Notes	
Day 1	ers might have hoped? What animals surely galloped about?
Spelling/Phonics	Below Apply on Activity Sheet 2, ask your children to write a couple of sentences about the particular animals that might have come on board in these specific ways. (Answers will vary. Two bonuses happened onto the ark. The pair of horses galloped onto the ark.)
Woods	hopeful, helpful, gladness, sadness, wishing, blackest, longest, careful, fishing, angling
Activity	From your spelling words, write the root word on an index card and a suffix on a separate card. Have your children combine the two cards to form the new word. How many suffixes work appropriately with the various words? (e.g., hopeful, hoping.)
Activity Sheet 2: Copywork	The Beginner's Bible, "Noah's Ark," pp. 29, 30
	Write: Animals crept, crawled, hopped, and galloped onto Noah's new boat.
	After everyone was inside, the rain began to fall.
	Ask your children to write the copywork passage on paper with lines that correspond to the handwriting program you have chosen.
Optional Copywork Passage: The Beginner's Bible	"The Visitors," p. 46
	Abraham told Sarah about the visitors. He asked her to make a tasty meal.
Day 2	
Activity Sheet 2: Apply	What action words (called verbs) work in the first sentence of the copywork passage? (crept, crawled, hopped, galloped.) Discuss how using such interesting, descriptive verbs makes the sentence more lively than "If the author had merely written, 'Animals came onto Noah's new boat.' Can your children think of any more verbs that could have been used? (Answers will vary: ran, slipped, lifted, shuddered, crawled, inched, etc.)
	What animals might the verbs be describing? What kinds of animals can you see creeping onto Noah's Ark? What animals may have crawled on board? What verbs might have hoped? What animals surely galloped about?
Day 3	
Activity Sheet 2: Similes	Last week, your children used interesting descriptive words based upon their five senses to describe an animal. This week, we want them not only to notice details about that animal, but also to think creatively about how to describe those details that they notice. Read through tomorrow's writing assignment with your children and then discuss similes with them.
	Similes are short phrases used to compare two or more things that are otherwise not similar. Similes usually contain the words like or as. Here are a few examples of similes.
	quiet as a mouse sly like a fox fast like a jet slow as a snail
	Similes help readers form mental pictures in their minds. Writers use them to make their descriptions more interesting.
	Work through the Similes section on Activity Sheet 2 with your children. Help them think of imaginative similes to describe further the details they noticed last week. To help you get started, here are some similes that could be created from some of the examples we used last week:
	stepped: as a cat's paw, like a dance load: like rolling thunder, as a trumpet
Day 4	
Writing: Like What?	Your children's assignment this week is to describe in even more vivid detail the animal they described last week. They can use the same descriptive words they used in their paragraph last week, or they can use brand new words.

Student Activity Sheet 2	
Copywork	The Beginner's Bible, "Noah's Ark," pp. 29, 30
	Animals crept, crawled, hopped, and galloped onto Noah's new boat.
	After everyone was inside, the rain began to fall.
Apply	Write two sentences about animals that might have boarded Noah's ark in particular ways (did they creep? crawl? jump?).
Similes	Choose at least three of the descriptive words that you thought of last week. For each of those descriptive words, write at least two imaginative similes on the lines below. Feel free to ask your mother or dad for help.
1. Descriptive word: _____	Similes: _____
2. Descriptive word: _____	Similes: _____
3. Descriptive word: _____	Similes: _____



"The lesson plans laid out by Sonlight not only facilitate continuity between lessons, creating building blocks for future learning, but they also excite kids to want to learn," writes Amy Gail J of Madison, WI. "When we started home schooling, my son was bored. We were going to the library three times a week. I was trying to put together my own curriculum and not succeeding." But then Amy Gail found Sonlight. She appreciates the flexibility and communal nature of Sonlight: several relatives all help teach lessons and love it! Here, Lucas (3) and Lucy (2) prepare for a science experiment as they explore P4/5 in their first year of Sonlight.

For a full 3-week sample of any IG, go to sonlight.com/3-week-samples

Science Instructor's Guides



Science

Investigate, discover and enjoy science.

The Instructor's Guides for the Sonlight Science programs (Science A-G) make learning and teaching science a low-stress, highly interactive adventure.

Our goal is to help you give your kids a top-rate education *and* to make your job easy.

Each Science IG:

- Minimizes your prep time
- Helps you get the most from your science kit
- Provides counter perspectives on any controversial ideas and statements in materials.

- Helps you stay organized with experiments
- Features Activity Sheets that bring science to life (in addition to the loads of experiments included in the program)

So please, discover the joy of science along with your kids!

"Do Together" activities give suggestions for simple activities that build on the day's lesson—like exploring taste buds using basic ingredients like lemon juice and sugar.

Student activities coordinate with reading and fit within the ready-to-use schedule—no planning necessary!

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SCIENCE C	WEEK 3					SCHEDULE
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	
The Usborne Book of Knowledge	p. 98	pp. 100-101	pp. 102-103		pp. 66-67	
Activity Sheet Questions	#1-2	#3-4	#5-8			
Usborne Book of Knowledge						
Activity Sheet Questions					#11-13	
Discover & Do Level 2				#47-48		
Do Together		Bring Lunch to Life	Good Taste			
Science Activities, Vol. 3				"Feeding Your Body"		
Activity Sheet Questions				pp. 40-41		
Supplies				#9-10		
Shopping/Planning List						
Other Notes						

We provide: NSK—mirror.
You provide: apple, milk, kiwi, box of gelatin, two large bowls, two alternate experiments).

For next week: tennis ball, watch with second hand.

Your science guide alerts you to what's ahead in your study, so you'll have the right tools for experiments on hand just when you need them. No surprises at experiment time!

Weekly Notes point out fun facts about what you're learning, help you get the most from your materials, and explain assignments and activities.

Interactive Student Activity Sheets make science fun and reinforce learning.

Activities progress with the children's abilities: From cutouts, matching, circle-the-answer and dictation to fill-in puzzles and sequencing analysis.

Student Activity Sheets guide and hold kids' attention with a variety of age-appropriate activities.

* Prep time? Zero. Interest Value? Immense.

* Reproduction rights mean one guide is good for the entire family.

Note: Sample pages are typical for levels A-G. Each year includes a wide variety of activities, enhanced with a wealth of fun and helpful illustrations.

"Sonlight has freed me to do more of things I love to do with family by giving me the precious gift of time. It has also given my family a much calmer and saner mom. By laying out the lessons and providing the tools, Sonlight allows me to guide my girls in their education effortlessly."

—Lisabeth K, Aug. 2010

The Usborne Book of Knowledge

p. 98
The last paragraph on this page, beginning with the phrase "No scientist has ever been able to..." is an important one. It demonstrates human limits. Although we are intelligent beings, we are not nearly as intelligent as God the Creator. Also, when compared to machines, human beings are far more valuable, creative, and amazing. We are "truly and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14).

pp. 100-101

Do these pages look a little cluttered to you? Maybe a bit confusing to follow? The pages in this entire section on the human body all follow pretty much the same structure, so it's a good idea to familiarize yourself with it now so that it will be easier for you and your children to understand these pages.

Begin by looking at the main heading, which on these two pages is "The Eating Machine" on page 100. Then read the bold text under this title. This will help you and your children understand what the main topic on the pages is all about. Now you'll have to figure out what makes sense to study next. These pages all seem to go from a progression that is left to right. As a result, you can start on the top left and follow the text to the right.

It's fine if you don't follow all the text in the text bubbles exactly in a particular order, so long as your children get an idea of the concepts. Note, too, that sometimes you'll see little boxes of text and images, such as the bottom of page 100, "Where Your Eating Machine Is." These are sidebars that provide additional information about the topic being studied.

Allow your children to enjoy and study these pages and don't fear too much about the "right" order.

p. 103

The food pipe is technically known as the esophagus (esophagus in British English) or the gullet. The windpipe is also known as the trachea.

5-Day

pp. 66-67

Now here's an animal that qualifies as the opposite of sluggish after reading through these pages, ask your children if a beaver should be considered sluggish or not. Have them come up with specific reasons for their answer.

2 • Week 3 • Section Two • Science C

Discover & Do Level 2 DVD

We produced this fun and educational video so you and your children could watch "Professor Justin" perform each of the assigned experiments from The Usborne Book of Science Activities, Vol. 2. We recommend you gather your supplies, watch the DVD to see what to do, and then try each of these simple experiments yourself!

Or, if you prefer, you can do the experiments on your own and then watch the DVD to see how it turned out on screen. You may want to mix and match to find out what works best. We hope this video makes your science experiments more enjoyable and more educational.

If your experiments don't happen exactly as you see in the video, it's OK! Watch the Outtakes in the Bonus section of the DVD and see how things didn't always happen perfectly for us, either.

Note to Mom or Dad: Please navigate your Discover & Do DVD by using the DVD menu on your screen.

Optional: Do Together

Day 2: Bring Lunch to Life

There's nothing quite like bringing your child's studies to life before their very eyes. Since eating is something they do every day, several times per day (we hope), you have the perfect opportunity to reinforce today's lesson about how the body processes the food we eat. As you sit down for lunch (or dinner as a snack), talk about what they learned today. Then, as they eat, help them think about each of the aspects you discussed: the chopping and grinding action of the teeth, the muscles in the throat, the digestive juices in the stomach, etc. Can they feel the food digesting? No, not really, but you can help them imagine what's going on!

Day 3: Good Taste

Today, your children learned that different spots on the tongue have different types of taste buds for various types of tastes. Let them test their tongues today by trying different types of foods. Find something sweet (like sugar), something sour (like lemon juice), something salty (like salt), and something bitter (like orange peel). As your children taste each of these items, have them use different parts of their tongues. Can they tell that their sweet tastes are on the tips of their tongues? Have fun and don't let them have too many sweets!

Separate Answer Keys mirror your Student Activity Sheets for easy grading. You get continual insight into your students' comprehension. No testing necessary!

For a full 3-week sample of any IG, go to sonlight.com/3-week-samples

Pinching Pennies?

Sonlight may be more affordable than you think.

Allison knows homeschooling is full of choices. When she started teaching her oldest ten years ago, she obsessed about researching curriculum so her daughter got the education she deserved.

Since then, Allison has used a LOT of different curricula with her children. A friend used Sonlight several years ago and then kept saying that was her best homeschool year ever.

So Allison finally bought Core D+E. And then she started gushing—about the Instructor's Guide, the literature-based learning and the special bonds her family is forming. But Allison also gushes about the price.

“What?!” you may exclaim. “The price?! But Sonlight is expensive!”

Isn't it? Maybe not. I'd like you to consider ...

Monthly bills

Do you have any monthly bills? For internet, phone, gas or electricity?

What if your utilities company clearly showed you, up front, every penny you'd spend for a year's worth of gas and electricity? You'd probably take a big gulp, right? But then, if you value those services, you might break it down to a monthly or even weekly or daily cost and decide it's worth it.

The Core breakdown

When you look at the price tag for a Sonlight® Core program, you might take another gulp. But take a step back. What if you broke that cost down per month per child?

Allison did so in 2010 for Core D+E with 3 kids:

This package cost about \$450. You receive the weekly schedule and lots of supplemental teaching materials, questions to ask your children for every chapter of every book, and TONS of books.



“The first year—I'll be honest—I liked what I saw but balked at the price,” writes Wendy S of Orrville, OH. “We couldn't afford that! I decided to do Sonlight part time. After our initial taste I waded deeper. I was hooked and so were the girls. That was it, I would figure out a way to afford Sonlight. I couldn't put a price on the value of what it meant to our family! Gathering my daughters on either side of me and my infant son on my lap - to do school. I had no idea that learning could be like this.” Here, Wendy reads to Hannah (9), Heidi (7), Orin (4) and Katie (1) in their fourth year of Sonlight.

If we use it for 2 years that means \$225 a year for the core price. That's \$75 per year per child. That's a deal.

Even using it one year, that's just \$150 per child ... or \$12.50 per child per month. Not too bad.

Allison already combines three children with one Core. But even if her kids were too far apart to do that, **she could easily reuse each Core with her younger children** when they were ready.

“Mamamoz” wrote on the Sonlight® Forums:

You know when I realized how inexpensive Sonlight really is??? The first year I pulled out a full Core for my second child. Now we have four children, all a few years apart, and a corner of the attic dedicated to plastic bins, each with a Core in it. Let's see ... \$125 a year per child. No online or workbook curriculum could compete with Sonlight.

Even if you'll only use a package with one or two kids, break down the price by month and your education costs might prove more reasonable than you expect. Also, don't forget the flexible budgeting options of Time Payments (p. 152).

Public and private schools

It's no surprise that Sonlight is far more affordable than nearly all private schools. “Dcubed” from the forums used to send her children to a relatively inexpensive private school:

Even though I won't be reusing any Cores, I still find Sonlight a bargain—especially compared to the Christian school they were enrolled in: \$4,000 per year per child.

But public school is free, right? Well, if you count registration fees, activity fees, lab fees, field trips, fund-raising donations, school clothes and miscellaneous supplies ... it can *really* add up. Not only would you miss the benefits of homeschooling, you'd still likely pay hundreds of dollars.

Shop around

You could buy many Sonlight materials at online discount stores. But we hear again and again that it's not worth the headache:

I bought PreK piecemeal and saved, I don't know, of the cost? And went nuts. —MeAndTheBoys

It was just not worth it to me to save \$50ish and make myself a basket case in my 'quest.' I am happy to pay Sonlight to do that legwork.—That'swhatshe said

In a recent test, the books in 4 out of 4 Sonlight Cores were cheaper from Sonlight than from the world's largest online retailer. And consider that when you buy a Core from Sonlight, you receive free, fast FedEx shipping (to the lower 48), a one-year money back guarantee *and* additional Core Club benefits (p. 24). If you buy a full Multi-Subject Package, you save even more.

Head to the library

Couldn't you just get your Sonlight books at your local library? Yes. Well, sort of.

Maybe you live next door to a fantastic library. And no one else in your town likes to read. And you never accrue late fines. And you don't mind renewing your kids' favorites again and again.

Perhaps the library is your best bet. But there are hidden costs to consider. As Mary Grace said on the Forums:

Sonlight books are VERY popular in my wonderful library system ... you cannot count on getting them when you need them, no matter how far in advance you schedule the hold.

Build it from scratch

Ambitious parents sometimes set out to build better curricula and save money. They gather books, create schedules and write assignments.

After countless hours preparing—after frustration from poor library systems and wasted nights on eBay auctions—they often find the time wasn't worth the money they may or may not have saved. And the materials (which they can rarely return) often just don't meet their expectations or needs.

Choose cheaper curriculum

We know that some other homeschool curricula look cheaper. And sometimes they are ... if you only look at dollars. But the old adage “you get what you pay for” can really prove true.

Plus, Sonlight shows you your whole price up front, and shipping is free (to the lower 48 states) when you buy a Core or Multi-Subject Package. If you purchase from another company, make sure to factor in the extra books, supplies, equipment and shipping into your final financial cost.

And if you buy from someone else, make sure it's really the package you want before you buy. No one else is confident enough to let you take your program for an actual test run like we do.

Final thoughts

Yes, you do have other options. But consider:

- What is the true cost of Sonlight *per child* (since you can reuse about 90% of each Core)?
- Is it worth the headaches and uncertainty to build your own package?
- How much do you value the high quality of education Sonlight provides? What about the time and stress you save by not ordering from multiple places or planning your own lessons?
- How much are the Club benefits (p. 24) worth?
- Time Payments (p. 25) help fit your budget.
- Our 18-week Love to Learn Guarantee (p. 24) lets you return your half-used package for a full refund if you don't love it. (But very few ever want to return Sonlight packages!)

May God bless your homeschool this year.

"Can't We do school today?"

Cat wrote,

If a curriculum can help me to develop a passion for learning that's stronger than the love of unwrapping presents in a 5-year-old, 4-year-old, and 2-year-old, then you know it's a keeper!

On Christmas morning, I had to tell my girls, "No, we cannot do Sonlight. It's Christmas and we are supposed to be eating blueberry pancakes, opening presents, and celebrating Jesus' birth. It is not a school day today." And that was met by groans.

They had asked to do lessons before they even asked about opening the presents that were sitting in a nice big pile under the tree right beside me at that time.

Okay. That's a bit extreme. But it's definitely not "over the top." Countless moms have told us similar stories—about Sunday mornings, holidays and summer vacations.

Amanda wrote on January 3, 2009, about her 6-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son:

We took two weeks off for Christmas break and I thought my kids were gonna go bananas!

"Mommy, when can we do school? Mommy, aren't we going to do school today? Mommy, is it time for school, yet? Why can't we do school until after Christmas? But Mommy, you said Christmas was 8 days away and that's a really long time to wait to do school again!"

Finally, today I told them it was almost Monday and that we would begin our schoolwork again.

"Yay, Levi! Did you hear that??? Mommy said we can do school in just two more days!!!" At that last point her voice went just about to dog frequency.

After that they both scuttled off upstairs talking and planning about all the schoolwork they would soon get to do. It made my heart smile.

And if you're like me, you've got to ask Why? Why do children get so excited when they use Sonlight Curriculum? What does Sonlight offer that other programs don't?

Sonlight's award-winning series of "real" books makes history come alive.

Sonlight helps your children see, feel, and hear what happened as it happened—even 2,000 years ago.

In other words, Sonlight history is almost as good as being there. Kids don't suffer through boatloads of boring textbook recitations of "testable information."

No. The story draws them in. And whatever those textbooks would have highlighted as important ("Remember this name!" "Remember this date!") your children will remember "incidentally." "Of course!" You can hardly forget a key character, place or event if "you were there!"

Learning happens naturally, easily.

When your children enjoy reading their school books; when reading is one of their favorite things to do each day; it's easy to remember one's lessons ... and you, the homeschooling parent have the easiest and most enjoyable teaching process possible.

Read the quotes we've sprinkled throughout this catalog. We've been receiving stories like these, unsolicited, since Sonlight began. And in our 20 years of producing a catalog, we've featured new ones each year.

Your kids won't want the school day to end—and you won't, either!

Don't get me wrong—you're sure to experience discouraging days using any homeschool curriculum ... including Sonlight. Almost assuredly, you will experience days when you want to chuck homeschooling right out the window.

It happens to all of us.

But we all have bad days, don't we? No matter what our responsibilities, work can drive us nuts sometimes.

But ignore those worst-case-scenarios. What is your general experience? With Sonlight, you're far more likely to feel like Kristi W than the discouraged mom down the street:

Okay, Sonlight books may be meant for my kids, but they are such a treat for me. The way our society has been doing education for so long, it feels positively criminal to have materials that are so appealing and so rich. I keep catching myself saying, "This is far too much fun to be work."

Imagine having FUN teaching your kids!

If you use materials that you and your kids enjoy: do you think you'll want to quit? Not likely. Certainly not for long.

In fact, many Sonlighters tell us one of the biggest problems they face is that they would rather spend time teaching their kids than just about anything. Housecleaning, laundry, dishes ... Yep, even the dinner goes on the back burner while mom and kids "Sonlight" together!

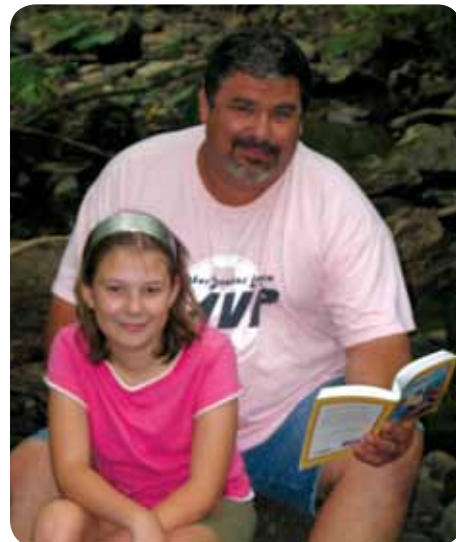
We expect you'll find Sonlight informs, challenges, and inspires you as much as it does your kids. You and they, together, will feel drawn to find out whatever you can in all the different subjects: Science, Math, Geography, History, Literature, and more. Even subjects that never inspired you back when you were in school.

Best of all, you won't want to quit. You'll finish the course.

And while you're enjoying the benefits of Sonlight's literature-rich approach ...



"The biggest change in our homeschooling is that the girls are eager to get started each morning," writes Ann R of Scandia, MN. "When we take a break from homeschooling (e.g., a bit during the summer, around the holidays) they ask when they can start again. They want to do 'homework' every day of the week. That has never happened with any other curriculum we've used." As part of Science C, Sophia (8) and Olivia (7) learn about skin cells by examining an onion. Sophia is using Core E as Olivia studies Core A in their second year of Sonlight.



"Last year (no Sonlight), doing school work was a daily battle," writes Lance W of Salisbury, NC. "This year (with Sonlight) it's 'Dad, may we PLEASE go read in the creek?' For the first time, Holly is excited about learning and is actually retaining information. It is so awesome for her to tell friends and family about something she learned from Sonlight! My wife does most of the teaching, so when Holly asked me to read to her, it was a real treat. What a blessing Sonlight has been to our family." Nine-year-old Holly is getting ready to study Core D in her second year of Sonlight.

"Can't We do school today?"



"On our last day of the academic year, my daughter was unable to accept that we had indeed finished the last of our Read-Alouds," writes Tara S of Honeoye Falls, NY. "Surely there was another book on our shelf that just hadn't been noticed? Surely we had only read four of the *Five True Dog Stories*. When I convinced her that we were, in fact, at the end, she cried. I'm glad the year together has been so rewarding." Here, Tara enjoys some special time with 5-year-old Anna. Tara's three oldest children are all using Sonlight as the youngest two listen in.



"Our younger children came into our home with major learning problems," writes Susan V of Weatherford, TX. "We found that the traditional textbook method would not work for them. Tony (7) especially hated 'school' and now he says we 'quit school and do Sonlight.' I quit worrying about what grade they were in and just started enjoying learning with them." Now instead of hating school, Tony insists on taking books with him everywhere he goes. Here, he is using a science book to identify the dragonflies racing on the water. The three younger children of the V family are studying Core F and Core B+C in their second year of Sonlight.

You'll experience other unexpected benefits as well.

We've heard this from many moms: Once they began to use Sonlight, their husbands (who had been only mildly interested in what the children were doing) suddenly began to ask if maybe they could read a few books to the kids. Or, at least, listen in while mom read. "May I borrow that book when you're done?"

Case in point: Tammy:

My husband never took much interest in homeschool. Now he looks forward to reading with us every day. He was hooked from the first Read-Aloud!

Sonlight has brought our family closer together as we look forward each day to the next adventure. I know that sounds corny, but it's so true.

Others have told us that until they first began using Sonlight, they were addicted to TV. They would watch the same programs together, but never talked about anything of substance. But once they began "Sonlighting," parents and kids began to lose interest in what was on television. The stories suddenly seemed thin or contrived ...

Now the kids actually choose to read their Sonlight books in the evening! If they don't have enough Sonlight books, they beg to go to the library so they can find more books by the same authors they found in Sonlight.

What makes a HUGE difference in those difficult teen years?

Especially as kids get older, Sonlight families find they discuss things as a family. Sonlighters often talk about all kinds of interesting subjects ...

"Tim, I was reading your Sonlight book last night," Dad says. "What did you think about [idea or issue the story raised]?"

You can look forward to the engaging discussions you'll enjoy with your teens as a result of the strong communicative relationships you establish with them as they grow up using Sonlight.

(From the very earliest years, as you and your kids laugh and cry over the diverse and emotionally compelling stories that make up the majority of Sonlight Curriculum, you will have established a habit of sharing with one another from the heart. By the time they are young adults, your kids will know they can turn to you with any issue of concern, and they can trust you to tell them the truth ... from the heart. —How different from all their peers, homeschooled or not!)

Not only can your kids get a great education with Sonlight, your entire family is likely to find itself drawn together ... for good. And for life.

A great investment for your family!

Lots of people tell us how much they appreciate that Sonlight books are their children's favorites.

They don't just read their Sonlight books for school. And they don't just read them once. They keep going back over and over again.

Becky wrote,

I was trying to trim down our shelves and had set aside some books I might sell. I asked my son to look through them to be sure I wasn't getting rid of any he wanted. Every single Sonlight book went back on the shelf.

"Mom," he said, "you can't sell these books—they're from Sonlight!"

Sonlight is a worthy investment—even in difficult economic times. Invest not only in your children's education, but in top-notch "recreation" ... not just for the kids, but for you, the parents, too. You will want to read many Sonlight books for your own pleasure and education. Really.

Deb F commented:

Usually, at the end of the school year, I rush to the library to find something to read for myself. After this first year with Sonlight, I didn't feel that urgent need—your books satisfy my soul."

Enjoy a greatly "multiplied blessing" as you invest in your children's education. As your entire family treasures these wonderful books, you can amortize the cost of your Sonlight programs not just over one year's education of a single child, but over the life of your family's growing library.

Make learning natural, easy and fun. Build lifelong bonds with your family, and a valuable library for generations to come. We invite you to join this satisfying life of discovery today. ♦

"They are little only once and it does pass by so quickly. Having constant dialog with them now, while their ideas are shaping and forming, has been a huge blessing to me - and Sonlight Cores are what spur on most of our dialog at our home."

—brla, May 2010

27 Reasons NOT to Buy Sonlight

Continued from p. 4

3. They prefer classroom-style study with lots of quizzes, tests and grades.

Unlike most classroom teachers, most homeschool parents have daily, personal, one-on-one contact with each of their students. Particularly with a literature-based curriculum, we've found that this one-on-one contact equips homeschool parents to evaluate their students' progress without quizzes and tests.

When you read a book, for example, you'll discuss it with your children: "Why do you think he wanted to do that?" "What does this mean?" If your children are able to answer your questions, you will know exactly how much they have understood—or failed to understand.

Sonlight does provide tools for you to measure your children's progress. Our methods are less formal (and some say a lot simpler) than classroom-oriented programs. Still, Sonlighters have found that these methods can give you all the feedback you need, plus all the stimulation and test-taking practice your children need.

4. They believe Sonlight is too expensive.

Sonlight® Core packages cost between \$266.99 and \$677.99. Multi-Subject Packages with all the main subjects for one child for one year cost between \$279.99 and \$1,025.99. Let me acknowledge up front that these costs are beyond the means of many families. Sonlight absolutely may be beyond your financial capacity. And if it is, we don't want to see you place your family in financial jeopardy by buying from us.

For many years, our family lived on the edge financially. We took full advantage of giveaways and garage sales. We budgeted very carefully and pinched our pennies.

At the same time, we recognized that if we were going to purchase certain products, it was worth it to go for the (more expensive) high quality brands. I tried generic vanilla ice cream a few times, and then decided it wasn't worth it. If I was going to buy ice cream at all, I wanted to savor it. The flavor of the generic variety simply provided no pleasure. Some things you know you want to pay a bit more for.

And that's been our attitude toward Sonlight.

Yes, you can buy used. You can piece together your own program. You can use a state-sponsored curriculum.

But if you want to enjoy a delightful program that has been coordinated, scheduled and laid out for you; if you want curriculum full of the finest literature available; if you want the assurance that comes from a one-year, money-back, "Love-to-Learn/Love-to-Teach" Guarantee, complete with all the support provided by its award-winning publisher and amazingly inquisitive customers; if you want to enjoy those special extras that

Sonlight Core customers have been delighted to receive through the years; if you want to buy from a company known for bend-over-backward customer service, a commitment to the highest ethics, and one that dedicates a high percentage of its profits to charitable causes you can believe in, you may decide it's worth it to go for Sonlight Curriculum.

I should also point out that Sonlight (compared with other homeschool programs), reduces your costs by ...

- Making it possible for children at different grade levels—as much as three or four years or more apart—to study the same subjects together. (See "How to Choose Curriculum," p. 22.)
 - Allowing you to re-use curriculum with your younger children when age differences are too great to combine all your children with one Core each year. When the younger ones are ready for each Core you've already used with the older kids, you can pull it off the shelf, order a few extra resources and get started! There are very few consumable items in Core packages.
- Sonlight also offers additional value by ...
- Providing education and entertainment. (Families often say their children re-read their Sonlight books again and again for fun after they finish each Core.)
 - Providing opportunities for significant family times together: times that no one—not even a never-read-a-book-in-my-life husband—will want to miss.

You get all these "extras" from Sonlight for an investment that ranges from only \$7.42 to \$28.50 per week of school. Compare this with your other curriculum options, and you may realize what a good deal Sonlight really is.

Really. Take a detailed look not only at Sonlight, but at all your alternatives: "built from scratch," discounters and second-hand sources, other homeschool curriculum providers, state-sponsored homeschool curricula, and public and private classroom schools.

Once you do the full calculation, you may decide—as we have—that Sonlight is a better deal than you thought. And don't forget about Sonlight's interest-free payment plan options (see p. 152).

For a deeper discussion of Sonlight's cost, flip to the article "Pinching Pennies," on p. 136.

5. They want their children to study what their public-school peers study.

Many traditional schools boast that their curricula have no gaps—that their students will acquire complete educations, with no missing pieces.

This claim puzzles us. We don't see how anyone can be taught everything he or she will need to know by age 17 or 18.

When we first began to develop Sonlight Curriculum, we consulted several standard scope-and-sequence lists and quickly realized that no two curricula completely agree on what your children ought to know. Even programs that claim to have no gaps have differences between them!

We seek to offer a thorough education—more thorough than you can find in almost any classroom school. But Sonlight aims to create within students a genuine inquisitive spirit and love for learning more than to teach them a specific set of facts that their peers may or may not learn in another curriculum or school environment.

With Sonlight, you set the stage for your students to continue learning even after they have completed their formal education. Your students will pick up, later, any information they may have missed during their school years. Why?

Because they will want to learn. We've heard over and over that Sonlight gives kids an unquenchable love of learning.

Far better, we believe, to lack a few facts, love to learn, and grow for the rest of your life than to have "all the right information" and hate the learning process when you graduate.

6. They would rather not address false, foolish or questionable ideas.

Parents who object to Sonlight Curriculum on this ground may

1) believe it is wrong to mention or teach about beliefs or practices that are different from their own;



"From a tentative homeschool mom eight years ago, I am now the 'proud mama' of a high school graduate – who received an honors scholarship (two years, full tuition) from the local community college!" writes Dawn N of Western Springs, IL. "Sonlight has enabled me to confidently homeschool my son. Through the years, while the literature guides provided me with academic support, the Sonlight forums gave me emotional support and the sense that 'I am not alone.' Most of all, Sonlight encouraged both of us to think – with our foundation firmly rooted in Christ -- and to enjoy our learning and growing together." Dawn stands proudly with her new graduate, Dean (19). They homeschooled from 5th-12th grade, all with Sonlight.

27 Reasons NOT to Buy Sonlight

2) want to begin introducing these ideas much later than families who love Sonlight tend to;

3) lack the time or confidence to process difficult or controversial ideas with their children.

Parents who fall into one of these categories often feel uncomfortable with Sonlight's commitment to present all sides of a case.

If the thoughts I've just expressed create a fearful lump in your chest, however, let me note that your children will run into these ideas and practices some day.

Since that is the case, consider with me: What better place is there for your children first to encounter and learn how to address false beliefs, foolish ideas or questionable arguments ... than in the supportive environment of your home—with your help?

We believe that you, the parent, should introduce your children to the difficult subjects, carefully instruct them about why certain positions are false, foolish or questionable, and then teach them how to respond to people you (and they) may view as opponents—in gracious strength and humility.

We designed Sonlight Instructor's Guides to help you do all these things. You don't have to wade into difficult material alone—you just need the courage to put your toes in and talk with your kids.

7. They can't invest lots of time participating in school with their children.

With Sonlight, your children will do a fair amount of work on their own. Math and Handwriting, for example, require independent work.



"You made this new homeschooling Mom look like a Pro!" writes Amy L. of Portland, OR. "Last year was our first year of homeschooling. Thank you, Sonlight, for helping it be amazingly successful and so much FUN! I loved how each activity was adaptable to multiple age groups. We all enjoyed gathering around Dad in the evening while he read the Read-Alouds. The teaching guides were also a tremendous blessing: well-thought-out and easy to follow." Cherish (5) and Karissa (3) pose with a successful Science experiment. "The kid's highlight of the week was our science experiments, which never ceased to bring a round of cheers," writes Amy. She will study Core B with Cherish and Karissa in their second year of Sonlight.

But in Sonlight's areas of unique strength—History and Literature—the program will not work if parents hand it to their elementary or middle school children to do on their own.

With Sonlight, you will even be involved in the high school years, though to a lesser extent. Your high schoolers will take initiative; but after they've done their work, they will get the most from the curriculum if you engage them in discussions about what they've studied and what they're thinking as a result.

The complete curriculum, including History and Literature, Language Arts, Science and Math, requires the kind of parental time commitments mentioned at the start of each year's program description (about 1.5-2 hours a day in the early years, 2-3 hours in the middle years and 1-2.5 hours for older students).

Why?

Because it is Sonlight's purpose to equip you to pass on your values, your dreams, your worldview. And as the Bible says, you should talk with your children about these things "when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:7, 11:19). In other words—at least if we are to believe what the Bible seems to teach, here—you must invest a significant amount of time and talk with your children. And Sonlight equips you to make the most of that time.

First, we've done the lesson preparation for you so you can invest almost all of your homeschooling time in direct, face-to-face interaction with your children, reading and talking about things that matter.

Second, we provide a wide range of thought-provoking experiences for you to share with your children. But how do you ensure you talk about worthwhile things? In our opinion (borne out in practice): By enjoying a broad range of thought-provoking experiences and opportunities to identify with and discuss believable characters in literature and history. These are exactly the kinds of experiences customers tell us they get when they read the books Sonlight provides.

Your steady hand and thoughtful input as you read and discuss helps bind you to your children and them to you. As a result, they gain confidence in you and turn to you more readily for insight and guidance. You find yourself serving as trusted confidant—a privileged role that most parents would love to fulfill.

8. They want most school years to focus on U.S. history and culture.

In a standard American history/social studies curriculum, students begin with study of "my community," then move outward to "my state," "my country" and so on. They devote 10 of 12 years—over 80% of their homeschool time—to study of the history and culture of a nation that

has existed for less than 10% of recorded history and encompasses fewer than 5% of all the people in the world!

We recognize that Western culture—and American society in particular within the last 150 years—has enriched the world in many ways. We want to highlight its unique contributions.

But because we believe that God is no respecter of persons on the basis of their racial or cultural backgrounds, Sonlight also seeks to emphasize the unique contributions, strengths, weaknesses, and needs—both physical and spiritual—of the other major peoples and cultures on Earth.

With Sonlight, your children begin their studies outside the United States (see our P4/5, A, B and C programs) so that when they look at American history and culture (beginning in D and E), they will understand more fully how and why American culture is different.

In all, Sonlight devotes four solid years to U.S. history and culture. Due to their astonishingly rich content and engrossing presentation, however, those four years are equivalent to at least eight in almost any other program.

But Sonlight also devotes eight years to the rest of the world, including not only Western history and culture, but also the cultures and histories of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and indigenous peoples around the globe.

We believe God desires to bless all nations and peoples of the world (Rev. 5:9), so we help you prepare your students—wherever God may lead them—to think about, pray for and serve peoples and cultures around the world.

Of course, in addition to our spiritual interest, as international commerce increases, there are practical "secular" reasons we think you should want to teach your children about the world beyond America's borders.

If our larger-than-average emphasis on other cultures bothers you, we understand. There are legitimate reasons to focus on the U.S., and if you are convinced you want to teach along those lines, we want to support you in that endeavor. In that case, we invite you to consider purchasing only those specific programs within the overall Sonlight Curriculum that will meet your needs.

9. They want a more "Bible-centered" homeschool program than Sonlight offers.

We believe that academics ought to be based on and intentionally related to Scripture. Bible reading, themes and memory verses are an integral part of each Sonlight Core program. We also offer additional Bible packages to enhance your children's Bible study in the early Cores. In Core G through high school, rigorous Bible study (including Apologetics and Church history) is woven into the Cores. As we have discovered, however, this is not enough for many people. They want their

materials more frequently connected directly to Scripture references. They like to see a reference or quote from Scripture on nearly every page.

We believe there are many times when a certain passage of Scripture will provide insight or new understanding concerning a subject. We will of course quote or reference the appropriate Scripture there. But in general, our approach is to provide rich materials that help parents engage in more natural conversations about Scripture with their children.

When you read *The Hundred Dresses* in Core A, for example, the story itself presents wonderful opportunities to discuss Biblical principles in real-life settings. Why should we care for others? What does kindness look like? How do we stand up for what is right?

Instead of Sonlight filling up your Instructor's Guide with "Bible lessons" for each of these principles for such a small book, we let you decide what is most applicable to discuss. Depending on the unique needs of your children, you can teach whatever character principle you want to! We find that this fluid, natural method tends to stick with kids much more than simplistic moral tales about character traits.

But if you are looking for a program that displays a certain number of Scripture references per paragraph, page, chapter, etc., Sonlight Curriculum will not satisfy your wishes.

10. They enjoy creating their own plans and schedules and assembling lesson supplies.

Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd. was founded to help those who don't want to spend much time (or hardly any at all) creating schedules or doing preparatory work. Our Instructor's Guides, supply kits, and other materials help such parents spend more time teaching and interacting with their students, and less time preparing.

If you would rather do for yourself the work we have done; if doing such work leaves you feeling energized rather than worn down, we encourage you to develop your own curriculum.

Of course, we believe the individual books we offer can help you teach your children, so we are delighted to make them available to you. But we have no interest in pushing any services on you that you don't want or need.

You should note that while a Sonlight program is robust and sufficient in and of itself, you certainly can use it as a starting point and create additional lessons and activities in areas where your kids are interested. Our programs suggest a certain structure and schedule, but they are also as flexible as you want to make them.

11. They don't want any sad books or heavy content.

One of the criteria Sarita uses to choose books has to do with their ability to make a lasting emotional impact upon her. She looks for books where she feels an emotional connection with the characters. As a result, you are likely to find Sonlight includes more than the usual number of books that will bring tears to your eyes.

Please know: Sarita does not choose maudlin, sappy, romantic, nostalgic or sentimental books. Rather, she looks for emotions that fit more with words like poignant, heartwarming, powerful, deep and thought-provoking.

If you enjoy books like these, you and your children are likely to love Sonlight. As different moms have suggested, these books create a "wonderful heartache" or "positive mark on your heart." The emotions not only make these books memorable but also strengthen your broader learning experience. We have found that students remember much more of what they read when they have emotionally connected with the characters.

We also believe that reading emotionally stirring books helps children develop moral imagination. As your kids read and imagine how the world looks and feels to someone else, they develop the capacity to empathize with others. The emotional impact of such books helps children understand how their actions affect the lives of others far better than if they only understood intellectually that actions have consequences.

On the other hand, we have discovered that some people—parents and children—find emotionally-stirring books unpleasant. They not only don't enjoy having their eyes well up with tears, they find the experience downright painful. They think of such books in terms like heavy, sad, dark, gut-wrenching and so forth. And such parents may joyfully abandon Sonlight for what they view as happier climes.

If you or your children fit in this latter group, then we encourage you not to buy Sonlight. There are plenty of curricula on the market that avoid emotional issues and/or avoid touching emotional nerves. Sonlight is definitely not one of them!

12. They want a light study schedule, so their kids can pursue non-academic interests.

Or ...

13. They feel compelled to do everything their Instructor's Guide mentions.

We are convinced that homeschooling is much more time-efficient than traditional education, and homeschoolers don't need to spend near as much time in formal educational activities as students in classroom settings. But we also believe



"I never dreamed homeschooling high school could be a pleasurable experience...for both of us," writes Kathleen S of Lynchburg, VA. "I had been using Sonlight for two years with my youngest five children and an online high school curriculum for my oldest daughter. While reviewing her end-of-the-year reading list I was shocked to realize she had read through most of Cores F, G and H. 'Mom,' she explained 'these are the best books I've ever read!' I promptly ordered Sonlight for her senior year. Thank you for all the hard work put into the Instructor's Guides and for branching out into new areas like Economics and Psychology. I am now planning to homeschool all my children through high school graduation with Sonlight." Here, Jasmine (18), Lauren (13), Matt (11), Eric (10), Monique (9), and Mark (8) pose with their new Sonlight boxes. They're studying Core 300, Core H and Core C in their third year of Sonlight.

that we homeschooling parents have a responsibility before God to help our children acquire wisdom, knowledge and a foundation for future success as much as possible while they are under our care.

That's why Sonlight Instructor's Guides make lots of suggestions about reading assignments, reports students might write, subjects they might study, languages they might learn, skills they might want to develop, and so forth.

But think about an elaborate Thanksgiving feast where the banquet table was spread with scores of delectable dishes. No one would expect you to sample "some of everything." Indeed, even if you wanted to, there would be far too much food for you to accomplish such a feat.

So it is with Sonlight. Most parents pick and choose among the assignments we suggest. Almost everyone does all the readings, but many will ignore some of the comprehension questions.

... Or they will just use the *Discover & Do* DVDs in lieu of a full Science program in the early years.

... Or they will stretch a Sonlight program out over more than one year

... Or they will do the Read-Alouds (some of them, anyway) at night, thinking of them as bed-



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time stories, or they will read the books during the summer, when the kids are bored.

Some parents, however, just can't shake the feeling that they are failures if they don't do every last item mentioned in the Instructor's Guide (and do it in the same order and at the same pace that the Guide seems to suggest).

If you are this kind of person—if you feel compelled to check every box—then we want to warn you: it is quite likely Sonlight will be a bad fit for you. You might consider whether another company's program will better meet your needs.

14. They want to present all content and history as absolute truth, without question or doubt.

Though we base our curriculum on a solid, missions-minded, evangelical Christian interpretation of Scripture, we recognize that much of history is open to conflicting interpretations. We can't present many nuances of historical eras in absolute terms.

Many of us learned history as simple facts. But the reality is that in many cases we cannot possibly know exactly what happened. We may know the primary facts about major events, but we also know that historical writings and archeological interpretations come from subjective human perspectives. So Sonlight refuses to speak as if there is only one interpretation of historical events. We do seek to give a fair representation of both (or more) sides of any issues concerning which we ourselves are in some doubt.



"Sonlight brings the world to our doorstep and essentially, straight into our hearts," writes Megan B of Sylmar, CA. "My sons are learning not only about the world educationally but also spiritually and are beginning to evaluate their own calling. We do school at the park every Wednesday with a group of homeschoolers (most of them Sonlight users) and it is so wonderful to hear the kids chatter about what their favorite Sonlight book is or debate history or just generally enjoy the learning process." Here, 13-year-old Aidan reads from Core F in his family's sixth year of Sonlight.

Since most of history was written by the "winners" in a given situation, we strive also to at least consider the viewpoint of those on the other side. For example, I imagine the defeat of the Spanish Armada looked very different to Spaniard eyes than it did to the British. Both perspectives are valuable.

We take this approach in history; we take it also in other subjects. (See "27 Reasons Families Love Sonlight," #7 and 11 on p. 144 for specific examples.)

We do this because we want to be fair when other perspectives merit discussion. We want to encourage students to think critically and to act with gracious humility toward those who hold differing views and perspectives.

Especially when it comes to theological considerations, we want students to know not only what they believe, but—almost more importantly—why. We want to make sure students are able to differentiate what Scripture actually says from how people have interpreted Scripture, and to differentiate both of these from other, non-Scriptural ideas about events in our world ... so they can treat each of these wisely and well.

15. They want their curriculum to focus on personal holiness and, generally, to avoid discussions of broader social, economic, political and legal issues.

Of course a Christian curriculum must focus on personal holiness. But we believe our broad goals in education—as in all of life—must never be merely personal or defensive in nature. Rather, as Christians, we must enter into the spiritual warfare that has engulfed the world from the time of Adam and Eve.

That is why Sonlight seeks to help you prepare your students to become courageous, wise soldiers and ambassadors for Christ in and to the world, and not hermits for Christ removed from the world (John 17:14-19).

In keeping with Scriptures such as Matthew 6:10 and 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, Sonlight seeks to prepare students to take the offensive against the strategies, tactics and activities of the wicked one—not only at home and in their personal lives, but in the broad social, moral, political, economic and legal challenges of our day. Read goals 3-5 in "Our Top Ten Goals" on p. 146 and the article "Why Sonlight Uses Certain Books" on p. 148 for insight into how we do this.

16. They want to teach history in a four-year chronological cycle.

Advocates of the four-year cycle approach often cite two primary reasons in support of the idea.

1) They say it makes sense. History should be taught in chronological order, and it takes about four years to adequately cover history from creation to the modern era. And,

2) They say that a four-year cycle permits them to teach all of their children—no matter their ages—one subject at the same time: Ancient History one year, Middle Ages another and so forth.

I want to recognize that this approach works well for many families.

But our view on the matter is this: Yes, students need to understand the flow of history. Yes, they need to grasp the time line. But they also need to understand where things happened, among whom they occurred, and why. In order to explain these points, sometimes you need a separate narrative—a flashback—that may be out of order chronologically.

Is that bad? No!

Think about the last movie or book you enjoyed that featured a flashback scene to fill you in on preceding events. Rather than creating confusion, this "jump" to another time probably helped you understand something important about the characters and the scenes to come.

Similarly, we find we enhance students' understanding when we remind them of parallels and contrasts with peoples, cultures and events of other times and other places.

In the end, every one of our Core packages emphasizes historical periods and incorporates time line activities. And when we are teaching about any particular people group or part of the world, we teach in chronological order.

But we don't believe chronology must trump geography (i.e., place) and culture.

Sometimes it is worthwhile to focus on the history and culture of a particular place: American history, perhaps; the Eastern Hemisphere nations; or civics in an historical context.

We think you might come to the same conclusion. However, if you are unconvinced, we encourage you to use a program that, in its multi-year scope and sequence, places a higher value on chronology than Sonlight does.

With respect to the second idea—that a four-year approach permits you to teach all of your children with one curriculum, we agree with the concept and practice of teaching the same topics to children together ... as long as the children are within a few years of one another. Indeed, that is exactly what we encourage you to do when you use Sonlight: combine your kids so you use as few Core programs as is reasonable at any one time.

The appeal of great literature to a wide swath of ages makes combining kids possible. However, that truth is valid only so far. There comes a point where, say, a junior high school student won't get the kind of "meat" she needs from a book written to appeal to first grade readers. And few kindergarten and first grade students will grasp books whose content is designed to challenge their fifth and sixth grade siblings (let alone high school students).

We think that, to do justice to our children, we can't really teach all students at one time using a single curriculum. But Sonlight's approach reaches a happy medium that combines students as much as possible while also connecting them to the wonders of history at their own level of learning.

17. They want a curriculum to praise the Christian character and roots of the United States.

Sonlight Curriculum commits to train children with a missionary heart for all of God's world and to embrace all peoples with realistic discernment—European Americans no more and no less than others.

We are as fascinated as the next person with those aspects of American history that are uniquely Christian. We are happy to point them out. But we seek to go far beyond this.

For example, we seek to show how things look(ed) from the perspective of the peoples who were displaced by the European colonists. And we discuss issues of racism (for example) not only as they may have impacted the American Civil War but in other contexts as well. Over the years, we've found that this desire for a balanced perspective sets us apart from a large segment of the homeschool curriculum community.

18. They seek a program with a cultural background closer to their own than we are able to offer.

We think it is only fair to make absolutely clear: we who developed Sonlight are evangelical Christian middle-class white Americans. We were born and raised in the United States. We are the children of first- and second-generation European immigrants. Ultimately, we seek to be as sensitive as possible to the perspectives and values of others and we would love to serve you.

If you are looking for a broad-based, internationally-focused curriculum that is deeply committed to looking at issues from all sides, and if you can overlook some of our (usually unwitting) white American provincialisms, we expect we can provide the kind of educational program you are looking for. Customers of many ethnic groups, with a variety of worldviews, living in over 150 different countries around the world have successfully used our programs.

But if you are looking for a program that will focus more completely upon your particular cultural group—and that will speak more readily as an insider of that group—you will probably want to find another supplier.

19. They want a non-religious program.

Ninety percent or more of our books are non-religious. But the Sonlight Instructor's Guides are not religiously neutral! They are written from an unabashedly biblical, evangelical Christian base.

We are not strident in our Christian views, but we are not hesitant, either, to suggest where and how we think the Bible, as God's Word, may speak to the issues of today. We have written our Instructor's Guides from that perspective.

By merely eliminating the Bible portion of our Core programs you will not eliminate all references to God, the Bible, or Christianity. Though many families who do not consider themselves religious or evangelical use the program successfully, if you are bothered by a curriculum influenced by the Bible, Sonlight may not be the right fit for you.

20. They want their curriculum to promote the unique doctrines and practices of their particular Christian denomination.

Sonlight makes no claims to represent or advocate the views and practices of any specific denomination. Our primary commitment is to the preaching of Jesus' "evangel"—His Good News—among all the peoples of the Earth.

If you desire a curriculum that will promote a more narrowly defined theology, Sonlight, on its own, will not meet your requirements. Indeed, its broad vision, at points, may irritate you.

But many customers work around this by supplementing Sonlight's materials with others that more nearly match their own perspectives.

Please consider carefully whether you can work comfortably with materials that, upon occasion, may speak more directly to people who believe differently from you on matters that may be close to your heart. ... Continued outline at sonlight.com/not-to-buy.html.

Do any of these reasons "speak" to you? Visit sonlight.com/not-to-buy.html to read all 27 reasons why some families choose not to use Sonlight.

If these reasons cause you no great concern, or if you are willing to work around any difficulties you see (look to an advisor, sonlight.com/SCA or the Choosing Forums, sonlight.com/choosing for help with this) ... then welcome to Sonlight. We look forward to serving you.

And whatever program you choose, from whatever supplier, we wish you God's blessing as you teach your children! ♦



"Every parent loves to see their child delighted by good things in life, and Sonlight's science experiments are a great source of delight for our children," writes Heather M. of Poulsbo, WA. "They find great joy and fascination in discovering and seeing for themselves how the world works. In this picture, Anna is helpless with giggles and Josiah smiles with glee as raisins rise and fall after being dropped into a bottle of clear soda (an experiment from Science A). I also love the way my husband gets involved in the science experiments." Josiah (6) is in his third year of Sonlight as Anna (4) enjoys her first.

"Why Sonlight? I want my child to have a broad education as well as a Christian-focused education that also teaches her to think for herself and question things. I love the freedom involved but I also like that there are guides. So less work for me and more teaching and playing time."—Tamrick, July 2010



"My husband and I appreciate how Sonlight helps us develop a lifetime love of learning in our children," writes M. S. of Colorado Springs, CO. "All while spending time together reading and strengthening our family closeness. We are grateful for compelling History and Science curriculum and look forward to many years of learning! Our children ask to read Sonlight books over and over again." On the first day of Science B, the four children of the S family were thrilled to gather together to learn, especially when the 'Guest Professor of Science' (their father) arrived! They're studying Core C in their second year of Sonlight.

27 Reasons Families Love Sonlight

Find out if they might be your reasons, too.

Sonlight parents regularly tell us how Sonlight® curriculum enables them joyfully to learn along with their children instead of simply handing them materials and expecting their children to educate themselves. The entire process becomes a joy for parents and children.

Based on feedback from the people who use Sonlight Curriculum every day, here are 27 reasons customers tell us they are convinced Sonlight is a captivating, user-friendly, God-honoring curriculum.

Might these become your reasons for using Sonlight, too?

1. Sonlight's great books are the foundation for a great education.

Sonlight helps you build a library your entire family will want to read again and again. You'll pass on a love for truly great books that inspire your kids—AND you—to be life-long learners.

2. Sonlight Curriculum's literature base makes history "come alive."

Sonlight's story-centered approach transforms "schoolwork" into "edge-of-your-seat" living his-



"We are now starting our second year of Sonlight and I wholeheartedly wish I had started to look into it sooner," writes Cathy T of Frederic, WI, who homeschools children ages 15, 11 and 3. "After years of struggles and tears for both my children AND myself, I'm finally getting a glimpse of what homeschooling is really meant to be. As a busy homesteading, hobby-farming mother of (soon to be) five, I love that the research has already been done and that everything is laid out for me in one place. But more importantly, my children are truly happily learning, and that thrills me beyond words! Thank you Sonlight, for reviving our schooling experience, which has in turn, revived our home." Leia (3) loves to "read" to 6-month-old Nathan. She's using Core P4/5 as her older sisters study Core 100 and Core E in their second year of Sonlight.

tory. Your children will remember more of what they learn because they won't merely study it in dry textbooks, they will *experience* it through living books.

3. Sonlight researches and gathers all the best tools for you.

We strategically choose the best books and products and send them straight to you, ready for a year of learning. Sonlight does the searching so you can spend that busy "hunting for books" time with your family instead.

4. Sonlight is designed to free you to interact with your children.

Sonlight minimizes the work and maximizes the time you have for discussions with your children about issues that matter to you (many of which you wouldn't have even thought to bring up). With our Instructors Guides—designed for use by parent-teachers (NOT classroom teachers!)—you'll find you engage in heartfelt, thoughtful discussions all the time.

5. Sonlight makes learning (and teaching) as much a pleasure for you as for your kids.

According to most of our customers, Sonlight's educational materials inform, challenge and inspire YOU, the teaching parent, as much as they do your children. Not only does that create great memories for you and your kids together, it means you're motivated, yourself, to finish the course.

6. Sonlight Curriculum's biblical base provides your children with a solid intellectual and spiritual foundation.

Sonlight Curriculum's purpose and world-view are grounded in and motivated by Scripture. We believe the Bible is a necessary foundation for all learning and we unapologetically seek to arm students with a strong understanding of their faith as it relates to every area of life.

7. Sonlight helps your children gain a balanced perspective on controversial issues.

We do the research necessary to reduce one-sided arguments to a minimum and provide responsible answers to the biases present in almost every book. We help students fairly analyze different views from a Christian worldview.

8. Sonlight gives your children a broad and godly view of the world.

They'll discover cultures and rich histories that span thousands of years. Indeed, they will engage three times as much world history as found in any typical educational program. Sonlight sparks interest and compassion in your children for the peoples and cultures of different lands and helps them develop a godly heart for the world.

9. Sonlight's liberal arts and hard sciences emphases prepare your children to be cultural leaders.

Traditionally, the scholarly pursuit of the liberal arts and sciences is the best training to influence culture. Scriptural examples of influential "lettered men" include Moses, Daniel and the Apostle Paul.

10. Sonlight Curriculum directs your children toward worthy life goals.

The greatest heroes are those who not only overcome their personal limitations, but who stand up to fearsome foes and put ends to great evils. Sonlight highlights these kinds of heroes in order to direct students to purposeful lives and godly goals.

11. Sonlight trains students to listen to differing points of view with gracious humility.

In anticipation of their world-changing roles, Sonlight strives to develop students who will listen carefully so as to understand the views of people who hold opinions different from theirs so, when the opportunity comes, they are able to express opinions worth hearing in such a way that their audience is willing to listen.

12. Sonlight provides a friendly community of homeschoolers you can turn to for help and encouragement.

The Sonlighters Club Forums (sonlight-forums.com) offer warm community, great advice, and the chance to meet kindred spirits. Occasionally, these parents get together locally to meet and share in person.

13. Sonlight Curriculum offers a tremendous value.

Even if you never enjoy the "10% off everything" discount, the free shipping, the 18-week risk-free trial, the college scholarship opportunities, and the free gifts that are yours when you purchase a Core or Multi-Subject Package, Sonlight Curriculum is still an excellent value.

You can reuse much (sometimes 90%) of Sonlight® materials with multiple children. And the majority of your books, you will find, will build a library your family will enjoy for a lifetime. Great education and top-notch entertainment all at once. Can you imagine a better use of your family's funds?

CURIOUS?

Request a sample of any Instructor's Guide for **FREE** sonlight.com/3-week-samples



14. Sonlight maximizes economy and efficiency by helping you teach two or more students with the same curriculum.

Our literature focus gives you the flexibility to combine ages as you teach. Older and younger kids alike can benefit from the books you read aloud. Why not save time and money?

15. Sonlight Curriculum's assignments will readily meet all your children's academic needs.

Our programs provide academic challenges for advanced students, yet average students and others with learning disabilities use Sonlight with good success. You don't have to reinvent the wheel to make it work for your family. We've made adaptation easy.

16. Sonlight maximizes educational value by working strategically with children's developmental needs.

At early ages, children can understand far more than they are able to read. That's why we urge parents to read aloud to younger kids—and why we carefully design child-friendly type size and layout in books children will read for themselves. They grow in excitement to learn instead of frustration.

17. Sonlight Curriculum offers one-stop shopping convenience.

Sure. You can purchase many of the books we carry elsewhere. But you won't be able to find all the components in one place nor order them with a single click of a button—not in any one place besides Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd.!

We gather your materials together, package them, and ship them to you FREE (or at deep discounts). Which means you can enjoy more time with your family and less time “book hunting.”

18. Sonlight Curriculum provides homeschool support—from personal consultations to podcasts and articles.

Sonlight Curriculum Advisors are experienced homeschool moms ready to answer your questions, offer curriculum suggestions, and share in your struggles. SONIA, Sonlight's automated internet advisor, can also guide you as you choose everything you need to homeschool your children. And please don't hesitate to sign up on Sonlight's home page for our email series full of homeschooling tips

19. Sonlight's four- and five-day schedules are easy to follow and modify as your family requires.

Your entire week's schedule is outlined for you on a single page. You can see it at a glance and choose

whether to nibble on a bit of each subject each day or focus on one subject at a time.

20. Sonlight actually listens to you!

We want to make your job as a homeschool parent easier, give you more confidence, help you overcome obstacles, and protect your family's interests. So we offer lots of ways for you to give us feedback and get help. We listen to your suggestions and incorporate your ideas. Many of our products and services today sprang from customers' input!

21. Sonlight® Instructor's Guides walk beside you every day, ready to help.

No formal jargon or heavy-handed statements about the “right” way for you to teach your kids. Instead you'll find a knowledgeable and experienced friend who speaks your language, addresses your concerns, and offers suggestions.

Sonlight Instructor's Guides schedule every Core subject (History, Geography and Reading) as an integrated learning experience. You can easily add our separate Instructor's Guides for Science and Language Arts to tie in with your Core.

22. Sonlight saves you time by eliminating unnecessary busy work.

Tap into the Sonlight forums anytime to get activity ideas from other parents. But we've carefully screened out materials that require unnecessary effort or “learning” activities that, in our opinion, involve more preparation than their educational benefits merit. In other words, we save you time.

23. Sonlight offers an unparalleled one-year trial.

No other homeschool curriculum offers such a generous, comprehensive guarantee: Take a full year to use up to 18 weeks of your Sonlight® Multi-Subject Package or Core package. If it does not surpass all your expectations and desires, please return it (used books and all) for a full refund. Full details on p. 152 or sonlight.com/love.

24. All Core purchasers in “the lower 48” get FREE shipping.

We make shipping more affordable than any outside option for all our customers, even if they're overseas.

25. You get 10% off anything you order all year long when you order a Core.

A Core curriculum purchase also makes you eligible for a full year of discounts, free forum access, e-newsletters, special gifts and more. (See pp. 24-25 for more details.)

26. Time payment options help you make Sonlight budget-friendly.

You can choose to pay for your curriculum over three, six or nine months. For more information, go to sonlight.com/timepayments.

27. When you buy from Sonlight, you encourage Kingdom efforts and charitable work around the world.

We count it as a privilege to support international missions, church planting, literacy, education and disaster relief efforts that touch the lives and hearts of people around the world—especially in the neediest parts of the planet, such as the “10/40 Window.” We also enable motivated customers to participate directly in these efforts along with us.

Thanks for reading a few of the reasons families love Sonlight. If these reasons appeal to you, I encourage you to give Sonlight a try. With that unbeatable 18-week risk-free guarantee, you have nothing to lose and a whole world of learning to gain. (Find out more about Sonlight's guarantee on p. 152.)

By the way, this is a bare outline version of a longer article available online at sonlight.com/to-buy. Check it out if you'd like to learn more about any of these topics.

God bless you as you choose which curriculum will help you mold and shape your children into life-long learners. ♦



“I remember being bored out of my mind by history when I was a kid,” writes Debbie S of White Salmon, WA. “My kids love history because of Sonlight. Using Sonlight allows them to enter into history in their imaginations. They have walked the rim trail around our property dressed like Estabon from *Walk the World's Rim*, prepared a turkey dinner after reading *Caddie Woodlawn* and even tried their hands at making airplanes by using a pattern like *The Wright Brothers*.” Here, Josiah (9), Adoree (7) and Kiana (5) see what it's like to squat in a tree like the Falopa natives from *In Search of the Source*. They're studying Core D+E in their sixth year of Sonlight.

Our Top Ten Goals: Do they match yours?

Sonlight grew out of the reading, study, and hands-on experience of John and Sarita Holzmann as they educated their four children. Sonlight continues to grow from the feedback and input we receive from our customers—homeschoolers like you!

In this article, we discuss the top goals we've had in mind as we have developed Sonlight Curriculum ... so you can evaluate Sonlight in light of your values and your goals. If you haven't laid out your goals yet, perhaps you can use this list as inspiration.

1. Teach students to seek God's Kingdom above everything else.

We believe this is the primary goal Jesus set before all of us who claim to be His disciples: "Seek first His [God's] kingdom and His righteousness." (Matthew 6:33)

The books we choose and the discussion questions we provide are designed to spark "teachable moments" and meaningful conversations between you and your children, to help them learn to put God's kingdom purposes first ... before everything else.

2. Create a learner's heart, enthusiasm to learn, a desire to discover.

What good does it do to fill children's minds with all manner of information if they never learn on their own, or never acquire a heartfelt desire for education?

We want our kids to grow up with the same attitude and conviction Solomon had, where they

recognize that wisdom is "more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her" (Proverbs 3:13-15).

When students want to learn, we believe that attitude alone will help equip them to improve their skills throughout life so they can press toward the goals God wants them to pursue.

If, however, their desire for education extends merely to the point where they can "acquire credentials," once they graduate, we expect they will stagnate.

So how do we spark curiosity?

Consider the standard "social studies" approach to culture in which students learn first about things with which they are already familiar (my "community"), before they learn about topics with which they are less familiar ("my state," "my country," etc.). Sonlight takes almost the exact opposite tack.

We begin by introducing students to what is different and unfamiliar—a Christian ambassador to China; a people group that grows food in a desert climate; the cultures of ancient Egypt and medieval Europe—then (re)introduce them to the West and to the United States. Now they can see them in a bigger light.

After they have become familiar with the unfamiliar, having created a "contrastive edge" against which to compare their own culture, they are able to enjoy the delight of new discovery.

Besides desiring to create this sense of perspective, and to instill enthusiasm and interest in learning, Sonlight focuses on the unfamiliar and "foreign" ... because it is our goal to ...

3. Raise children with a godly heart for the world.

God's plans are for all peoples. And we want never to forget what is foremost on God's heart. Thus we are unwilling to focus solely, or even primarily, on the West and western history.

Most children can't imagine that anyone lives differently than they do. They have no idea there is a big world around them filled with people who experience life completely differently than they do.

So, we expose students to world cultures and world history in the very earliest grades. And even when we study American history, we focus not only on standard history—the political heroes, the battles and large social movements. We focus, too, on the smaller, more personal-scale social and cultural issues as well. Through the power of compelling historical fiction and intriguing biographies, we do what we can to help students understand history as it looks from the perspective of people who are outside the halls of power and who, for social or cultural reasons, just see things differently than we ourselves and "our own" people have always been taught to view them.

4. Inspire students to honor Christ boldly—in speech and conduct.

We believe the Christian faith is not merely intended to grant us eternal personal comfort; it is meant to change the way we live and, through us, to alter the world around us.

That's why, from the earliest years, we include materials to help children memorize Scripture and understand what the Bible is all about.

But the legacy of God's people extends far beyond the Scriptures. It continues to the present day. And we realize that, in order to emphasize this amazing legacy of God's people through the ages, we must provide children an historical and biographical view of the world.

We want children to find true heroes—people whose lives they can emulate, and people whose lives they want to emulate.

We want them to read biographies that not only tell them about the good deeds of others and the wise habits these people demonstrated, but also stories that help them see these people as they really were: people whom God used despite their shortcomings.

We want children to sense the excitement and challenge of following Jesus in big and little things—not only at home, at church, and in family relations, but also in the worlds of work and of cultural development.

We want children, through their reading, to see, know, understand and be willing to make the sacrifices necessary to fulfill God's purposes in their lives.

5. Train children to become winsome ambassadors for Christ.

Most curricula (especially Christian curricula) seem to focus entirely on "message" content—what students need to know and believe so they will quickly recognize and reject whatever is false.

Christians often justify this educational focus by referring to the U.S. Secret Service's method of preparing anti-counterfeit agents. New agents are made so familiar with honest-to-goodness \$20, \$50, and \$100 bills that they recognize counterfeit bills immediately.

We believe this analogy is good ... to a point.

Interestingly, however, Scripture uses more active language than that of anti-counterfeit agents. The Apostle Paul speaks of ambassadors and soldiers for Christ. And ambassadors and soldiers don't merely identify the enemy or identify what is alien and then run away. It is their job to engage the enemy; they must interact with whatever is not part of "their own."

And so, ambassadors must not only be intimately familiar with their authorized message ("so familiar with real money that they can identify the counterfeits immediately"). They must also know their audience. They must know what their audience thinks, believes, and values. They



"Since starting Sonlight with my kids [three years ago], we have read from the Bible, memorized verses, sang songs, and prayed together every morning after breakfast," writes Kimarie S of Mount Vernon, WA. "All my life I have struggled with trying to adopt a consistent personal daily devotional time. I am loving the regular connection time with the Lord as much for me as for the children's sake. We really miss it on the rare occasion that we skip a day. Thank you, Sonlight!" Each morning, Kimarie simply checks her Core Instructor's Guide and reads the scheduled Bible reading for that day. Naomi (6), Gideon (5), Elijah (2), and Zadek (8 months) enjoy this special time with mom.

must know the places where their audience's mental, emotional, and spiritual defenses are strong—and where they are weak.

Using the Biblical military analogy: soldiers for Christ must be taught not only to recognize the enemy (what is false); they must be taught to discover the peculiar strengths and weaknesses of the enemy, what strategies the enemy will use, and what strategies they may use against the enemy. Soldiers must also acquire a minimal amount of (at least simulated) combat experience before entering the fray.

All of these goals are ours in Sonlight Curriculum. Therefore, Sonlight is designed to ...

6. Teach students to listen well to others.

The Greek philosopher Epictetus said, "We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak." Those of us who wish to be effective communicators for Christ might be well served to take Epictetus' advice to heart.

After all, who would you believe truly cared for you, and to whom would you give attention: someone who listens intently to what you have to say before giving a gracious and thoughtful reply? Or someone who—before you've even finished speaking—launches into a prepared monologue designed to "set you straight"?

Sonlight uses two vehicles to teach students to listen. First, it has them listen while Mom or Dad reads.

Studies have shown, and we have seen it proven time and again: Children whose parents read to them regularly and at length are far more capable of listening and understanding what they hear than are children whose parents read to them but little.

Sonlight Read-Aloud Classics will entice you and your children to read together—often, and at great length. And your children will learn to listen.

A second means by which we teach students to listen has a slightly different purpose. We seek to convey different sides to an argument.

Many people—both children and adults—are afraid of what "the opposition" may say. Our minds become so filled with fear about our potential inability to reply appropriately that we never hear what the other person says.

Thus, most of us are far more comfortable remaining ignorant of other people's claims than (first) to become familiar with what they have to

say and (second) to find quality answers or, possibly, to admit they have a point we had never thought about before.

Sonlight seeks to teach students never to bow to this fear or laziness.

And this fits well with Sonlight's next goal:

7. Teach students that listening to other views won't destroy their faith.

Sonlight seeks to teach students the tools, techniques, knowledge and skills of godly intellectual warfare in the supportive environment of their parents' home—with the help of their parents.

We want students to be convinced, through experience, that there are legitimate answers to questions coming from "the other side." Even when they don't happen to know the answers, they need not run in fear.

There is no need to fear because the truth—God's truth—will prevail. He who is in us truly is greater than he who is in the world (cf. 1 John 4:4). And He who is by our side really will give us the right words to say when the time comes (cf. Matthew 10:18-20). Through their Sonlight education, students come to know this not just in their heads, as an article of faith, but in their hearts, through experience.

And this is intimately tied to another goal Sonlight pursues:

8. Inspire students to fulfill the work of true scholars.

Through the books we have chosen and through our Instructor's Guides, Sonlight Curriculum seeks to demonstrate true scholarship.

Through the assignments students are asked to fulfill, and by means of the notes that are integral to its Instructor's Guides, Sonlight seeks to draw students along in the scholarly process.

Some may question the value of quality scholarship. We believe it has a direct and valuable impact on a person's ambassadorship. The person who has "done his homework" is in a far better position than he who has not to communicate effectively with people who hold different perspectives.

9. Prepare students, through great literature, to act on important issues.

We who continue to develop Sonlight Curriculum can't imagine a quicker, easier, more enjoyable way to gain wisdom and knowledge than to read great books. We believe quality literature, whether written by Christians or non-Christians, should cause us to search the Scriptures to find out how Jesus would respond in certain circumstances.

As students seek these answers and think carefully about these subjects, they prepare themselves for the future when they will find themselves in situations similar to those they've read about.

10. Raise "culturally literate" students.

As E.D. Hirsch, Jr., demonstrates in his bestselling work, *Cultural Literacy*, there is a certain basic set of background information people must know if they are to get along in a culture—let alone to influence it.

They must be aware of the key historical events, significant persons, movements, groups and ideas that have shaped the culture.

Sonlight seeks to raise world-changers: people who will make a difference ... for good.

And so we place a premium upon cultural literacy.

That's why you'll find so many famous books (some of which, especially in the older years, are quite un-Christian) in our curriculum.

We believe our children must be made aware of these books and their content so that they have a foundational base of knowledge and, more importantly, so that they will be prepared to respond to these cultural influences in a strong and godly fashion.

Question is: Does this kind of education work? Jesus said we should judge a tree by its fruit.

Some of the fruit we've seen:

One Sonlighter published a novel at the age of 15. Another family has two boys who have expressed their sense of calling to the mission field. One student is preparing to influence the world of medicine, while another has served as a page for the U.S. Senate and plans to enter the field of law.

All around us, students are discovering their gifts and channeling them to further God's kingdom in relevant ways. For this we are very grateful.

Well, I've told you about our top goals. What are yours when it comes to educating your kids? Do you think Sonlight might help you achieve them? If our goals are in alignment, we'd count it a privilege to come alongside you. ♦



"With Sonlight, all three of our boys are growing strong in knowledge and growing bold in their faith," writes Anne H of Vernon Hills, IL. "Sonlight is Stephen's key to so many doors! When I see him on our patio, sitting in the shade, fascinated by a Sonlight book, it's almost hard to believe he's learning world history! Sonlight has truly given him a love of learning and it really shows in his enthusiasm." Stephen (9) is studying Core C along with his brother Sam (7) in his fifth year of Sonlight. Older brother John (13) is using Core H.

HELLO

My name is

Sonia

your automated curriculum advisor. Let's find the best materials for your family!

www.sonlight.com/sonia

Why Sonlight Uses Certain Books . . .

—By John Holzmann

Sonlight attempts to avoid books that include unnecessarily scary, boring, or offensive passages. We know, however, that different readers have different tolerance levels and expectations. So what is intellectually challenging to one may be highly offensive to another.

I once read a consumer magazine that rated frozen pizzas on a number of factors, including the volume of contaminants they contained. I remember being aghast at the things the authors said they found: rodent hairs, insect parts . . . even feces!

And most astonishing and depressing of all: not one manufacturer's pizza was clean. Not one! With the aid of a microscope, the researchers found contaminants in every pizza.

Before you decide never to eat a frozen pizza again, however, consider this truth: at some level of analysis, you will find contaminants in everything in the world. Whether hair, insect parts, or bacteria in pizzas; heavy metals, oxidants, or damaging lipoproteins in the human body; . . . or false, foolish, or inaccurate ideas in books.

A Fundamental Truth

In Philippians 4:8, God tells us He wants us to think about “whatever is true . . . noble . . . right . . . pure . . . lovely . . . admirable . . . excellent or praiseworthy.”

Many people interpret this verse to mean we should avoid everything that is impure, unlovely, lacking in excellence, and unworthy of praise or admiration. But I would like to propose a different view.



“We love the way Sonlight organizes and simplifies materials for the homeschool teacher,” writes Anna K. of Lancaster, PA. “Kirsten loves to learn, but a competitive classroom environment or a laborious and inflexible curriculum would drive her to insanity. We think Sonlight is a perfect fit for Kirsten’s developmental challenges (slight autism, dyslexia, and ADHD). We’re also excited about how Sonlight teaches discernment rather than non-thoughtful allegiance to a prescribed set of beliefs.” Here, Kirsten (5) learns to use a magnifying glass as she observes butterflies in the garden. She’s studying Core A with Grade K Readers, Language Arts for Readers K, and Science A in her first year of Sonlight.

Rather than telling us absolutely to avoid all such things, I believe God is telling us on what we ought to *focus*.

He is not telling us to close our eyes to what is ugly, contemptible, unhealthy, or evil and pretend it doesn’t exist. No. He wants His people to be aware of such things so we can avoid their dangers.

But, says God, we need to *focus on the good*.

Imagine a feast set before you. A thick, juicy steak sizzles on your plate, making your mouth water as the tender meat succumbs to the touch of your fork. Crisp vegetables, in bright reds, yellows, and greens and filled with disease-defying nutrients garnish your plate and crunch at every bite. When such a delicious, nutritional masterpiece is placed before you, side-by-side with a dish of reconstituted freeze-dried prunes, which would you choose?

Before you make your choice, let me warn you! Some food scientists have analyzed these culinary options and, upon careful examination, they will assure you that the prunes are free of rodent hairs, insect parts, and other impurities to the level of 0.21 ppb [parts per billion], whereas the feast is nearly 100 times dirtier—at 19.27 ppb of purity.

Now make your choice.

I would like to suggest *there is no compelling reason you should ignore the feast and eat the prunes*.

Similarly with literature—especially the literature Sonlight offers.

Sonlight, I can assure you, presents you with a literary feast. And I can also assure you the literary equivalent of germs, insect parts and rodent hairs are present as well—because, when we get right down to it, they are present in all literature.

And what is the appropriate response to the kind of feast Sonlight offers? We think students and parents should focus on the true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy qualities of the books we offer. And they should offer thanks to God for the delightful feast . . . even as they ask Him to protect them from the contaminants!

The truth is, if you find something objectionable in a book Sonlight carries, you can be sure we chose it because we believe its excellent and praiseworthy content far outweighs its imperfections. Indeed, we chose it because we believe it contains far more high value content than any work that covers the same subject available on the market.

“Okay,” someone will say. “A swear word here or there is one thing. But what about deeper issues—issues like the misleading character of historical fiction; books that include references to magic, witches, or other Scripturally-prohibited practices; and books in which the author promotes non-Christian or even anti-Christian views?”

What About Historical Fiction?

Some people note that historical fiction distorts the truth. For example, it often includes “real” historical figures, but places them in the midst of people who never existed. Sometimes authors have fictional characters do what the historical record clearly tells us a specific, known person did. They create imaginary dialog. And on and on it goes.

In many ways, say the detractors, historical fiction misleads students. And, therefore, they conclude, no self-respecting history program should include such books.

We have had a number of people complain about the historical fiction we carry after they’ve discovered exactly how inaccurate one of our books really is. When this has occurred in the past, I have asked the critic how he or she discovered the inaccuracies.

“Well,” says the critic. “After reading _____, I began to wonder how true it really was. So I went online and . . .” —Or, “... My daughter wondered whether _____ (a character in the story) really existed, so she went to the library and began to do some research . . .”

Frankly, I find these stories fascinating. And a bit humorous. Because when was the last time you or your child read a history text—or textbook—and found yourself motivated to do further research?

Is it because these books are fully accurate? (You can be sure they’re not! Just do a Google search on textbook inaccuracies and see what you find!)

No. I would hazard the guess that the primary reason you weren’t motivated to do any further research on the subject matter of the books is because the books *failed to grab your interest!*

But stories do grab readers’ interest. And once a great work of fiction grabs your children’s attention, you’ll find that the educational process becomes marvelously joyful. Your children will actually want to investigate the things they’re reading.

As long as a work of historical fiction is portrayed as fiction, and as long as we know of no more accurate work a child can read that will inspire further study, Sarita and I believe it is *preferable* to teach a child using emotionally and intellectually engaging historical fiction that will encourage kids to dig deeper . . . rather than uninspiring textbooks full of dry facts that are *possibly* more accurate (at some relatively insignificant level).

Some Homeschoolers won't Touch

What About Works with Anti- or Sub-Christian Themes?

Many homeschoolers say, "I don't want to expose my children to evil, and I do not want to be exposed to evil myself." They believe this is a way to obey God's commands to "flee the evil desires of youth" and to "be separate" from the wickedness of the world (2 Tim. 2:22; 2 Cor. 6:17).

These people will often suggest we should train our children spiritually in much the same way that the U.S. Secret Service trains its anti-counterfeit agents: by making them so familiar with the real currency (or, in the case of homeschoolers, with true doctrine) that they will recognize a counterfeit immediately.

The advice these people give and the analogy they use are both good—to a point. However, it seems to me that Scripture speaks far more about our need to interact with the world than to isolate ourselves from it or turn our backs upon it.

The Apostle Paul, for instance, says we are to be *ambassadors* for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20) and he speaks of Christians as *soldiers* for Christ (2 Cor. 10:3-5; Eph. 6:11-18; 2 Tim. 2:3-4; etc.).

Soldiers and ambassadors must be trained not merely in the (necessary!) art of *discernment*—the kinds of skills an anti-counterfeit agent requires—but they must master the active skills, too, of *engagement with the enemy*.

If we study the Bible primarily so we can *avoid* that which is false or alien, how can we act as ambassadors or soldiers?

To stay prepared for battle, good soldiers must learn self-discipline and must not let their bodies waste away from misuse. But they must do more than fight internal temptations toward moral failure, sloth and the like. Soldiers are called on to defeat external enemies. That's their job.

And, therefore, just as sword-bearing soldiers in the days of yore used their weapons for more than shaving their beards and defending their honor in private duels, so our children must be taught to use the sword of the Spirit (the word of God; see Eph. 6:17) for more than personal spiritual hygiene and protection from evil.

But we are faced with a question: How do ambassadors and soldiers train for active duty in the physical realm? Answer: Not merely through academic, classroom instruction. They also participate in "live" debates (ambassadors) and mock combat (soldiers).

It is the same with spiritual soldiers and ambassadors as well. We believe quality literature written from a sub-Christian or anti-Christian perspective can help provide the context for the kinds of mock debate and mock combat young people need to prepare themselves for spiritual warfare in the bigger, adult world to which they are being called. Such books can provide sparring

partners against whom our children, backed by the coaching help of their parents, can engage in "round tables" and "war games" without having to face live opponents who are actively engaged in twisting their efforts to our children's destruction.

It seems to Sarita and me that elementary level children ought to be engaged in lightweight sparring. With Mom and Dad's help, they need to learn how to discern and respond to the subtle (and sometimes not-so-subtle!) appeals of the Enemy.

Then, by high school, students should be prepared to engage in heavy-duty mock combat and ought to interact with books written by well-spoken, devout proponents of opposing viewpoints. Our kids need to face these authors' deceits and learn to recognize their strategies and approaches. It's the only way to train them for warfare!

How to Strengthen Your Children's Spiritual Immune System

Let me return to the contaminated pizzas I mentioned at the start of this article. You may have thought, "But what if we're talking not about relatively harmless impurities, but truly deadly poisons—or a virus, perhaps?" It's a good question.

Obviously, you don't want to expose your children (or yourself) to something that will kill you. But there is a way to protect against viruses, infections and deadly toxins.

The method? You encourage your immune system to generate anti-bodies that will overwhelm the toxins should they ever invade.

And how do you encourage your immune system to build up anti-bodies? Not by avoiding toxins! Rather, you build your immune system by exposing your body to small doses—or weakened versions—of the toxin ... over time ... under supervision ... and according to a definite plan. It's called inoculation.

Carefully-chosen books written from sub- or anti-Christian perspectives can make great vaccines.

Are you ready to prepare your children for the battles of life? Do you want to motivate them to learn? Do you want them to build up spiritual antibodies against the evils of the world? If so, then *perhaps you, too, will want to join us and use some books other homeschoolers won't touch!* ♦

**For additional information, including Sonlight's position on books that mention witches or magic, please go to sonlight.com/thatbook.html.*



"Carly loves singing the *Geography Songs* [from Core S]," writes Bridget F of Milton, WI. "What a great way to learn geography! She learned all 7 continents and the oceans in one day -- singing and having fun! I love that Sonlight puts together some of the best material. They pick out the very best in literature and I don't have to worry about what my kids are reading or what I'm reading to them." Seven-year-old Carly may have an exciting career as a performer ahead of her, but for now she's studying Core C in her third year of Sonlight.

"I love how Sonlight incorporates missions into their curriculum and they really encourage families to enjoy and explore this world that God created."

—Cori B, Aug. 2010



"Not long ago we had a family gathering and politics came up. Wow, the conversations that took place was amazing," writes Kristian W of Rockwall, TX. "Both of our boys were able to sit with all of the adults and carry on an intelligent conversation. Afterward, we were asked how they knew as much as they do, of course we told our relatives they are homeschooled. We were told 'Way to go homeschooling! Your boys are very well informed!'" Here, Justin (15) and Austin (12) pore over their new Core 200 and Core H books. They've used Sonlight for two years now.

Curriculum Scope & Sequence






A strategic map from Preschool through High School

Does graduation day seem far away? Breathe easy with this map to get from here to there. Sonlight gives you the tools you need to academically prepare your kids for excellence in high school and beyond. You'll help them get ready for college, trade school, the military, the workforce or family life.

From preschool to high school, your Sonlight journey includes three sweeps through history and a solid foundation of Biblical knowledge. Watch your kids progress from learning to read and write to composing well-crafted research papers and creative works. Journey from the very basics of science to college-level lab work. Take a look at the road ahead!

Sonlight Core

Choose a Core program (or two) that fits with your children's age ranges and interests.

	Core Program	Title	Age Range	Notes	History & Geography Focus	Spiritual Focus	Total Daily Time Commitment (accounts for all subjects, even Math, Science, etc.)
 Intro to the World	Core P3/4	Fiction, Fairy Tales, and Fun for Little Learners	3, 4	Informal preschool program with books and games to naturally encourage development and character.			
	Core P4/5	Exploring God's World	4, 5, 6		Discover fascinating differences (and similarities) between people around the world.		Student & Parent: 20 mins to 1.5 hrs (depends on child's age and parent's approach to learning)
	Core A	Intro to the World: Cultures	5, 6, 7		Explore Geography and Cultures around the world and across time from creation through modern times.		Student: 1.5-2 hrs Parent: 1-1.5 hrs.
 1 st Sweep through History	Core B	Intro to World History, Year 1 of 2	6, 7, 8		World history from early civilizations through the fall of Rome.	Learning to love Scripture. Discovering God's heart for the nations. Exploring how to pray for and serve others.	Student: 2-3 hrs. Parent: 1.5-2 hrs.
	Core B+C	Intro to World History, One Year Condensed	7, 8, 9	Cores B & C combined into one year	World history from early civilizations through the late 1900s.		Student: 2-3 hrs. Parent: 1.5-2 hrs.
	Core C	Intro to World History, Year 2 of 2	7, 8, 9		World history from the fall of Rome through the late 1900s.		Student: 2-3 hrs. Parent: 1.5-2 hrs.
	Core D	Intro to American History, Year 1 of 2	8, 9, 10, 11		American history from early Native Americans through the 1850s.		Student: 3.5-4.5 hrs. Parent: 2-3 hrs.
	Core D+E	Intro to American History, One Year Condensed	9, 10, 11, 12	Cores D & E combined into one year	U.S. history from the early Native Americans through the late 1900s.		Student: 3.5-5 hrs. Parent: 2-3 hrs.
	Core E	Intro to American History, Year 2 of 2	9, 10, 11, 12		American history from the Civil War (1860s) through the late 1900s.		Student: 3.5-5 hrs. Parent: 2-3 hrs.
	Core F	Eastern Hemisphere	10, 11, 12, 13		A fascinating cultural study of the Eastern Hemisphere, including Asia, Oceania, the Middle East and Africa.		Student: 4-6 hrs. Parent: 2-3.5 hrs.
 2 nd Sweep through History	Core G	World History, Year 1 of 2	11, 12, 13, 14		In-depth World History from ancient Egypt through the Reformation.	Overview of each book in the Bible. Discovering God's heart for the nations.	Student: 4-6 hrs Parent: 2-3.5 hrs.
	Core H	World History, Year 2 of 2	12, 13, 14, 15		In-depth World history from the Reformation through the late 1900s.	Learning different methods of studying the Bible in-depth.	Student: 4-6 hrs Parent: 2-3.5 hrs.
	Core W	One Year World History	12, 13	A one year alternative to Cores G & H	World history from ancient Egypt through the late 1900s.		Student: 4-6 hrs Parent: 2-3.5 hrs.
	Core 100	American History in Depth	12, 13, 14, 15, 16		In-depth study of U.S. history from pre-Columbian America through the present.	Practical and challenging application of Scripture. Serious study of apologetics.	Student: 5-7 hrs Parent: 2-3.5 hrs.
 3 rd Sweep through History	Core 200	History of God's Kingdom	14, 15, 16, 17, 18		In-depth study of the spread of the Gospel and the growth of the Church worldwide from the time of Christ to the present.		Student: 5-7 hrs Parent: 1-2.5 hrs.
	Core 300	20th Century World History	15, 16, 17, 18		Modern world history		Student: 6-8 hrs Parent: 1-2.5 hrs.
	Core 400	Civics/American Government	16, 17, 18		Civics and the U.S. government, with emphasis on the Constitution and its historical interpretation.		Student: 6-8 hrs Parent: 1.5-2 hrs.
	Core 530	Survey of British Literature	16, 17, 18	A literature-only Core. Add other Sonlight courses for a complete year of study.	In-depth survey of British Literature with an eye toward preparation for the AP English Literature exam.		Student: 2.5-3 hrs. for literature and writing Parent: about 30 min.

Sonlight Language Arts

Choose the Language Arts program that coordinates with the Core/Readers each child is using.

Program	Coordinates with:	Focus	Subjects Covered
Language Arts P4/5	Core P4/5	A gentle introduction to the alphabet, rhymes and the "first thousand words."	Phonics and vocabulary.
<i>Note: For Core A-G, purchase Language Arts separately.</i>			
Language Arts for Grade K Readers	Grade K Readers	Learn alphabet and letter sounds. Begin creative writing with a parent as scribe.	Phonics, spelling, vocabulary, creative expression, copywork and writing mechanics.
Language Arts for Grade 1 Readers	Grade 1 Readers	Read more advanced short words. Write short stories with a parent as scribe.	Phonics, spelling, vocabulary, copywork, creative expression and writing mechanics.
Language Arts for Grade 2 Readers	Grade 2 Readers	Learn to construct basic sentences and simple paragraphs.	Spelling, writing mechanics, copywork and creative expression.
Language Arts for Grade 3 Readers	Grade 3 Readers	Learn to write winning paragraphs step-by-step.	Spelling, writing mechanics, paragraph construction, copywork and creative expression.
Language Arts for Grade 4-5 Readers	Grade 4-5 Readers	Write sentences and short paragraphs relatively independently.	Spelling, writing mechanics, copywork, paragraph construction and creative expression.
Language Arts D	Core D	Explore various writing styles; learn about similes, metaphors and more.	Spelling, vocabulary, dictation, writing mechanics and creative expression.
Language Arts D+E	Core D+E	Explore various writing styles; practice advanced writing mechanics.	Spelling, grammar, dictation, vocabulary, writing mechanics and creative expression.
Language Arts E	Core E	Explore various writing styles; practice advanced writing mechanics.	Spelling, grammar, dictation, writing mechanics, research writing and creative expression.
Language Arts F	Core F	Take on more challenging writing assignments and explore writing styles.	Spelling, grammar, dictation, vocabulary, writing mechanics, research writing, creative expression and literary analysis.
Language Arts G	Core G	Advanced writing assignments and basic literary analysis.	Spelling, vocabulary, dictation, advanced writing mechanics, creative expression, literary analysis and editing.

Note: Language Arts is built into Cores H and 100-530. You do not have to purchase it separately.

Language Arts H	Core H	Increase writing skills; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Creative writing, essay composition, research and literary analysis.
Language Arts W	Core W	Advanced writing assignments and basic literary analysis. (Same basic material as Language Arts G.)	Spelling, vocabulary, advanced writing mechanics, creative expression, literary analysis and editing.
Language Arts 140	Core 100	Increase writing skills; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Critical thinking, essay composition, literary analysis and creative writing.
Language Arts 240	Core 200	Increase writing skills; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Essay composition, literary analysis, research papers and creative writing.
Language Arts 340	Core 300	Increase writing skills; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Creative writing, literary analysis, research writing and essay composition.
Language Arts 440	Core 400	Prepare for college-level writing; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Creative writing, literary analysis, essay composition and research papers.
Language Arts 540	Core 530	Tackle college-level assignments; fully integrated with Literature.	Creative writing, literary analysis and vocabulary with Latin and Greek roots.

Head to www.sonlight.com/scope-sequence for a more detailed chart

Sonlight Science

Choose a Science program that fits with your children's age ranges and interests.

Science	Age Range	Focus
Science A Biology, Botany, and Physics	5, 6, 7	Animals, plants and the way things move. Experiments and hands-on activities.
Science B Animals, Astronomy, and Physics	5, 6, 7, 8	Animals, outer space and the way things move. Experiments and hands-on activities.
Science C Geology, Meteorology, and Mechanical Technology	6, 7, 8, 9	Weather, geology and basic machines. Experiments and hands-on activities.
Science D Biology, Taxonomy, and Human Anatomy	7, 8, 9, 10	The human body, categorizing plants and animals. Experiments and hands-on activities.
Science E Electricity, Magnetism, and Astronomy	8, 9, 10, 11	Electricity, magnetism and outer space. Experiments and hands-on activities.
Science F Health, Medicine, and Human Anatomy	9, 10, 11, 12	The human body: anatomy, health and medicine. Experiments and hands-on activities.
Science G Geology, Physics, and Origins	10, 11, 12, 13	Earth science: geology, physics and the science of origins. Experiments and hands-on activities.
Science H General Science	11, 12, 13	A course from Apologia Educational Ministries: learn to think scientifically. Includes experiments and a unique Sonlight schedule.
Science 150 Physical Science	12, 13, 14	A course from Apologia Educational Ministries: earth science and basic physics. Includes experiments and a unique Sonlight schedule.
Science 250 Biology	14, 15, 16, 17, 18	A high-school level lab science course from Apologia Educational Ministries. Includes experiments and a unique Sonlight schedule.
Science 350 Chemistry	15, 16, 17, 18	A high-school level lab science course from Apologia Educational Ministries. Includes experiments and a unique Sonlight schedule.
Science 450 Physics	16, 17, 18	A high-school level course from Apologia Educational Ministries. Includes experiments and a unique Sonlight schedule.
Science 550 Advanced Science (Biology, Chemistry or Physics)	17, 18	Choose from three advanced lab courses from Apologia Educational Ministries preparing students for the AP* Biology, Chemistry or Physics test. Each course includes experiments and a unique Sonlight schedule.

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Sonlight's unmatched one-year "Love to Learn" Guarantee:



Try any eligible programs for up to a full year and enjoy "Sonlighting" with your children for the first 18 weeks of the schedule. If you are not convinced Sonlight makes homeschooling a pleasure for you and your kids, please return it—the entire package, used books and all. We will give you a full refund of your purchase price.

Buy any Sonlight® Core, Multi-Subject Package, Instructor's Guide, or *Eastern Hemisphere Explorer*, and the "Love to Learn" Guarantee is yours. Or create your own complete program by combining any Core with any Language Arts, Math, Science, and/or Bible programs (one each per Core), plus the coordinating Required Resources you need, on one order ... you're still covered.

This unmatched one-year Love to Learn guarantee includes the following provisions:

1. You have up to one year from date of purchase to complete everything that's scheduled through Week 18 and you can still return it all for a full refund.
2. You must return in unused, resalable condition (as explained in the 6-Month Return Policy) all materials not scheduled for use until Week 19 or later. The entire program package—both new and used materials—must be returned for a 100% refund.
3. However, we will accept one partial return of materials in any packages that qualify for the "Love to Learn" Guarantee (that way you can keep those items that work for you). Any items you keep following that one-time partial return are subject to the terms of our standard 6-Month Return Policy.
4. A full or partial Core return (even if purchased within a Sonlight Multi-Subject Package) **WILL VOID your Core membership in the Sonlighters Club.**
5. Refund of your purchase price **does not include reimbursement of your return shipping expenses.**

6-Month Return Policy

- Applies to individual items and single subject packages (such as History, Bible, Reader, Read-Aloud, Language Arts, Math, Science, and similar packages).
- Items must be returned in unused, resalable condition (i.e., not marked in nor on, binding unbroken, cover and pages unbent, and not scuffed, defaced nor worn).
- You will receive a refund of your purchase price less a 10% handling fee for items returned in a resalable condition (does not include return shipping expenses).
- Materials returned after six months or received by us in non-resalable condition will not receive a refund nor will we return these materials to you.

Time Payments

Time payments are offered for online orders in the United States and Canada only.

Qualification for time payments is dependent on your credit score based on our preferred credit agency report.

- If your order totals \$399 or more, you'll be offered the Time Payment option at checkout, we do not add any fees or interest. For complete details, visit our website at www.sonlight.com/timepayments.

Terms of Sale

- **Payment in U.S. funds must accompany your order.** Online orders can be paid by: VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express or e-check. Manual orders can be paid by: VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, paper check, wire transfer or money order in U.S. funds.
- **We guarantee prices through June 30. After that date, prices of individual titles are subject to change without notice.** Price increases up to 10% above your calculated order total will not delay shipment of your order. However, we expect you to pay the difference upon receipt of shipment. If the difference between your calculation and ours is greater than 10%, we will contact you to acquire approval before shipment.
- **Orders usually ship within 3-5 BUSINESS DAYS** from the time we receive your order, except during July-September when orders may take 7-10 BUSINESS DAYS to leave our warehouse. **RUSH service and 2-day or Next-day** delivery are available. (See the chart at www.sonlight.com/shipping-policy.html for pricing or call (303) 730-6292.)
- **We will charge you for items you purchase only at the time your goods are shipped.** If there are backorders, we charge no additional shipping fees, and we will not charge your credit card for backordered items until the backorders are shipped.
- **Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd., has no control over the availability of goods it does not publish.** Therefore, components of curriculum packages may change without notice. If changes have been made to a package you've ordered, we will ship the current package. We will make no substitutions on orders for individual titles.
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If you request us to cancel or change an order after you submit it, and if we are able physically to accommodate your request, we will charge you a handling fee of 5% of the value of the change request or \$10, whichever is greater.

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We cannot make any changes to an order once it has been shipped from our warehouse.

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Refunds. If you return any materials, the appropriate credit will be refunded to the credit card used for the purchase. If you paid by check, we usually mail a refund check to you within 10 BUSINESS DAYS. **Note:** Due to credit card agency policies, we are unable to grant requests to process credit card refunds to new or different sources; for instance, we cannot apply credit to a different card from the one you used when you placed your order.

Expedite your return, go to www.sonlight.com/returns.html.

Note: Orders received with returns will be delayed. To receive better service please place a new order via our website, fax, email, or mail.

1. Ensure items are eligible for return according to the 18-Week "Love to Learn" Guarantee or the 6-Month Return Policy as detailed above.
2. Lay materials flat, not on their sides.
3. Pack CDs, Binders, and Science Supply Kits on top of books.
4. Use the return address label from your packing slip or clearly print your name & address on the outside of the box.
5. Ship to Sonlight via UPS, FedEx, or Insured Postal Service to guarantee safe arrival. **Note:** If we do not receive your return, or if it is received damaged, we can neither grant you a refund nor return the items to you.
6. **International customers:** In addition to return instructions above, please write a clear description of the goods being returned on the box, i.e., "Textbooks-Educational Materials". State on the commercial invoice "US Goods Returned" and include HTS# 9801.00.10

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Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd., makes no warranties of any kind concerning the fitness of its materials to meet any educational or legal requirements. The responsibility for meeting practical and legal educational requirements rests solely with the consumer.

We strongly urge our customers to invest the time necessary to become familiar with the controlling laws concerning home education in their communities. Information on this subject can be found on the web at homeschoollegaladvantage.com, hslsda.org or also by contacting your local homeschool support group.

For clarification of any of these policies, please contact us. Email: main@sonlight.com
Phone: (303) 730-6292.

*"The Sonlight staff was tremendously friendly and helpful every time I contacted Sonlight either by phone or e-mail."
—Nicole R, Aug. 2010*

Shipping Policies

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All Core and Heirloom Club members receive FREE standard shipping to the lower 48 U.S. states, Core members for a full year, Heirloom members for life. (See pg. 25 for details.) For all others, the following rules apply:

- **Orders over \$150** receive FREE standard shipping via FedEx® Home Delivery®.
- **Orders under \$150** incur a shipping charge of \$10 for standard shipping (FedEx Home Delivery®).
- FedEx® and UPS® require a street address (no PO Box) and a **phone number**.
- Allow 3-5 business days for delivery via FedEx® Home Delivery® after your order leaves our warehouse.
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- Or you can arrange and pay for a specific alternative service by contacting us via a comment on your order or call (303) 730-6292.

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- FedEx® shipping for Alaska & Hawaii and USPS Priority Shipping for APO/FPO and U.S. Territories is available at the rates indicated in the Discounted Base Shipping Rate charts at the lower right. **FedEx Fuel Surcharges are additional.**
- The FedEx Fuel Surcharge fluctuates with market conditions. During 2009, it fluctuated between 0% and 9% of the base rate. Go to www.sonlight.com/shippingcalc to find the current surcharge.
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- **Note:** FedEx® and UPS® require a street address (no PO Box) and a **phone number**.
- **Orders under \$150** that qualify for USPS Media Mail can select this service for \$5 (see www.sonlight.com/mediamail.html for details). Please allow up to 4 weeks for delivery.

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- **Note:** FedEx® and UPS® require a street address (no PO Box) and a **phone number**.
- **FedEx® generally takes 3-5 business days for delivery after your order leaves our warehouse,** plus any time in Customs.

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- If you are ordering for delivery outside the United States, please be aware of the available shipping options and shipping limitations on orders sent to your country. **You are responsible for all duties, taxes, and other charges required by the country of destination.**
- **Incorrect address** or address without a phone number can result in your package being held up in customs, resulting in additional delays and charges.
- Please be sure that the address you give is **accurate** for delivery within your country, and please tell us which word (name) is the **Country, Province, City, and Postal Code. Please include your phone number and email address.**

Note for Canadian customers: **You MUST ADD 5% Canadian GST—Goods and Services Tax—to your order.** (This is automatically added to orders placed online.)

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- **Biologically active items:** Due to import restrictions on biologically active items (soil, seeds, yeast, etc.), Sonlight cannot ship some science supply kits to certain countries. Go to www.sonlight.com/shipping for details.
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Shipping Rates

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Example: You want to ship a \$425 order to Australia (Category F). Category F at \$425 receives a 26% base shipping rate. $425 \times 0.26 = \$110.50$ base shipping charge. If the Fuel Surcharge is 7% at the time you place your order, then the total shipping will be $425 \times 0.26 \times 1.07 = \118.24 . **All rates are subject to change. Go to www.sonlight.com/shippingcalc for up-to-date rates.**

Country Category															
A	Faroe Isles	Haiti	Myanmar	Ecuador	Vanuatu	Equat Guin	Malawi	Slovenia							
Canada	Finland	Jamaica	New Zealand	El Salvador	Venezuela	Eritrea	Mali	Somalia							
B	Greece	Martinique	Oman	Fiji	H	Estonia	Marshall Isles	South Africa							
Mexico	Greenland	Montserrat	Philippines	French Guiana	Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Mauritania	Sudan							
C	Liechtenstein	NL Antilles	Qatar	Guam	Albania	Fr. Polynesia	Mauritius	Swaziland							
Belgium	Malta	St. Kitts & Nevis	South Korea	Guatemala	Algeria	Gabon	Micronesia	Tanzania							
France	Norway	St. Lucia	Syria	Guyana	Amer. Samoa	Gambia	Moldova	Togo							
Germany	Portugal	St. Vincent	Thailand	Honduras	Angola	Georgia	Mongolia	Tunisia							
Hong Kong	Spain	Trinidad	Turkey	India	Armenia	Ghana	Morocco	Turkmenistan							
Ireland	Sweden	Turks & Caicos	U.A.E.	Laos	Azerbaijan	Gibraltar	Mozambique	Uganda							
Italy	Switzerland	Virgin Isles	Vietnam	Maldives	Belarus	Guinea	Namibia	Ukraine							
Japan	E	F	Yemen	Nepal	Benin	Guinea Bissau	Niger	Uzbekistan							
Luxembourg	Anguilla	Australia	G	Nw Caledonia	Botswana	Hungary	Nigeria	Wallis & Futuna							
Macau	Antigua	Bahrain	Argentina	Nicaragua	Bulgaria	Iceland	Palau	Zaire							
Monaco	Aruba	Brunei	Bangladesh	Pakistan	Burkina Faso	Ivory Coast	Poland	Zambia							
Netherlands	Bahamas	China	Belize	Panama	Burundi	Kazakhstan	Reunion Isle	Zimbabwe							
Singapore	Barbados	Cyprus	Bhutan	P.N.G.	Cameroon	Kenya	Romania	AK/HI							
Taiwan	Bermuda	Egypt	Bolivia	Paraguay	Cape Verde	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	Alaska							
U.K.	British Virg. Isles	Indonesia	Brazil	Peru	Cent Afr Rep	Latvia	Rwanda	Hawaii							
Vatican City	Cayman Isles	Israel	Cambodia	Puerto Rico	Chad	Lesotho	Saudi Arabia	J							
D	Dominica	Jordan	Chile	Saipan	Congo	Liberia	Senegal	APO, FPO, US Territories (USPS Only!)							
Andorra	Dom. Repub.	Kuwait	Colombia	Sri Lanka	Croatia	Lithuania	Seychelles								
Austria	Grenada	Lebanon	Cook Islands	Suriname	Czech Rep	Macedonia	Sierra Leone								
Denmark	Guadeloupe	Malaysia	Costa Rica	Uruguay	Djibouti	Madagascar	Slovak Rep.								

Discounted Base Shipping Rate Charts.

Rates DO NOT include current FedEx Fuel Surcharge. Go to www.sonlight.com/shippingcalc for Fuel Surcharge amount.										
Order Total (\$)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	AK/HI (FedEx)	APO/FPO U.S. Territories (USPS Only)
0-10										
10.01-20.00										
20.01-30.00	\$10.00	\$26.00	\$33.00	\$35.00	\$31.00	\$34.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$16.00	\$12.00
30.01-40.00										
40.01-50.00										
50.01-60.00	20%	51%	67%	73%	63%	70%	95%	84%	33%	27%
60.01-70.00	19%	50%	62%	69%	56%	65%	92%	81%	30%	26%
70.01-80.00	17%	43%	54%	60%	49%	56%	80%	70%	26%	
80.01-90.00		41%	52%	56%	48%	54%	79%	69%	24%	23%
90.01-99.99	16%	39%	49%	54%	45%	53%	78%	68%	23%	
100.00-149.99	15%	33%	40%	47%	37%	46%	64%	60%	19%	22%
150.00-199.99	13%	26%	33%	38%	30%	37%	59%	51%	16%	20%
200.00-249.99		22%	27%	33%	26%	35%	54%	46%	14%	
250.00-299.99	12%	20%	25%	31%	24%	33%	51%	44%	13%	17%
300.00-349.99		18%	23%	28%	22%	30%	47%	41%		16%
350.00-399.99		17%	21%	26%	21%	27%	44%	38%		15%
400.00-499.99		16%	20%	24%	20%	26%	42%	36%	12%	14%
500.00-599.99		14%	18%	22%	18%	24%	38%	33%		13%
600.00-699.99		12%		21%	17%	23%	36%	31%	11%	12%
700.00-799.99	10%		15%		19%	21%	34%	29%		11%
800.00-899.99		10%	14%	18%	15%	20%	32%	27%	13%	13%
900.00+		9%	13%	16%	14%	19%	28%	25%	11%	14%

Rates are subject to change. Go to www.sonlight.com/shippingcalc for up-to-the-minute rates.

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*"Thanks to Sonlight,
I have kids who love
history, their country
and God."
—Natalie H, May 2010*

Does homeschooling work? Well, the Sonlight Seniors who apply to our scholarship program each year would certainly say it does. Out of this year's highly qualified pool of applicants, we are thrilled to announce the 2011 scholarship winners.

These students have blossomed into mature young adults. Like so many Sonlight students, they demonstrate exceptional character, are active in their communities, and represent the cause of Christ exceedingly well. They display leadership, mission-mindedness, a heart for learning, creativity and spiritual depth. They are well prepared for the academic rigors of college. And though the scholarship committee chooses winners based on much more than test scores, several do have extremely high scores.

These students' eagerness to follow God's leading and their exceptional skills and talents make us delighted to invest in their education.

Sonlight will award \$92,000 over the next four years to these thirteen Sonlight Scholarship winners (we've awarded \$788,500 since we began the scholarship program!). All of these hard-working, talented students have completed at least five Sonlight Core programs (including high school level Cores). We look forward to seeing all God does in and through them as they take what they've learned—through Sonlight and their home-school experience—into college and the world.

Lauren Dahl, Winner of the \$20,000 Award (\$5,000 each year)



Lauren Dahl of Romania is a deep thinker who sees the big picture of God's work in the world and seeks to serve faithfully in that work. Specifically, she desires to help all people know that God does indeed speak their language.

Lauren plans to major in Ancient Studies at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, MI. Studying Biblical Greek and Hebrew will bring her closer to her goal of working in Bible Translation in Asia. A gifted translator, Lauren has frequently served as a bridge between visiting American teams and local Romanians. She shows considerable spiritual depth and has assisted with evangelistic English classes for children in a local village since 7th grade.

Lauren has used nearly all the Sonlight Core programs from B+C through 530. She earned a near-perfect 35 on her ACT and aced the Reading portion of both the ACT and SAT. Not surprisingly, she is also a National Merit Semifinalist.

Along with other mission-minded young people in her area, Lauren works to encourage believers in nearby village churches. She loves to write stories and poems and enjoys sewing, crocheting and dancing.

Winners of \$10,000 Awards (\$2,500 per year)



Christopher Avrit of Antioch, TN and Southeast Asia speaks three languages fluently. He'll learn a fourth when he heads to Lipscomb University to major in International Business with minors in Missions and Spanish.

Christopher is a skilled translator who hopes to pursue a career that involves ministry to the poor, needy and physically and mentally disabled.

He has used every Sonlight Core from Kindergarten through high school. He aced the Math and Science sections of the ACT and scored a 34 overall. The adults in his life appreciate his depth and spiritual and emotional maturity. As one reference said, "Christopher has seen the hardships of life that Christians living under repressive governments endure, and is not caught up in the trivialities of life."

Currently living in Tennessee, Christopher sits in on his church's leadership and elder meetings and enjoys sports, playing music, and dancing.



With an aptitude for medical service, **Allison Dahl of Romania** seeks to make a difference in the lives of the neediest people. Allison has served on many medical mission trips within Romania. Her kind heart endears her to her patients. She has special gifts for affirming patients, learning quickly and working efficiently.

In everyday life, Allison is keenly aware of her surroundings, notices the needs around her and moves promptly to address those needs. These skills will serve her well in her intended career.

Allison plans to major in Social Work at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, MI. From there, she hopes to pursue additional training and become a paramedic and firefighter.

Allison has used Sonlight for the last 10 years. A National Merit Semifinalist, she volunteers at a home for the aged (where she is a favorite among the elderly), teaches English and Bible stories to children in a nearby village and enjoys skateboarding, woodcarving, and creative writing.



After college, **Carol Losey of Central Asia** looks forward to returning to the mission field as a medical missionary. Her immense creativity, love for the Lord and people, and scholastic aptitude will serve her well in her endeavors.

Carol plays a vital role in her parents' work among a nomadic shepherd people group. She is

fluent in the tribal and national languages, has mastered the traditional handicrafts of the people group and shows remarkable perseverance in navigating local customs and forming true relationships with those among whom she lives. She skillfully reviews her father's Christian literature and Scripture translations to make them more linguistically and stylistically accurate.

Carol encourages the local ex-pat community through directing an English-language youth acting troupe. She also plays the piano and violin, serves in a local mission hospital, and is a leader among her siblings. She plans to attend the nursing program at Colorado Christian University.



Audrey Ward of Hendersonville, NC loves children. When the family she babysat for prepared to move to Uganda as missionaries, the kids were distraught over leaving Audrey behind. So Audrey went with them! The family was immensely grateful for the weeks she spent helping them adjust to their new life.

Though unsure of her future career plans, Audrey's options are wide open. She nearly aced the SAT, is a National Merit Semifinalist, has done very well in two national essay contests and has received the top score on many AP exams. Audrey has used Sonlight through all of high school.

Audrey is helping launch a new church plant through playing an integral role in the Children's Ministry. With a heart for missions, she works to research and fight human trafficking. She also has participated in dance and Speech and Debate team. Audrey has volunteered at many organizations and served as a page in the Governor's office.

Audrey is helping launch a new church plant through playing an integral role in the Children's Ministry. With a heart for missions, she works to research and fight human trafficking. She also has participated in dance and Speech and Debate team. Audrey has volunteered at many organizations and served as a page in the Governor's office.

Winners of \$4,000 Awards

Sonlight will award eight additional students a \$1,000 scholarship for each year of college (up to four years). We're confident all these winners will make a positive mark in the world and continue on the path of lifelong learning.

Winners in alphabetical order are:

Kira Clark (North Bend, WA); Maria Cupery (Grand Rapids, MI and Turkey); Christian Daniel (Lawrenceville, GA); Caleb Little (Columbia, SC); Natasha Parsons (Pine, CO) Trevor Phillips (Cary, NC); Johanna Raquet (Beavercreek, OH); and Joshua Whitman (Wichita, KS).

You could be a winner next year!

Sonlight will award 13 scholarships (\$92,000!) for students planning to attend college in the Fall of 2012. Families who have purchased and used at least five Core programs since 2000 are eligible. Visit www.sonlight.com/scholarships to find out the requirements and complete details for next year's scholarship competition.

what's New at Sonlight?

I imagine you've worked pretty hard as a parent and teacher this year. The Sonlight team has been working hard to provide the tools and resources that will help you most. Check out these improvements for 2011.

New Core names

The most obvious change you may notice is that many of the Core Programs now have letter names instead of numbers. This helps show that each Core works well for a range of ages and grades.

Many customers have urged us to make this change for years to help parents choose the right Core for their children. It's easier to accept that Intro to American History, Year 1 of 2 can be used effectively by a 5th grader if it's called Core D rather than Core 3. Even though Core 3 was always meant to serve a wide range of ages and grades, that number always got in the way. Learn more about this change at sonlight.com/whatsnew.

Exciting new products

All About Spelling

We are proud to offer the remarkably effective *All About Spelling* program for the first time this year. When customers started raving about this product, we reviewed it and liked what we saw. Yet we hesitated because of its relatively high price.

Then my daughter Amy tried the program with her sons. Now she can't stop talking about this common-sense approach to spelling. Amy, other Sonlight moms and I all think it truly works and is worth the cost. Learn more on p. 97.

What Good is Christianity?

Have you heard people complain that religion only brings division and violence? While the history of the Christian Church certainly has its low points, Christianity has had an incredibly posi-



"This is our motivation for getting baths done quickly. Our kids love the Sonlight books so much we can use the books for motivation for almost anything," writes Julia S of North Canton, OH. "We love the quality of literature our children are exposed to through Sonlight and look forward to enjoying them as a family." What could be better than snuggling up with Dad for a bedtime Read Aloud? The S family is in their first year of Sonlight.

tive influence on many aspects of life. Sonlight's newest high school course, "What Good is Christianity?" compellingly presents this case.

The course creator, a homeschooling father of four, came to Sonlight with pretty impressive credentials. Robert Velarde is a recognized C. S. Lewis scholar and the author of numerous books published by InterVarsity, NavPress and others. He also helped develop *The Truth Project* series.

Robert seeks to equip college-bound Juniors and Seniors with knowledge and perspective that can help their faith stay intact in college and beyond. See p. 89 or go to sonlight.com/560-00.

MathTacular4: Word Problems

If your children get frustrated with word problems in math, *MathTacular4* could save the day ... or at least make math time more pleasant.

Watch a hilarious story featuring Detective Justin Time and Amber Waves as they follow the dreaded Word Puzzler's clues in the search for Amber's poor pork-napped pig. (I hope you weren't expecting a boring plot!) Students can follow along with a coordinating Workbook while parents get any help they need from a handy Answer Key.

Finally: a fun, unbelievably understandable way to "crack the code" of word problems. Watch clips and learn more at sonlight.com/RM4A.

Grammar 5 and 6

Build your children's grammar skills with new supplemental grammar lessons. These literature-based, self-directed programs give straightforward instruction and coordinating exercises so students gain mastery of grammatical concepts.

The *Grammar 5* and *Grammar 6* programs are perfect for students who have completed *Grammar Ace* (item #RL6) or have a basic working knowledge of grammar terms. See samples and learn more at sonlight.com/grammar.

More hands-on learning

Did you know that Sonlight has more hands-on activities in the elementary grades than most of our competitors? What's more, we believe our activities tie in much more directly to students' learning, and are more developmentally appropriate than many other activities on the market.

So where do you find them? In Cores P3/4 and P4/5, they come in the guides you receive with your package. And now when you buy Cores A through E (for ages 5-12), you also get a resource we call "Core Tips." These tips offer many activities that tie into your learning each week.

The new activities make the early Cores even more engaging than they were in the past. Families with kinesthetic (or "hands-on") learners will especially appreciate this addition. Sonlight already appeals to auditory and visual learners because of the emphasis on reading and listening to

stories. Now your kinesthetic learners can get an extra learning boost too.

Improvements to Core 100

This year, Core 100 (*American History In-Depth*) is even better than before. We reviewed every inch of the Instructor's Guide and the History and Literature books. We swapped out several books for more compelling works and revised the analysis and comprehension questions and the History and Literature Study Guides to ensure they are of high school-level difficulty. Read more about these improvements on pp. 74-75.

Better formatting for upper-level IGs

We've received helpful feedback from parents of high schoolers saying "I love your high school content, but please make the Instructor's Guides easier to use." So we did.

The Instructor's Guides (IGs) for Cores 100, 200, 300, 400 and 530 are now much easier to use for parents and students. We surveyed our high school customers, talked extensively with many, and sent samples of revisions to a test group.

Your Customer Champion, Judy, thinks you'll be ecstatic with the changes. Here are the main improvements you'll see:

Cores 100-530 now come with separate Student and Parent guides. Each Parent Guide is formatted and numbered the same as the corresponding Student Guide. The only difference between them is that the Parent Guide has the answers written in and provides extra notes about books' plots and literary elements (e.g., themes and styles). This allows you to discuss the reading with your children and check their answers even if you haven't read the books yourself. Your students don't see these extra helps or answers unless you want them to.

It is now easier for you to be as involved or "hands-off" as you like. You can give your students the Student Guide, keep the Parent Guide and follow along together each day. Or, (with the clear information in the Student Guide) your students can handle their own schedule and assignments. Then you can check their answers and discuss any points of interest.

For a full independent study, simply hand your students both the Parent and Student guides. Your students can work independently from the Student Guide and then check their answers in the Parent Guide. You can check their progress and discuss their learning as you see fit.

Also, all of the upper-level IGs are now formatted in the same way. No more shifting from one format to another each year.

PLEASE NOTE: You may order your upper-level Core at any time. We will start shipping Instructor's Guides as soon as we receive them back from the printer in May. If you order before then, we will

ship the rest of your order right away and then send your IG as soon as we can, at no extra charge.

See the changes by downloading the first 3 weeks of any IG at sonlight.com/3-week-samples.

Homeschool 101

From the basic question "Can I really homeschool?" to "How do I get started?" to "How do I teach to my children's specific learning styles?" we've created a new, free online resource to help you homeschool with excellence.

Find encouragement and answers at sonlight.com/homeschool-101. If you know other parents considering homeschooling, this is a great place for them to find step-by-step help and guidance.

Improvements in the catalog

New Scope and Sequence Charts

Ever wonder how your curriculum progresses from preschool through high school? Flip to pp. 150-151 for new, detailed Curriculum Scope and Sequence charts for our Core, Language Arts and Science programs.

Multi-Subject Packages save you time & money

If you want a simple choice for complete homeschool curriculum, a new Multi-Subject Package may be perfect for you.

We've put our best discount ever on these packages. With one easy order, you get our top recommendations for your students (preschool through 5th grade), including your Core Program, Language Arts, Handwriting, Science, Math and Resources. It's everything you need to teach one child for one year.

We used to just make these packages for first-time customers. But now we offer an option each year for returning customers. If you're new, you get all the materials and resources you need. If you're a returning customer, you can buy a package without having to repurchase resources that came in your package last year. Learn more at sonlight.com/multi-subject-packages.

Of course, you can still customize your own package to get the exact Core and subject components you want. A Sonlight Curriculum Advisor will gladly help you (for free) at sonlight.com/SCA. An advisor can also help you add items so you can use a Multi-Subject Package with more than one child.

See the 'big picture' of a Core

Though we described each individual book in Core and Science packages in past catalogs, we realized this year we could do a better job of emphasizing the overall scope and purpose of each package.

A Sonlight package is so much more than a box of great books. So this year I described each Core

and addressed questions such as: What can you expect when you use this Core? What makes it unique? What will your students gain from it?

To make space for this, we removed the individual title descriptions from the catalog. But don't worry—they're still online. Find descriptions, trimester indications and pricing for individual titles at sonlight.com. Simply enter a title or item number in the search field. To order individual titles by item number, visit sonlight.com/order.

New title for Bible study packages

Sonlight has always included Bible in every Core. Our Core programs integrate a Biblical worldview and (except for P3/4 and 530) daily Bible readings and weekly memory verses. From the beginning, we also included additional study materials that add greatly to students' understanding of the Bible.

About five years ago, however, customers began telling us their children were already studying a lot of Bible in AWANA and other programs through their local church; these additional Sonlight Bible study materials were just "too much."

So we split out the additional Bible study materials for Cores A through F and sold them separately with the title "Optional Bible." But we recently realized many customers read this "Optional" title and thought that meant we don't integrate Bible in our curriculum. So this year we re-worded our titles to clarify. We now call the extra packages "Additional Bible Study Packages."

... And I want to make sure you don't miss these perks

- The college scholarship program. See p. 155 or sonlight.com/scholarships.
- 25% subsidy toward the purchase of curriculum for most missionaries, thanks to an anonymous donor. Visit sonlight.com/missionaries.
- A large portion of Sonlight profits go toward financial support of strategic Christian work around the world. Visit sonlight.com/missions to learn more.
- Save on your next purchase when you tell your friends about Sonlight. Learn more at sonlight.com/rewards.
- Helpful advice and encouragement from homeschool moms at sonlight-forums.com.
- Free one-on-one help choosing and using Sonlight materials from a specially chosen, experienced Sonlight mom. Call (303) 730-6292, email advisor@sonlight.com or chat at sonlight.com/SCA.

Phew! That was a lot to cover. May these updates help you love homeschooling even more this year.

I'd be grateful to hear from you if you have any questions, feedback or stories to share. You may reach me directly any time at president@sonlight.com. It is a true honor to serve you. May God bless you and your family.



"One favorite Sonlight book, *George Mueller had a life-changing impact on our family*," writes Calley R of Vidalia, LA. "Josiah (far right) made the decision to follow the Lord after hearing this amazing story. We have had so many funny and touching moments this year as the entire family has benefited from the wonderful Readers and Read-Alouds. The decision to switch to Sonlight was the best homeschooling decision we have made thus far." Brothers Josiah and Isaac and cousin Micah—all Sonlighters—are studying Cores P4/5 and B in their first year of Sonlight.

Sonlighters: making a difference

In 2010, Sonlighters took a virtual trip to India and raised nearly \$320,000 to help Mission India to reach children with God's love and good news. Look for our fourth giving and learning adventure in fall 2011.



Interest-free payment plans!



Did you know you can pay for your curriculum over 3, 6 or 9 months at no extra cost? That means you can get all your curriculum at once, enjoy the benefits (p. 24) of buying an entire Core or Multi-Subject Package and pay for it as you go with no extra fee and no interest.

Plans are available for U.S. customers on orders of \$399 or more. If you qualify, you can choose the 9-month plan if you order in April; the 6-month plan if you order in April, May or June; and the 3-month plan any time of the year. Head to sonlight.com/timepayments for details and a payment calculator.

Sincerely,

Sarita Holzmann,
President
(and proud mother
and grandmother!)

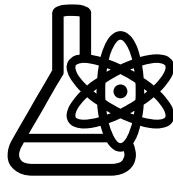


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- Christian worldview
- Hands-on (with instructions & supplies included to make it easy!)
- Complete lesson plans
- Easy-to-use
- Helps kids LOVE learning!
- Pages 102-107 inside



Ethan and Chad K (ages 6 and 4) show off their homemade water wheel. They're studying Core B and Science B (p. 103) in their first year of Sonlight.



"We've discovered the joy of Sonlight's Science! It's well planned out and our children love the science kits and funny DVDs [that show the experiments in action]. Thank you for making it so easy to enjoy Science."
—Rose S, Aug. 2010

