

Electives

COMPUTER SKILLS

These days, every student from 5th grade up should learn this essential skill. From writing assignments to internet research, they will improve their homework quality, and get more from each school day.

Typing Instructor for Kids RR15 \$19.99

Quickly turn your kids into touch typists! Proven methods and exciting fun help skills, speed, and good habits grow as kids travel through five unique lands filled with new challenges, visual guides and 11 action games. Personalized settings let students move at the perfect pace. Ideal for ages 7 to 11. Version II. CD-ROM: Windows only! XP/ME/2000. [Mac users, we recommend *Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing* (RR09).] Sorry, software cannot be returned once it is opened.

Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing RR09 \$24.99

If you're a Mac user, this is the typing software for you (available for Windows, too). Our youngest son was already learning to type in second grade, and our oldest daughter hit a solid 60 wpm. Recommended for all ages. Sorry, software cannot be returned once it is opened. CD-ROM: Mac OS 8.6-9.2.X, Mac OS 10.2.2 and higher; Windows XP / Me / 98 / 2000

Professor Teaches: Microsoft Office 2007 (NEW) RR16 \$29.95

Build your students' skills in one of the most widely used computer application suites in the world. From beginner to advanced, children can learn to do quality work in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, FrontPage and Publisher. Unlike video courses, students truly interact with the program's real-life simulations to improve their retention. Choose what you need from over 700 self-paced lessons in 12 separate courses included! CD-ROM for Windows (Pentium PC or higher, Windows Vista, XP, or 2000); visit www.Sonlight.com for complete system requirements.

Professor Teaches: Web Pages & Graphics (NEW) RR17 \$29.95

Your computer-whiz students complete twelve courses in one program, or just the ones they need! Over 700 self-paced lessons teach them fundamentals of web design and HTML, advanced HTML, and how to create and change all sorts of web pages and graphics using top programs from Microsoft (Publisher 2007, Expression Web, and FrontPage) and Adobe (Dreamweaver CS3 and 8, Photoshop CS2 and CS3, and Flash CS3 and 8). Real-life simulation exercises—not videos—plus chapter quizzes make learning fast and easy. CD-ROM for Windows (Pentium PC or higher, Windows Vista, XP, or 2000); visit www.Sonlight.com for complete system requirements.

SCIENCE - BASIC

Lyrical Life Science

These musically and lyrically rich audio and text sets are hilarious. They are, even more, extremely useful for any student—through high school—who needs to memorize a lot of information in the biological sciences.

Texts include complete lyrics and sheet music, numerous detailed illustrations and in-depth explanations of concepts. The workbooks include two or three worksheets for each segment of the program. Worksheets may be used for study, review, and/or testing. Besides worksheets, there are "digging deeper" questions, to help students understand how what they are studying applies to their lives, and a complete

answer key. The publishers note: "[These sets] can be used by students of many ages. Younger elementary students can benefit by becoming familiar with scientific terms through casual listening.... [T]he text and musical arrangements are geared for [middle school] and older students. The information covered in the songs and text should be very familiar to high school students as they study biology in greater depth." Highest production quality. Recorded by Bobby Horton, a professional instrumental and vocal musician who specializes in 19th and early 20th century folk music. Winners by all measures.

Volume 1: Non-Animal Kingdoms and Non-Mammalian Animals

Covers the scientific method, plants, protists, monera, invertebrates, cold-blooded vertebrates, birds, and more. Some of the titles: "All Living Things" (set to the tune of "I Love the Mountains"); "Genetics" ("Shortnin' Bread"); "Viruses" ("Yankee Doodle"); etc. Text: oversize pb, illus. Workbook: oversize Pb, illus, (Consumable), reproducible. Audio: 11 songs.

- CD, Text & Workbook RS51 \$29.50
- Workbook (for add'l student) RS51B \$5.95

Volume 2: Mammals, Ecology & Biomes

Covers in rather remarkable detail the various orders of mammals: plus basic concepts of ecology. Some of the titles: "Bats" (set to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"); "Ungulates (Hoofed Animals)" ("Home on the Range"); "Insectivores" ("Camptown Races"); etc. Text: oversize pb, illus. Workbook: oversize Pb, illus, (Consumable), reproducible. Audio: 16 songs.

- CD, Text & Workbook RS52 \$29.50
- Workbook (for add'l student) RS52B \$5.95

Volume 3: The Human Body

Covers the human body in detail: from its general structure (cells, genes, tissues, organs, and organ systems), to the details of all 11 of its organ systems: skeletal, muscular, nervous, digestive, respiratory, etc. Some of the titles: "The Muscular System" (set to the tune of "Erie Canal"); "The Sensory System" ("Caissons Go Rolling Along"); "The Immune and Lymph Systems" ("La Cucaracha"); etc. Text: oversize Pb, illus. Workbook: oversize Pb, illus, (Consumable), reproducible. Audio: 13 songs.

- CD, Text & Workbook RS53 \$29.50
- Workbook (for add'l student) RS53B \$5.95

CREATION/SCIENCE

Young-earth creationists have what appear to be highly convincing arguments for their views. But so, too, do the old-earth creationists. Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd., believes honest scholars need to consider the evidence on all sides. And so we carry several young-earth and old-earth titles to help you make an informed decision for yourself. NOTE: For the full selection of our creation/evolution Elective texts, please go to www.sonlight.com/science-creation.html.

A Case for a Creator (NEW) RS23 \$19.99

Strobel. As a high schooler in biology class, the author believed that science proves: God does not exist. As an adult journalist, a "chance" assignment led him to investigate further. Does science, in fact, point away from God... or toward Him? Strobel keeps this weighty discussion engaging and readable for us without PhDs. He weaves stories of his own personal quest with fascinating details from his interviews of (and responses to) numerous scientists with far-ranging specialties and opinions. Could it be that our universe looks "designed" because it truly is the handiwork of

God? Plenty of questions for study and reflection, and suggested additional reading, make this a fantastic first step toward deeper study of several of mankind's most ponderable questions. Compelling. Pb. RA: 7-A; R: 9-A

Darwin's Black Box RS22 \$15.00

Behe. Relying on examples from biochemistry, Behe argues that irreducibly complex systems point to intelligent design rather than evolution as the source of life. Compelling and necessary reading for any serious student of creation and evolution. Pb. RA: 9-A; R: 11-A

Of Pandas and People RS26 \$29.95

Davis and Kenyon. Presentation of an "intelligent cause" (vs. "natural cause") perspective carefully written for acceptance in public schools' biology classes! Powerful because material is presented in such a calm, logical, clear manner. Deals with evidence from genetics and biochemistry besides more common paleontological issues. Includes both easy-to-read overviews and in-depth excursions. Excellent resource for eighth grade and older, both for informational content as well as the presentational model. Color illustrated. Hb. RA: 8-A; R: 10-A

JUST GREAT BOOKS

The Ralph Moody Collection

Moody. With great vigor and deep insight into the human condition, Mr. Moody tells gripping tales of his boyhood, his adventures in business, and the wonderful (and sometimes not-so-wonderful) people he knew. Our youngest son Justin and I read one book right after the other throughout the summer when he was 13. We always quit reading with the sad thought that it's too bad there aren't more hours in the evening! RA: 3-A; R: 4-A

- Little Britches (vol. 1) Used in Core 4 4A15 \$14.95
- Man of the Family (vol. 2) RR76 \$12.95
- The Home Ranch (vol. 3) 130-43 \$13.95
- Mary Emma & Company (vol. 4) RR78 \$11.95
- The Fields of Home (vol. 5) RR79 \$13.95
- Shaking the Nickel Bush (vol. 6) RR80 \$12.95
- The Dry Divide (vol. 7) Used in Core 400 420-20 \$11.95
- Horse of a Different Color (vol. 8) RR82 \$12.95

Rani Adventures

Snell. An absolutely hilarious collection of true stories about an American boy who grew up in the jungles of Peru. Our family loves this series.

It's a Jungle Out There! (#1) 6R32 \$8.95

This is included in both our One-Year World History program (Alt 7 Core) and World History Part 2 (Level 7 Core). These are the stories from Rani's boyhood. X Pb, photos. RA: 5-A; R: 5-A

Life is a Jungle! (#2) RR63 \$8.95

This is the most sober of the three books in the series as the author tells us about his life as a high schooler, building an airstrip in the middle of the jungle, spoon feeding water to feverish Machiguenga Indians, and helping to bury those who died. X Pb, photos. RA: 5-A; R: 5-A

Jungle Calls (#3) RR64 \$8.95

☐ Rani goes to the United States to turn the staid world of Moody Bible College on its head with mild hijinks like importing boa constrictors from the jungles of Peru into the dorm where... Ahh, you'll have to read it for yourself to hear the story told in Rani's inimitable, side-splitting style! X Pb, photos. RA: 5-A; R: 5-A

Wise Words RR54 \$15.00

☐ Leithart. Eighteen "five-minute" fables take their morals from the book of Proverbs. This easy Read-Aloud captivates the whole family with stories from a godly perspective. X Pb. RA: 2-A; R: 4-77

I Dared to Call

Him Father RR53 \$12.99

☐ Sheikh. The author recounts her conversion to Christianity from upper-crust Islamic family in Pakistan, where family members who "betray the faith" are killed as "traitors." Her struggle to know and follow God in the face of real persecution will inspire. Anniversary edition includes new epilogue. Gripping. X Pb. RA: 5-A; R: 7-A

Shakespeare Stories JG01 \$19.95

☐ Award winning children's novelist Leon Garfield presents twelve of Shakespeare's most memorable plays in a highly readable narrative form. You and your children will treasure this for years to come. (Our third grader begged us to keep reading these stories.) Provides a wonderful base for reading the original plays. Pb, beautifully illustrated.

Shakespeare Stories II JG02 \$17.00

☐ Garfield. A second in the same series. Includes *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It*, *Julius Caesar*, and more. Large Pb, illus.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Easy Homeopathy RR51 \$14.95

☐ Shalts. Homeopathy uses natural ingredients to cure illness and improve your health. In this easy-to-use reference, Dr. Shalts identifies the seven most useful and effective remedies, and explains how to use them for hundreds of common problems. Practical and healthy. Pb. Parent Resource

Nourishing Traditions RR52 \$25.00

☐ Fallon. Tired of cookbooks half-filled with recipes you don't like? This one's so good, you may not even notice you're saving money by eating at home more. Over 700 recipes, plus a wealth of information on wise food choices and proper technique. Delicious! Pb. Parent Resource

"If I had to put together all the books for our school and write a schedule (instead of Sonlight doing it for me), I would have to spend each summer doing that, when I'd rather be at the beach with my kids. I can't imagine their reaction if I said, 'Sorry, kids. We can't play this summer. I have to put together our school year!' I would have serious mutiny!"
—Linda B, November 2007

HISTORY

Markable Map and Markers MAP \$25.98

☐ Now in full color! Your whole family can enjoy discovering "where things are." Hang this 23" x 34" Modified Robinson Projection map on a wall for easy reference, or fold flat (smaller than 12" x 12") and take it with you. With the world on one side, the U.S.A. on the other, this map shows you a lot of detail, including major political boundaries and rivers. Laminated surface lets you mark your map with grease pencils or water-based markers. A Required Resource in every Sonlight Core program from K-100. Includes a four-color set of fine-tip water-based markers! S

☐ Map only MAP1 \$19.99

☐ Markers only MAP2 \$5.99

Book of Time KH06 \$20.99

☐ Required in Cores C-100. Spiral-bound timeline ready for you to add dates throughout your home-school adventure. Two-color paper to easily distinguish between BC and AD time periods. Includes pockets for convenient storage of assignments or notes. May be shared. S 8½ x 11" Pb, heavy-gauge paper.

- 100 years per page 5000 BC to 200 BC
- 50 years per page 200 BC to 1000 AD
- 25 years per page 1000 to 1850
- 10 years per page 1850 to 2050

The Osborne Time Traveler 1H01 \$22.99

☐ Required in Core 2 if you did not purchase for Core 1. Osborne. Visit Ancient Egypt, Rome, medieval Europe and Viking days. Colorful, detail-packed illustrations teach about family life and cultural achievements. Humorous, lively, imaginative. Hb.

A Child's History of the World 2H22 \$28.00

☐ Required in Cores 1, 2, 1+2, and Alt 7. Hillyer. The 1997 hardback edition of the famous classic by the headmaster of the Calvert School of Baltimore. Hillyer presents a delightful narrative history of the world from "the beginning" to the mid-1990s. A warm, grandfatherly telling of a real story. Hb.

Note: Racial slurs included in the original 1927 edition have been removed from this version.

The Osborne Book of World History 2H02 \$24.99

☐ Required in Cores 1, 2, 1+2, and Alt 7. Millard & Vanags. The history of the world to 1914. Includes cultural developments, discoveries, and world religions as well as political and military history. Indigenous peoples are portrayed realistically (i.e., not clothed according to Western standards). Scintillating text, beautiful illustrations. Hb.

The Landmark History of the American People 3H29 \$33.50

☐ Required in Core 4 if you did not purchase for Core 3 or 3+4. Boorstin. A fascinating introduction to American culture as it has shaped and been shaped by events over the past 350 years. Winsomely written by the former librarian of Congress. Profusely illustrated. Boorstin focuses on the social forces and cultural influences that have made Americans the unique people they are. Oversize Pb, illus, two vols. in one. S

American Adventures, Part 1 3H31 \$9.95

☐ Required in Core 4 (5-day only) if you did not purchase for Core 3. Greenberg. A wonderful collection of stories about 15 famous and not-so-famous persons and events from American history 1770 to 1870. Black & white photos and drawings. Oversize Pb, illus. (Consumable)

The Story of the USA Book 2 3H362 \$11.00

☐ Required in Core 4 if you did not purchase for Core 3 or 3+4. Escher. Written simply enough for students to read on their own, this book covers, along with *The Story of the USA Book 1*, early American history from the pre-Columbian civilizations through the American War Between the States. Each chapter includes—besides the fascinating primary text—a list of vocabulary, a pronunciation guide, illustrations, and comprehension questions. Oversize Pb, illus. (Consumable)

Usborne Encyclopedia of World History 6H43 \$19.99

☐ Required in Core 7 if you did not purchase for Core 6. Usborne. Depicts key historical figures, plus the battles, revolutions, inventions, and discoveries that have shaped today's world. Begins with 100 pages of "pre-history" which Sonlight skips. Includes an 8-page timeline section, extensive glossary and index. Part of Usborne's new "internet-linked" series, in which the company offers carefully-selected and controlled links to web pages of interest. Full-color illus throughout, Pb.

SPELLING

Sequential Spelling

Your children get immediate results with *Sequential Spelling*. Minimize study time and reduce test-taking anxiety! *Sequential Spelling* teaches students to recognize patterns of spelling based on the rules of the English language, but without all the complicated explanations.

After overcoming dyslexia, author Don McCabe founded the AVKO (Audio-Visual-Kinetic-Oral) Dyslexia Research Foundation, Inc., and dedicated himself to teaching dyslexics how to read and spell through a multi-sensory approach. He evaluated 5,500 words from The New Iowa Spelling Scale (Greene), ranked them from easiest to most difficult, and then identified the patterns in those words. The result: *Sequential Spelling*.

The process:

- Children are asked to spell a simple root word or suffix, such as "-in".
- They hear the word used in a sentence and write it.
- They then hear the correct spelling of the word and immediately correct their own work.
- Each successive day students spell more words that contain "-in" such as *pin*, *sin*, *spin*, *skin*, and *twin*. Within five days they spell "beginning" on their own!

More patterns are added like this—from the root word to expanded word forms—throughout each subsequent level. As students recognize more and more patterns they begin spelling words correctly that they've never seen before, all without studying. Their confidence and spelling skills soar!

Sequential Spelling comes in 7 progressive levels of difficulty; students use one level per year. Words learned in Volume 2 build upon the word patterns learned in Volume 1 and so on. Therefore, if you have never used *Sequential Spelling* before, McCabe urges you to begin with Volume 1 and then progress through Volumes 2-7. (The volume numbers do not relate to grade levels). *Sequential Spelling* is a Required Resource in Language Arts from 3 to 5 and a component of Sonlight Newcomers packages 3 through 5. *Sequential Spelling* is not consumable so you only need one copy of each volume for your family.

Sequential Spelling 1 RL50 \$10.95

☐ Some of the patterns covered: *-in*, *-en*, *-et*, *-ot*, *-ay*, *-ime*, *-and*, *-ight*. Representative words your children can expect to learn: *beginning*, *disagreeing*, *permitted*.

Resources

Sequential Spelling 2 RL51 \$10.95

☐ Some of the patterns covered: -ob, -ack, -eam, -ame, -ab, -ir, -ub. Representative words your children can expect to learn: *nephew, packed, toaster, disgusted*.

Sequential Spelling 3 RL52 \$10.95

☐ Some of the patterns covered: -are, -ip, -sh, -oun, -sk. Representative words your children can expect to learn: *successfully, assessment, suggestion*.

Sequential Spelling 4 RL53 \$10.95

☐ Some of the patterns covered: -ish, -in, -ar, -ic, -oc, -age. Representative words your children can expect to learn: *outlandish, accomplishment, commercial*.

Sequential Spelling 5 RL54 \$10.95

☐ Some of the patterns covered: -en, -ign, -ance, -nge, -nt, -oit, -ap. Representative words your children can expect to learn: *strengthened, malignant, ignorance*.

Sequential Spelling 6 RL55 \$10.95

☐ Some of the patterns covered: -ity, -um, -ow, -by, -ery, -or, -ty. Representative words your children can expect to learn: *perspicacious, personalities, originality*.

Sequential Spelling 7 RL56 \$10.95

☐ Available online: www.sonlight.com/sequential-spelling.html

Spelling Power LSP \$64.95

☐ Adams-Gordon. Complete 3rd Grade through College spelling program. (Includes Quick Start DVD Seminar and Teacher's Resource CD.) (Non-consumable) Oversize Pb. (Consumable workbooks available online.)

Due to restrictions by the publisher, Spelling Power materials do not qualify for any discounts.

SCIENCE

Non-Consumable

Science Supplies Kit NSK \$27.50

☐ **Required for all Science packages except P4/5 and Science 5.** Includes basic, non-consumable science supplies which will be used in several levels. Includes: plastic tubing, iron filings, 20-gauge wire, three 3" by 4" mirrors, bar, ceramic, and round magnets, 10" dowel, eyedropper, thermometer, magnifying lens, clay, 6 spring clothespins, 3 corks, nail, masking tape, box of small paper clips, 2 spools, 1 small marble, 5 washers, 10 straight pins, 15 large paper clips, 5 thumbtacks.



THOUGHT PROCESSING SOFTWARE

Inspiration is a thought processor. It helps you generate ideas and then organize your thoughts for effective analysis, planning, writing and more.

Sounds complex, but it's really not. Here's how it works.

Suppose you want to brainstorm a new project. You'll use *Inspiration's* mind-mapping tool.

You start with a theme or idea in the center of a blank screen and type in related ideas that will appear in linked colored bubbles. You can change the bubbles' colors, shapes, and patterns or choose from over 1,300 available illustrations to highlight and differentiate among ideas.

Now this is where the magic happens...

After you've created your "idea map," click on the Outline tool, and *Inspiration* will instantly transform your once-scattered thoughts into a traditional, well-organized outline.

While *Inspiration* is beneficial for anyone age 12 or older, it will particularly benefit children who find it difficult to transition from concepts to actual writing. Where your children may have spent hours trying first, to get their ideas on paper, then to convert their thoughts to an essay or story, *Inspiration* will help them reduce that time to minutes.

One grade school teacher says, "Students are often very creative, but they can't make their ideas form a logical pattern. By using *Inspiration*, it's easy to brainstorm and then, with one click of a button, they have an outline for a story, an essay or a simple research paper. This difficult job is reduced to an enjoyable task that they can accomplish with minimal assistance."

Once you have created an outline, you can edit and save it for one-click export to your favorite word processor for final polishing.

Inspiration also enables you to hear work read aloud or to record your own spoken words, which increases accessibility and usefulness for auditory learners.

The software has several internet capabilities. Simply type a web address to create a live hyperlink or drag and drop JPEG and GIF images into *Inspiration* diagrams straight from the web.

System Requirements: For more information and the requirements for both Windows and Mac, please go to: <http://www.sonlight.com/RL10.html>.

Inspiration® Software RL10 \$69.00

☐ **Recommended for students using our LA 5 and above programs.**

Cassie D of La Canada, CA, delights in the details of her art elective, Mark Kistler's Draw Squad. Her mom, Cheree, writes, "Sonlight is my number one recommendation when people ask what curriculum I enjoy—especially at the high school level. The biggest value I see is that Sonlight teaches my children to think." Cassie enjoys sharing Core 400 with her twin sister Corina. She is in her sixth year of Sonlight and her tenth as a homeschooler.

REFERENCE WORKS

American Heritage Student Dictionary RL01 \$19.95

☐ **Recommended Resource for Levels 3-100.** Why purchase a "play" dictionary when you want your student to learn what a real dictionary is all about? This volume includes more than 65,000 concise, easy-to-understand entries. Some definitions include notes on and examples of usage, inflections (past, present, future tenses, etc.), etymologies, pronunciations, and homophones. You will find geographic and biographical entries, more than 2,000 photographs and illustrations, plus a thorough Guide to Using the Dictionary; Guide to Capitalization, Punctuation, and Style; a complete Periodic Table of the Elements; Table of (Imperial) Measurements with conversions to Metric; Taxonomy table; and more. The publisher says this volume is for 6th through 9th grade students. Our sense: it can serve for mid-elementary through junior high. Oversize Hb.

American Heritage High School Dictionary RL02 \$26.00

☐ **Recommended Resource for Levels 7-530.** This is the same book as the *American Heritage® College Dictionary* except for one six-page article. The *College Dictionary* includes a scholarly article on "The Place of Criticism" in verbal usage. *The High School Dictionary* replaces that with a "Guide to Capitalization, Punctuation, and Style." Includes over 200,000 definitions, 2,500 photos and illustrations, plus everything found in the *Student Dictionary* above. Type and photo/illustrations are significantly smaller than the *Student Dictionary*. Typeface appears about a 5- or 6-pt serif. Oversize Hb.

Merriam Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus RL03 \$18.95

☐ **Recommended Resource for Levels 7-HS.** Wow! Finding synonyms and antonyms can be hard work! As with dictionaries, we looked at a bunch of thesauri before we settled on this one. And when it came time to choose, this one was, in our opinion, a "no-brainer." It's by far the simplest to use. Organized completely alphabetically (unlike its competitors!), it includes concise definitions, examples of the words used in context, synonyms, antonyms, related and contrasted words, idiomatic equivalents, and, where necessary, warning about a word being considered vulgar. Wonderful! Oversize Hb.

Writers INC RL04 \$27.00

☐ **Valuable resource from Grade 3 through high school.** Sebranek, Kemper, and Meyer. This is one of those books of which no student should be deprived. It includes all the "how-to" information that every writer ever wished he had: a complete guide to the writing process...from pre-writing to drafting to revising; the basic elements of writing: sentences, paragraphs, expository essays, persuasive essays; literary genres: stories, plays, poems, persuasive and argumentative essays; style; grammar; documentation, and much more. When you want "dictionary" definitions of grammatical terms and "official" explanations of usage: this is the book you'll turn to. Latest Edition (2006). Pb.

Math on Call RR801 \$27.49

☐ This extraordinary reference is the perfect aid for any parent who wants assistance helping her child with math homework. *Math on Call* covers a wide range of topics from number theory to fractions to algebra to geometry, all in an easy to understand, highly illustrated format. This book will help you through almost any math problem from elementary through high school, and makes even the most complicated concepts easy to understand. Pb.

Resources

Encyclopedia

World Book Deluxe Encyclopedia (Windows) RR50 **\$23.00**
(Mac) RR50M **\$59.95**

☐ **Many new articles, images, video and more!**
Included in Core and History packages for Level 5. Holds the entire 22-volume print edition plus: scores of new and revised articles, over 10,000 images, 2+ hours of video and sound clips, more than 1,500 maps, time lines, built-in search engine feature, hyperlinked dictionary (double-click on any word to see its definition instantly), step-by-step research projects, and more. We love it. Visit www.Sonlight.com for complete Windows and Mac computer system requirements.

GRAMMAR

☐ **The Grammar Ace Package with DVD** RL6 **\$44.89**

Includes *The Grammar Ace Set: Instructional Manual* (schedule, examples, answers and teaching helps) and *Workbook* plus *Schoolhouse Rock DVD* (the Grammar Rock portion is scheduled throughout the manual). One program designed to start anywhere during grades 4-8 and cover all the grammar your student will need. Set your own pace—take a few months, or a couple years. This package includes the two items below.

The Grammar Ace RL66 **\$24.90**

☐ Bolin. All the practical grammar your student needs, in one set-your-own-pace program. *Instructional Manual* is packed with examples, answers and other teaching helps. *Consumable Workbook* with student activities. For grades 4-8.

☐ **The Grammar Ace Workbook for additional students** RL662 **\$9.95**

Schoolhouse Rock DVD RL65 **\$19.99**

☐ An entire generation reinforced their grammar, science, math, history and more with these Saturday morning animated sing-alongs. Sonlight's new *Grammar Guide* program uses some of the best songs in the collection to help kids learn adverbs, interjections, conjunctions, prepositions and more. You'll love the rest, too. Over 50 songs many adults still know by heart decades later! **2 DVDs** (formatted for Region 1: US and Canada only)

Winston Grammar—Basic 4L09 **\$40.80**

☐ Additional description available on-line. Includes *Instruction Guide*, *Consumable Workbook* and *Card Pack*. (For Grade 4 and up.)

☐ **Second Student Pack - workbook and card pack** 4L094 **\$16.00**
☐ **Consumable Workbook** 4L095 **\$11.00**
☐ **Card Pack** 4L096 **\$7.50**

Winston Grammar—

Advanced ①+ 7L20 **\$35.00**

☐ Erwin. Includes instruction guide, consumable student workbook, and card pack. [Note: do not attempt to use this program unless you have already gone through the *Winston Grammar Basic* program (4L09) or *Sonlight Grammar Ace*]

☐ **Second Student Pack - workbook and card pack** 7L21 **\$16.00**
☐ **Consumable Workbook** 7L22 **\$11.00**
☐ **Card Pack** 7L23 **\$7.50**

VOCABULARY

Wordly Wise 3000 Book K (NEW) (2nd Edition) KL101 **\$9.75**

☐ You'll read stories to your young ones (from the Teacher's Key) and help them do simple activities related to the new words they learn.

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 1 (NEW) (2nd Edition) 1L101 **\$9.75**

☐ You'll read stories to your children (from the Teacher's Key). They will enjoy the simple activities that help them learn many new words and multiple definitions.

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2 (NEW) (2nd Edition) 2L100 **\$13.05**

☐ Children read fifteen short stories, and learn lots of new words as they do several exercises—from matching words and definitions to playing with cross-word puzzles.

☐ **Consumable Workbook** 2L101 **\$9.95**
☐ **Non-consumable Teacher's Key** 2L102 **\$3.10**

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 3 (NEW) (2nd Edition) 3L100 **\$13.05**

☐ Fifteen easy-to-read passages draw your students into dozens of exercises and games that teach many new vocabulary words and meanings.

☐ **Consumable Workbook** 3L101 **\$9.95**
☐ **Non-consumable Teacher's Key** 3L102 **\$3.10**
Additional workbooks available online.

Vocabulary Vine RL07 **\$9.95**

☐ A spiral of Latin & Greek Roots. Hasseler. Unlock over 100,000 words with Latin and Greek word roots with *Vocabulary Vine*. The majority of words in the English language are built upon a foundation of Latin and Greek roots that have specific meanings. *Vocabulary Vine* helps your child learn and internalize a multitude of roots as well as prefixes. When kids recognize roots and prefixes, they have almost no trouble deciphering the meaning of tens of thousands of words. Includes suggestions for twelve optional zero-preparation Learning Games to keep the program fun and fresh. Appropriate for children in grades 4-9.

COMPOSITION

Diamond Notes RL67 **\$6.95**

☐ *Imagine never again hearing your young writer cry, "What should I say?" or "How do I start?"*

This effective and enjoyable creative writing program helps your students conquer fear of the blank page. With gentle, practical step-by-step guidance, they learn to organize their thoughts and express themselves clearly on paper. Take them from grouping ideas to writing complete paragraphs in just five units filled with teaching help and examples. Previously a favorite part of our Language Arts 2 Intermediate program, now here by popular demand for all to enjoy.

Research Paper Packet RL61 **\$6.99**

☐ Holzmann & Ballard. The Research Paper Packet includes every last detail your children will need to know to write a solid research or position paper. It walks them through how to do research (on the web and in a library), how to reference sources, and much more. It also includes multiple, flexible schedules that reduce the process of writing a paper into easy-to-manage steps so that your children won't feel as overwhelmed as they might otherwise.

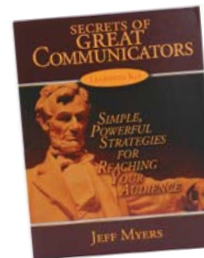
Note: This item is included in the Instructor's Guides for Levels 7-530 and is **not** necessary for purchase with these IG's. S.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Secrets of Great Communicators (DVD) CR101D **\$64.99**

☐ Myers. A video/workbook course, *Secrets of Great Communicators* teaches students how to conquer their fear of public speaking, organize a talk for maximum impact, reach the heart of an audience, and deliver a speech with confidence. Includes outlines for writing welcome speeches, dedications, commencements, and host of other speeches—15 outlines in all! The base program includes one DVD and a 188-page workbook in an attractive, hard plastic case. The videos provide visual and auditory input, and the accompanying workbook provides an outlet for written expression.

The program comes with a 100% no-risk guarantee. *Secrets of Great Communicators* is aimed at high school students and above—ages 14 and up. A 12- or 13-year-old student could learn a lot from the program, but probably wouldn't get as much value out of it as an older student would.



“Homeschooling works! Two of our former Sonlighters are successfully in college and thriving. Our big kids loved the years we used Sonlight—especially all the Read-Alouds. I believe Sonlight was a major contribution to their current success. Learning about places all over the world encouraged their love of travel. After 14 years of homeschooling, now I'm starting again with our youngest (P4/5), and I look forward to doing Sonlight all over again.”

—Anne T, November 2007

Resources

Additional Resources

Want to be a better parent and teacher? We want to support you in your homeschooling journey. So whether you'd like to learn more about learning styles or how to discipline your children or how to homeschool through high school, take a look at your options below.

RESOURCES

Ring Binder, Large 3" VB30 \$11.00

Keep your whole Instructor's Guide (and other school papers) organized in extra-large rings and two pockets. Heavy vinyl construction lasts for years.

Ring Binder, Medium 1 1/2" PB15 \$7.25

Deep rings and spine hold your whole Instructor's Guide (and other papers) in order. Virtually indestructible polyvinyl binder will survive long beyond your school years!

Ring Binder, Small 1" PB20 \$6.25

Our "small" binder is still plenty big enough to hold your entire Instructor's Guide. Powerful rings stay closed around all your pages, and the polyvinyl cover never wears out.

Binder Index Tabs:

36 weeks plus Appendix IN01 \$7.95

Find what you need in your Instructor's Guide, fast and easy. Tabs for all 36 weeks plus appendix neatly fit the rings of your binder (above).

Ruth Beechick's:

The Three-R's KLO1 \$12.00

Beechick. An essential resource for any parent who homeschools children grades K-3. Before you start homeschooling, you must read this! Jam-packed with practical advice and down-to-earth help to give you all you need to start teaching your young children reading, writing, and arithmetic. A great alternative to workbook study by one of the leaders of the modern homeschool movement. Indispensable. Pb.

Ruth Beechick's: You Can Teach

Your Child Successfully 4T02 \$14.00

Beechick. A follow-up to *The Three R's*, this volume will tell you everything you need to know to start teaching your 4th through 8th grader. *You Can Teach Your Child Successfully* is full of easy to implement ideas on how to teach history, science, music, art, the Bible, and more. It even discusses learning styles and the most effective methods of instruction for your individual child. This book will give you confidence in your ability to homeschool, and prepare you to do a great job. Another "can't do without" homeschooling resource. Pb.

Ruth Beechick's:

The Language Wars 340-40 \$12.00

Beechick. More philosophy than how-to manual, these 25 collected essays share a respected curriculum expert's insight on phonics, math, thinking, creativity, memory, testing, dyslexia and much more. Each short, highly readable chapter is a stand-alone gem. Great for homeschoolers. Encouraging. X Pb. Teacher Resource

Sonlight's

Create-A-Calendar ① + KE101 \$8.99

Included in Core K this sixteen-month calendar covers your entire school year, and teaches kids about the calendar while they learn days, weeks and months of the year. Each month features a grid of blank

squares so you can fill in the days of the month on the correct days of the week. Opposite the grid is a line drawing for your child to color his or her own picture-of-the-month. 17" x 11". Comes with 140 fun and colorful stickers. S (Consumable)

God's World News Magazines

Sonlight forged a relationship with *God's World News* in order to provide you with quality news and current events for your children. With *God's World News*, your children will learn how to:

- Balance news and current events with a biblical perspective
- Integrate social studies, Christian virtues, science, and geography
- Build critical thinking through scripture references, puzzles, and activities

God's World News comes in four reading levels: Early Edition for PreK-1st, Taking Off for 2nd-3rd, News Current for 4th-5th, and Top Story for 6th-9th. For high school students, consider *WORLD* magazine, the only major news magazine—like *Time* or *Newsweek*—that's written from a Christian perspective with your values in mind. To learn more about *God's World News* publications and to order, go to www.gwnews.com/sonlight.

Senior High: A Home-Designed Form+U+La RR104 \$28.95

Shelton. This book oozes with inspiration and practical help for high school level homeschooling. You'll learn what to do about requirements, how to translate real-life learning into credits, and how to set up your own Master Framework Plan for high school. Plus, you'll get record-keeping ideas, a number of class "plans," masters for transcripts and diplomas, creative grading guidelines, learning guides for various subjects, and complete how-to's for setting up a student notebook. Indispensable! Oversize Pb.

Let's Go Learn

This online reading assessment gives you immediate feedback on your child's reading level, as well as his or her strengths and weaknesses in reading—all for less than the cost of most formal assessments. *Let's Go Learn* provides a comprehensive evaluation of six areas of reading and includes activities and instructional recommendations to help your child improve where he or she needs it most. Works great as a pre- and post-test to determine how much your child learned, or as an objective assessment of how your child reads in relation to his peers. Discounts available for purchasing multiple tests, so you will get the most for your money if you purchase pre- and post-tests for your whole family upfront. See www.sonlight.com/letsgolearn.html for more details and to take the test.

The Way They Learn RR102 \$11.99

Tobias. If you have ever wondered if your child has a learning disability, or if you have ever questioned the crazy way your child prefers to learn, then this book is for you! Offers fascinating insight into learning styles, learning disabilities, and the seven different intelligences. Pb.

The New Hide or Seek RR108 \$13.99

Dobson. Learn how to build self-esteem in your children, protect them from the agony of inferiority, and teach them how to be kind. Just as relevant today as the original was 20 years ago. 1999 edition. X Pb.

Cultural Literacy RR106 \$13.95

Hirsch, Jr. In this compelling manifesto, E.D. Hirsch argues that U.S. students are being deprived of the knowledge (and the context of that knowledge) necessary for them to function in modern society. Includes 5,000 essential names, phrases, dates, and concepts students should know. Pb.

Epidemic

RR105 \$24.95

Meeker. A groundbreaking book that explicitly demonstrates "how teen sex is killing our kids." Yet Meeker doesn't stop with identifying the negative cultural forces affecting our children; she shows us how we can connect with our kids to help save them from grave perils of sexual promiscuity. Highly recommended for parents of adolescents. Hb.

The New Dare to Discipline RR111 \$14.99

Dobson. In this consistent and common sense approach to child-rearing, you'll learn how to handle everyday discipline challenges and maintain the careful balance between love and control that is so important to raising happy, healthy kids. X Pb.

Strong-Willed Child

RR107 \$18.99

Dobson. Discover how to discipline children without breaking their spirit. If you find yourself frustrated by children who won't listen or wonder if you are raising them the proper way, this book is for you. Say goodbye to yelling and empty threats, and learn from the most common mistakes frustrated parents make. Filled with practical solutions and wonderful advice for any parent. X Hb.

Open Heart, Open Home

RR118 \$13.00

Mains. In a society where hospitality is often laid aside because one's home is not perfect, and our food isn't "the best," Karen Mains shows a different way. It's the relationships that matter. This was one of those life-changing books for me (Sarita), and it has shaped my attitude and approach to opening my home to those around me. Challenging and necessary! X Pb.

Life Skills for Kids

RR115 \$14.99

Field. Challenges parents to raise kids purposefully. Each chapter highlights one of a list of 14 "Maxims for Maturity" that the author and her husband have decided they want their kids to live by. The author uses highly practical and clear illustrations to explain how she applies these principles in her family, and to suggest ways you may want to consider applying them in yours. What do you want to teach your children about time and space organization? Healthy lifestyle skills? Decision-making? Money management? And more. Some things you'll want to think through while your children are still young! X Pb.

Miserly Moms

RR116 \$12.99

McCoy. The subtitle says it all: "Living on one income in a two-income economy." Filled with practical suggestions and recipes (and not primarily recipes for food, but for kids craft projects, garden pesticides, and far more). Her "11 Miserly Guidelines" will help you save thousands of dollars a year on everything from groceries to electricity so you can live frugally without feeling deprived. Pb.

Why Gender Matters (NEW) RR59 \$14.95

Sax. The differences between girls and boys are more profound than we ever imagined. For instance, we've discovered that their eyes actually see very unique images when a boy and a girl look at the same thing! The good news: you can use what you learn about your children's unique design to teach and parent more effectively. Encourage your girls to excel in math and science. Help your boys learn to love reading novels. Find practical tips for a wide range of discipline issues. Understand their "hardwired" differences, and you can better help boys and girls reach their fullest potential. Insightful and provocative. Pb.

GEOGRAPHY

Atlas/Maps

Rand McNally

Goode's World Atlas

RR01 \$49.95

Up-to-date, thorough, full-size world atlas. Designed for student use (fifth grade or higher), it is still a thoroughly adult-level tool. Includes easy-to-read topological and political maps of the entire world as well as maps that show locations of ethnic and language groups, world commerce, comparative economic activity, literacy, health, and other statistics. Indexes more than 35,000 cities and towns around the world. A great resource for the entire family, and a book that can profitably be mused over for hours. Oversize Hb.

Markable Map and Markers MAP \$25.98

Now in full color! Your whole family can enjoy discovering "where things are." Hang this 23" x 34" Modified Robinson Projection map on a wall for easy reference, or fold flat (smaller than 12" x 12") and take it with you. With the world on one side, the U.S.A. on the other, this map shows you a lot of detail, including major political boundaries and rivers. Laminated surface lets you mark your map with grease pencils or water-based markers. A Required Resource in every Sonlight Core program from K-100. Includes a four-color set of fine-tip water-based markers! S

Map only MAP1 \$19.99

Markers only MAP2 \$5.99

Uncle Josh's Outline Maps RR98 \$26.95

CD-ROM collection of 124 high-quality outline maps of continents, regions, and countries of the world, plus U.S. states and Canadian provinces. PDF format is printable via inkjet or laser printer on Mac OS 7.1 and Windows 3.1 or above computers. Acrobat Reader included.

The Global Puzzle RR103 \$14.45

Did you know the average individual knows where only 18 of the world's 193 countries are located? A Broader View decided they wanted to do something to improve this statistic, so they created *The Global Puzzle*, a unique 600-piece puzzle that has proven to increase its users' geography knowledge by an average of 472% after completing the puzzle only one time.

The Global Puzzle is an outstanding geography aid because the pieces are actually shaped like the countries, which means you have to figure out where every country is located in order to complete the puzzle! *The Global Puzzle* includes:

- All 193 countries and their capitals
- All 50 states of the U.S. and their capitals
- All 13 territories and provinces of Canada and their capitals

In addition, the puzzle also includes dozens of geography facts about the countries printed within the oceans' borders. Three feet wide, 600 pieces. For ages 9 and up.

The United States Puzzle (NEW) RR30 \$14.95

Find a great geography lesson on your floor! This big puzzle (30" x 18") lets your children learn about the United States as they put the 55 extra-thick pieces (shaped like the states) in place.

Audio Memory® Recordings

The following recordings are designed for use by young children (K-3), but both the recordings' content and the help they provide for memorizing basic facts about American history and geography make them easily useful for students through sixth grade and beyond. A wonderful means to learn the content. Vocalists' diction is extremely clear.

Geography Songs Kit 2H21 \$22.95

Troxel. Award-winning kit includes 62-minute CD or cassette with 23 songs; consumable workbook with lyrics, illustrations, tests, 23 up-to-date (1997/98) maps to label and color; and a 25" x 36" world wall map with memorization keys. 23 songs teach the names and locations of the continents, oceans, planets, 225 countries, and the states and provinces of Canada and the U.S. Includes famous landmarks. (Included in Core 2 and 1+2.) RA: 2-A

Additional Workbook 2H211 \$6.95

Additional Wall Map 2H212 \$3.00

States & Capitals Songs CD Kit RR61 \$12.95

Troxel. Easy sing-along songs teach names and locations of the 50 states and their capitals. Capitals songs include portions in which students are encouraged to provide the content to which the recording artists then provide an echo confirmation—a useful mnemonic device. 22" x 36" black and white map of the US, printed on relatively light weight paper, includes keyed pointers to indicate over 150 important geographical features (national parks, rivers, etc.) and metropolitan areas in the US. States and capitals are organized by location: northern, southern and eastern border states, and middle states. Alaska and Hawaii are not included in the songs, though they are shown and listed on the map. Public school students in our district are not permitted to graduate from high school without attaining a 100% score on a test of states and capitals. Too bad we didn't know about this kit in time to help our older kids! You might as well teach your kids while they're young! —Plug them in with earphones. [Older children (and adults!) may cringe at the "babyish" nature of the voices (high, relatively thin female voices predominate) and the thin background music.]

History Songs CD Kit RR62 \$15.95

Troxel. Eleven songs provide a wonderful mental timeline for American history, including key figures and their achievements, and major events in American history from 1492 to 1991. While the music on this tape is less tinny than on the States & Capitals tape, the use of the accordion on most songs may drive some listeners crazy after a while. (To be fair, however: the recording was nominated for a Grammy in the Best Musical Album for Children category in 1999; two of the songs were also considered for awards in the Best Instrumental Arrangement with Vocals category.) Counterbalancing the music: the background sound effects are creative and interesting, and the content is extremely rich.

Operation World CD-ROM RR101 \$17.95

The *Operation World* CD-ROM is a wonderful tool for learning about hundreds of different countries and discovering the real spiritual needs of the peoples who live there.

- At the top of each country's introductory page, you'll find a concise summary of each day's prayer focus. The prayer focus reveals recent Answers to Prayer, as well as a number of Prayer Challenges—issues pertinent to the featured country that you and your children can pray about.
- Also featured on the introductory page: a color map and flag, demographic, economic and political information, plus a detailed statistical analysis of the country's prevalent religions.
- The CD-ROM also contains charts that help you "see" the statistics that detail the current and historic religious trends of the country...perfect for strategic missions planning.
- Another nifty feature: a new country is featured every day that you open the *Operation World* program. It's a great reminder to pray for countries all around the world. If you want, you can even set the daily featured country as your desktop image!
- The program also comes equipped with a powerful search engine that enables you to quickly find any desired word anywhere on the CD-ROM.

AP PREPARATION

Cracking the AP English

Literature Exam

RL08 \$18.00

The experts at The Princeton Review study the AP English Literature Exam and other standardized tests each year to make sure you get the most up-to-date, thoroughly researched study guide possible.

With *Cracking the AP English Literature Exam*, you'll learn how to:

- Ace the reading passage questions by using clues in the answer choices
- Conquer difficult poetry and prose passages by zeroing in on the main idea
- Safeguard yourself against traps that can lower your score
- Score higher by learning the essential concepts from the new glossary of literary terms

Includes two full-length practice AP English Literature tests. Oversize Pb.

Note: Advanced Placement, Advanced Placement Program, and AP are registered trademarks of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product

"Sonlight helps us build family relationships because we spend time together reading and discussing wonderfully rich and thought-provoking literature. As we read Sonlight's 100 Gateway Cities for our family devotional time, we pray for each city: that God's Word would go forth in power and that the people would turn to God and experience His salvation."

—Amy S., December 2007

“Can’t we please do just a little school today?”

How “real books” contribute to education

“It was Saturday morning, for crying out loud!” Marjorie M told us. “And here my son was pleading to ‘do school’! I couldn’t believe it! Thank you for changing my hate-to-learn son into a learning magnet.”

Other moms have told similar stories about Sunday mornings. And holidays. And summer vacations. “Can’t we do just a little history?...”

The question is: Why? Why do children become so excited when their parents use Sonlight Curriculum? What does Sonlight do that others don’t?

The answer, honestly, is rather simple. It has to do with our literature-rich approach to education: education the way you wish you’d been taught.

When history “comes alive,” your kids remember more of what they study.

With other educational media, and most especially textbooks, students don’t read stories. They read reports about subjects. In fact, textbooks seem less like books, and more like “storage space” for dump truck loads of facts—as many facts as possible.

There’s just one problem: they leave out all the drama, the conflict, the context, the emotion—the story—so there is nothing left to attract the interest and attention of student readers.

Sonlight, by contrast, with its “real books” approach, brings you right “there” to see, feel, and hear what happened—even if it was 2,000 years ago.

With the kinds of books Sonlight carries, you get to experience history. They draw you into the story so that all the things traditional textbooks and classroom materials tell you you’re supposed to memorize... you memorize “coincidentally.” You can’t help remembering the names of the key characters, the places they go, the events they participate in.

Somehow when you are caused to feel something, emotionally, about a person or event, you seem never to forget. The images and experiences are forever imprinted on your mind.

Learning happens naturally... easily.

When you enjoy reading your school books; when one of your favorite things to do each day is to read the books that are part of your curriculum; and when the books themselves make it easy for you to remember your lessons, you’ve got the easiest learning process possible.

You can read the testimonials we’ve sprinkled throughout our catalog. We’ve been receiving stories like these ever since we began our company.

When was the last time you heard stories like these? If we hadn’t enjoyed the experience ourselves with our own kids, and if we didn’t know so many people who tell us pretty much the same things, I’m afraid we wouldn’t believe it ourselves.

But what can we say in response to the mom who tells us about her children who decided to stage a “Do School Now!” protest in the middle of August? That’s exactly what Rinae H of West Lawn, PA told us a few years ago (and provided photo evidence)!

Isn’t it time for you to see if maybe you and your son or daughter might not experience a dramatic, positive change by entering into the joy of the Sonlight educational experience?

Your kids won’t want to quit (and neither will you).

Please. Don’t get me wrong. You’re almost sure to experience discouraging, low-as-a-snake’s-belly days while using any curriculum—even ours. There will be days when you want to chuck the whole homeschooling experience right out the window. It happens to all of us. (More, usually, in the first few weeks and months of homeschooling than later, after you’ve gotten the hang of things.)

But we all have bad days, don’t we? No matter what our responsibilities. Work of any type can be frustrating.

But ignoring those worst-case-scenario days, what is the general experience? Here at Sonlight, we get comments like this one from Kristi W:

“O.K., the 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 getting to teach your kids under these circumstances!

If you use materials your kids enjoy and that you enjoy: what do you think the probability is that you’ll want to quit homeschooling? Do you think you’ll become discouraged or burned out? Not likely!

Can the same be said about textbooks, workbooks, computer- or video-based programs? Maybe. But with Sonlight...

The biggest problem we’ve found with a lot of our customers is that they would rather spend their time teaching their kids than just about anything. So the housecleaning, laundry, dishes... yep, even dinner: It all gets placed on the back-burner while mom and kids “Sonlight” together!

In sum: I expect you’ll find that Sonlight informs, challenges and inspires you as much as it does your kids. And so you and they, together, will find yourselves drawn to find out whatever you can in all the different subject areas: science, math, geography, history, literature... best of all, you won’t want to quit! You’ll finish the course.



“Sonlight makes it very easy for my husband, Eric, to read stories or do different activities with my sons Caleb (6) and Joshua (4),” writes Bobbi H of Rolesville, NC. “I was homeschooled, so homeschooling our children was an easy decision for our family. But I was a little nervous about starting our first year; I was not quite sure where to begin or how to approach certain subjects. I was very happy to find Sonlight.

“The Instructor’s Guides have made my job so much easier by laying everything out for me. I can look at the Instructor’s Guide in the morning, and pull out the book(s) we need to read. Our boys love to ‘do school’ and usually ask about getting started before we’ve even finished breakfast in the morning.”



"My kids love the 'Choose Your Own Adventure' at the end of every new country we learn about in Core 5," writes Gannon H of Thornton, CO. "This has been our favorite year, yet! I love that this Eastern Hemisphere Core is so 'missions minded' and that we are drenched in other cultures!" Here, Rebecca, Dakota and Joey H make soap carvings to resemble the carvings of the Maori people of New Zealand. The H family has used Sonlight for all four years of their homeschool.

But while you're enjoying the educational benefits of Sonlight's literature-rich approach to education, you'll experience some other, unexpected benefits as well...

Learning becomes more interesting than TV—even for Dad!

I can't tell you how often we've heard this from a mom: Once they began to use Sonlight, their husbands (who had never been more than mildly interested in what the children were doing) suddenly began to ask if maybe they could read some of the books to the kids. Or, if not read the books themselves, then at least listen in while mom read. Or, minimally: "Can I borrow that book when you're done?"

Tammy is not unusual. She said this:

"My husband, who has never taken much interest in homeschool matters, now looks forward to reading with us every day. He was hooked from the first Read-Aloud! I feel that Sonlight has brought our family closer together as we learn about those in far away places. We look forward each day to the next adventure. I know that sounds corny, but it's so true."

Others have told us that when they first began using Sonlight, they were addicted to TV. Too often, they'd spend the night huddled around the tube.

They would be watching the same program together, but they never talked about anything of substance.

But then, after they began using Sonlight, mom and kids began to lose interest in what was on the tube. The stories began to seem thin or contrived.

So the kids would actually begin to read their Sonlight books in the evening! Or, if they didn't have enough Sonlight books, they'd beg to go to the library so they could find other books by the same authors they had been reading in Sonlight...

Pretty soon (sometimes a few months, sometimes a few years), Dad would start reading some of the books. Maybe Mom and the kids would read them during the day, and then Dad would read them at night...

The relationships you build as a family will make a big difference during those difficult teen years...

Eventually—especially as the kids get older—families find themselves discussing things as a family: "Tim, I was reading _____ last night," Dad might say. "What did you think about _____?"

Sonlighters often talk about all kinds of interesting subjects.

And, if I may note something you'll particularly appreciate in the later teen years: the most interesting "subjects" are not necessarily the ones you'll find in the books Sonlight assigns. They are in the discussions you will enjoy as a result of the strong relationships you will have established with your teens by means of your thoughtful, open discussions with them while they were growing up with Sonlight.

You will have established a habit of open communication. You will have established, in your children's minds, that you are a person they can trust to tell them the truth...

In sum: Not only will your kids get a decent education with Sonlight, but you-all (the entire family) will likely find yourselves being drawn closer together... because you'll want to read and think and talk about things together.

Every Sonlight book is a treasure your whole family will cherish for years to come!

A lot of people have told me how much they appreciate the fact that the books they buy from Sonlight are their children's favorites. Their kids don't just read Sonlight books for school. And they don't read them once.

They keep going back to their Sonlight books and re-reading them.

Becky wrote,

I recently was trying to trim down on the books in our bookshelves and had set aside some I was interested in selling. I asked my son to look through them and make sure I wasn't getting rid of any he wanted. Every single Sonlight book went back on the bookshelf.

"Mom," he said, "you can't get rid of these. They're from Sonlight!"

People ask why they should invest in Sonlight rather than some other homeschool program. I'd say it's because Sonlight is not merely an investment in your children's education, but an investment in top-notch intellectual and emotional recreation as well.

Sonlight is not just an investment for your kids' benefit. It's also an investment for you and your spouse as well—because you will want to read many of the books for your own pleasure and education. Really.

"Your books satisfy my soul," wrote Deb F. "Usually at the end of the school year, I trample the kids as I rush to the library to get something to read for myself. After this first year with Sonlight, I didn't have that urgent need because the books are so beautifully written and well developed. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

You get to enjoy a multiplied blessing from your investment in your children's education. As your entire family reads and re-reads these wonderful books, you can legitimately amortize the cost of your Sonlight program not just over a single year's education of a single child, but over the life of your family's library.

Can you imagine a better investment than that? ■

"My son Michael has severe ADHD and Asperger syndrome. After a disastrous start at public school due to lack of support, I decided (with the advice of several 'Sonlight Forumers') to pull him out of school and start home schooling. Friends, family, and doctors who were skeptical are now amazed at Michael's transformation with Sonlight."

—Linda R, November 2007

Sonlight's Instructor Guides

You CAN teach your children—with confidence—from your first day.

Maybe you're new to homeschooling. Or, maybe you've tried it, but you're still looking for "the right curriculum."

You'll be surprised and delighted by the incredible support you get in each Sonlight Instructor's Guide for Core, Language Arts, and Science courses (K-High School).

Imagine being a great teacher—with almost no effort!

Imagine not having to create your own schedules. Not having to design effective activities and lessons for your students. Not having to think of questions to test their comprehension.

Instead, imagine having a personal guide create them all for you, and leave you countless written notes to help you teach more effectively. A guide to tell you exactly what to do at what times during 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 join your children in another school day!

You can experience all this from Day One, with any Sonlight Instructor's Guide.

Spend your time teaching your kids, not planning their education.

Every Sonlight Instructor's Guide provides you with:

- A complete, 36-week, 180-day schedule with everything you need:
- Activities, experiments, teaching tips, comprehension questions, counter-balancing commentary and more
- Two schedule options to fit your needs. The 5-day schedule provides your family a robust, compelling, full academic calendar. The 4-day schedule gives you time each week to enjoy a full day of extra-curricular activities like piano and dance lessons, field trips, or your home-school support group.

Create great school days with your Sonlight Core Instructor's Guide

You'll know what to do each day of the week. Complete lesson plans included. Plus...

- You'll be amazed at how much you cover and learn in manageable daily portions.
- Your children will remember, understand and enjoy history. From Level 3 on, all Readers Read-Alouds, and History are tightly inter-linked.
- Confidently help your students understand tough material. Teaching notes and tips help you clarify points, provide counter-arguments, or answer any sticky questions your children might ask.

A Core Guide includes:

1) Reader Guide (Readers included in 3 and up)

- Know how well your children understand the books they read on their own. It includes comprehension questions you can ask—no need to read every book (unless you want to).
- Link the books to reality with map locations and time line dates. Students learn to relate their own experience with the "where" and "when" in every book they read.

2) Read-Aloud Guide

- *Vocabulary words* drawn from the books you read. Your children hear the words in context. We draw attention to them, and give you definitions. You'll be amazed at how articulate your children become!
- *Cultural literacy notes.* Wherever a reading mentions something of interest (for example: *hoop skirt*, *CCC*, *chamois*, or *potpie*), we add helpful information about the topic. Readings gain depth; you and your children become "educated" naturally, and the world opens up to you all.
- Plenty of thorough *comprehension questions* designed to help maximize your children's understanding.
- *Creative narration ideas.* As students re-tell parts of a story, they strengthen verbal communication skills.

3) History Guide

- Easily compare what your children retain with key *learning objectives*.
- Develop your children's *geography skills* with *maps* showing locations from your book readings.
- Remind your children of key facts, and gain perspective using *time line dates* tied to your reading.
- Learn (together) to read discerningly, with notes to help you counter biased articles.

To help you teach multiple students with one Core program, we created separate Instructor's Guides for Science and Language Arts. Choose a Science program that will interest all your children, and match a Language Arts Guide to each set of Readers you purchase...

Desiree and Hana B. of Hayden, ID, ages 6 and 11, enjoy learning how to read English using Sonlight Core 1. "We like Sonlight because it works well with all the different age and language issues of my children," writes their mom, Yolanda B. "We now have 6 children at home. We adopted three children from China and three we just adopted from Ethiopia.

Desiree and Hana are older girls with some English ability. I picked Core 1 because I can use the different levels of readers. I also ordered a copy of the Read-Alouds for each of the older girls so they can follow along and see the words as I read them. Sonlight has made my teaching fun, and the kids love it!"

A Science Guide includes:

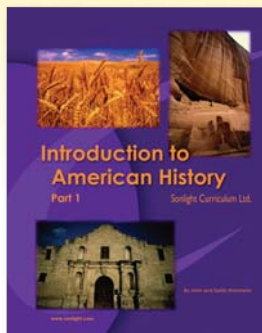
- A complete, ready-to-use plan, with a full schedule of all science books and experiments for the entire year. No need to create your own plans!
- A comprehensive list of materials you'll need for each experiment. You're forewarned well in advance of any special needs; you have plenty of time to acquire all the resources for every experiment.
- Detailed teaching notes to help you guide students through each lesson.
- Engaging activity sheets with hundreds of illustrations, charts, and pictures. Helps students remember more of what they've learned.
- Complete time-saving Parent Answer Key for the entire course. You won't be stumped by any awkward questions.

A Language Arts Guide features:

- Manageable, relevant assignments. One weekly dictation taken from the books your children are reading.
- Daily, sequenced assignments to teach your children to communicate effectively in writing.
- Freedom for four-day users, and challenge for five-day students, with optional Friday activities.
- Complete guided schedules for handwriting, spelling, and optional workbooks.
- Built-in phonics training in Grades K to 2.

Bottom line: Each Sonlight Instructor's Guide saves you hundreds of hours of time—literally—plus loads of stress and frustration. You'll teach your children like a "pro," and you'll have time to enjoy the journey along with them. ■





Sample Core Instructor's Guide.

Core Instructor's Guides

Want a ready-to-use homeschool plan?

Here it is: a single tool to confidently teach your children today. We've done the daily, weekly and yearly planning for you, so you can focus on interacting with your children.

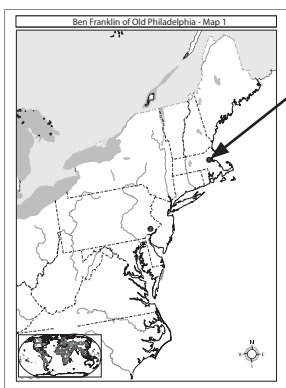
Sonlight's Core Instructor's Guide offers a wealth of ready-to-use learning options from discussion questions to activity ideas. Whether you want to do everything "by the book" or pick and choose your favorite focus, you can find the perfect fit for your needs (and your children's learning style)—with little or no planning time.

You can give your kids a great education—and still delight in just being a parent. 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.

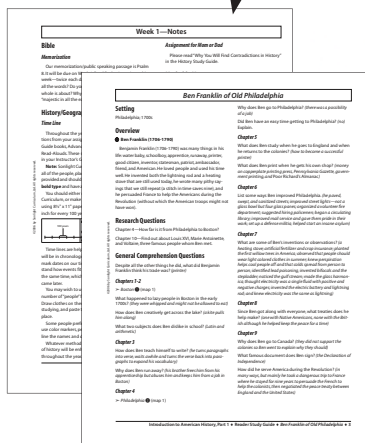
Beginning in the third year, the History books, Readers and Read-Alouds are closely intertwined.

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



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

Map and Timeline activities are highlighted. Each book has its own map key to give you the instant location for each assignment. The Timeline Schedule tells you the key events to add to your timeline.



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.

Daily Bible reading and weekly memorization.

★ 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.

Complete 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.

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

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

Plus: a 4-day option! Simply flip the page for a complete schedule.

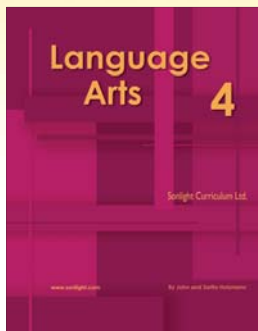
"When I first tried Sonlight years ago, I made a HUGE mistake: I tried to buy used materials and depend on the library.

It cost me more money in the long run. It left me frazzled. Now that I have a complete Core sitting on my shelf, life is so much easier."

—Rebecca C, September 2007

For a full size sample, go to www.sonlight.com/download-core-2-ig-sample.html

Help: www.sonlight-forums.com/choosing/ • Orders: www.sonlight.com/order/ • Phone: (303) 730-6292 • Fax: (303) 795-8668 **145**



Language Arts Instructor's Guides

Large print dictation/copywork assignments mean your children are able to read and study assignments on their own. You're free to concentrate on what you need to—a life-saver as you juggle multiple kids or face your daily tasks.

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

Grammar Gems highlight, explain and reinforce new Language Arts concepts and give students a chance to practice their skills in context: i.e., in "real life" situations.

Find the context of any dictation assignment in seconds with Sonlight's handy reference to the actual page numbers of each book.

Sample Language Arts Instructor's Guide.

Your guide to help your children love to read and write well.

Sonlight's K-6 Language Arts Instructor's Guides have enhanced notes to guide you through each week, plus creative assignments and engaging activity sheets.

Your children may beg you to let them write just one more story!

Your guide will walk you and your children through a year of exciting, creative writing adventures, dictation practice from your children's favorite books to improve their punctuation and spelling, and lots of innovative exercises to strengthen vocabulary and overall ability to write well. They'll get a unified learning experience and you'll have the joy of watching them learn to love expressing themselves through writing.

Activity Sheets captivate your children and make them eager to do assignments.

Student Activity Sheet 2

Dictation

A hilltop telegraph had signaled the arrival of a side-wheeler and now it seemed as if all of San Francisco had turned out. The wharf was alive with men, women and children—not to mention dogs, mules and chickens. Seagulls flocked in the air like confetti.

Grammar Gem *Did you know...* A writer uses a **simile** to make a comparison between two unlike things using *like*, *as*, or *resembles*. This helps the reader create a mental picture of the scene.

- Can you find the simile in the dictation? Write it here: _____
- What two things are compared? _____
- What mental picture does it create? _____

Here are a few more examples taken from *By the Great Horn Spoon*:

"Captain Swain says my nose
"His finger's clean as a whistle
"The two gold ships, linked

Revision Checklist

Refer to this list to check your work on your friendly letter. Revise the letter to make corrections if necessary.

- ☐ The format has all five of the requirements of the friendly letter.
- ☐ The ideas are clear. It is easy to understand.
- ☐ The sentences are complete thoughts.
- ☐ All proper nouns are capitalized. All words are spelled correctly.
- ☐ All sentence endings have the correct punctuation.
- ☐ All paragraphs are organized and focused.

Weekly notes give you well-thought-out assignments and lots of variety.

It's easy to check your students' work—answers are printed for you within the teaching notes for each day. Makes checking answers a snap, so you can spend more time in quality interaction with your children.

A Reader's Schedule enables you to easily combine student's of different grade levels with one Core. Add reader packs for older or younger children.

Your children learn from examples in the books they read, for example: about similes by reading about "seagulls that flock the air like confetti."

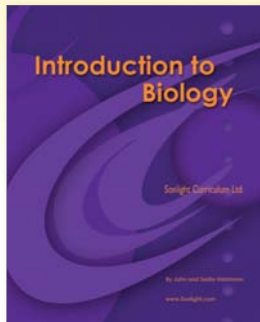
Begin each day with confidence knowing where you are, where you've been and where you're going. Your ready-to-use, 180-day schedule lays it all out for you, whether you choose our four- or five- day plan. Expert guidance every day ensures you won't miss what's important, and gives your family consistency where you want it—with room to flex.

Your children will write daily in a wide variety of genres: from dictation, to brainstorming notes, to imaginative pieces. You'll be thrilled by what they create.

Appendices offer a wealth of extra resources. For example, in K-5 guides, intriguing visuals that beg to tell a story jumpstart your children's creativity. From an image of a ship at sea to a lone rider crossing a desert on horseback, these "story-starter pictures" help children develop imaginative writing.

Benjie L. of Alberta, Canada, enjoys great books in the great outdoors with his children Beatrice, Camilla, Miguel, and Danielle, who are doing Core 4. "I wish dad could read this book with us," my girls would say as we made our way through our Sonlight Read-Alouds," writes their mom, Edelwina. "And that is actually what happened when one of them packed her favorite Sonlight books on an out-of-town trip last summer! Dad enjoyed it and has, since then, spent time reading aloud to the children, especially to our son. Now we can add Sonlight books to the list of things we can all enjoy as a family." The L family has used Sonlight five of seven years in their homeschool.





Science Instructor's Guides

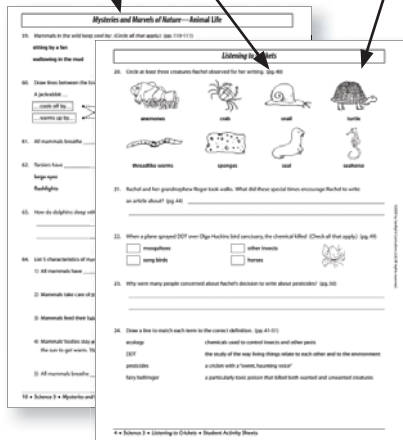
Sample Science Instructor's Guide.

Investigate, discover and enjoy science.

Sonlight Science Instructor's Guides make learning and teaching science a less-stressful, interactive adventure. We schedule the full-color winsome books. The Science Guide minimizes your prep time, maximizes the value of your science kit, and enables you to enjoy learning along with your kids. Our goal is to make your job easy. We schedule every book plus experiment for you. We've done all the prep work for you so you can discover the joy of science along with your kids.

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.



Week 8—Five-Day Schedule					
Date:	Day 1 36	Day 2 37	Day 3 38	Day 4 39	
Science					
Mysteries and Marvels of Nature—Bird Life	"Finding Food" pp. 60-61	"Showing Off" pp. 72-73	"Eggs to Chicks" pp. 84-85	"Nest Building" pp. 96-97	
Activity Sheet Questions	pp. 15-16 #82-85	pg. 16 #86-91	pp. 16-17 #92-99	pp. 17-18 #100-102	#103-107
Discover & Do DVD	#14B, 16	#10B, 12B, 14B	#14B, 17A, 18A	#12C, 14B, 17B	#14B, 19
TOPS #38, Green Thumbs: Radishes	Activity 8	Activities 9, 10	Activities 11, 12	Activity 13	Activities 14, 15
Activity Sheet Questions	pg. 49 #292	pg. 49 #293-294	pg. 49 #295-301		
Supplies	We provide: NSK—paper clips; 3SK—same You provide: wide-mouth jar—pint or quart size with lid (you will use this jar again for Beans), copy of drawing grid reproducible sheet found in back of the TOPS #38, lid or plastic bowl lid big enough to hold 2 mini-planters <i>Keep all science supplies, plants, and experiment materials in a convenient place for the Radishes book. Items used repeatedly will only be listed once.</i>				
Shopping/Planning List	For next week: vinegar, salt, glass, teaspoon, clear tape you can write on <i>Only new items are listed. Please continue to use all items previously collected.</i>				
Other Notes					

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

Simple and engaging experiments throughout the year provide a hands-on approach. Sonlight's science supply kits prepare you to demonstrate concepts and practice the scientific method of discovery.

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 K-6. Each year includes a wide variety of activities, enhanced with a wealth of fun and helpful illustrations.

Science guides list supplies you'll need for each experiment, and note which supply kits they come from—or whether you need to provide them.

3SK=Science 3 supplies

NSK=Non-Consumables kit

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 hidden surprises at experiment time!

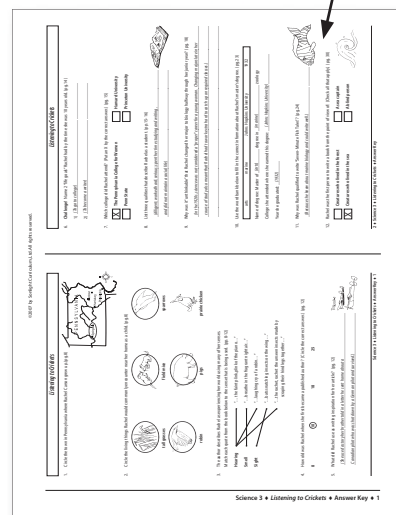
TOPS #38, Green Thumbs: Radishes

If your radishes are having trouble growing at the rate the TOPS...



might try setting your Celsius (68 degrees

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



"Who knew gravity could be so much fun?! Sonlight Science books are full of ideas that inspire my children to try things out for themselves," says Stephanie N of East Asia. Here, Mary (9) and Tommy (4) create a gravity-powered amusement park swing with raisins for passengers. "The Discover and Do DVD is a wonderful guide for a science-reluctant mom like me, and the kids love to watch it just for fun," says Stephanie. "Thanks, Sonlight, for enabling me to teach well—even outside of my areas of expertise!" The N's have used Sonlight four out of five years of homeschooling.

27 Reasons NOT to Buy Sonlight

Sonlight Curriculum is not for everyone. We have never pretended it could be.

If a Sonlight Core program is inappropriate for you, we believe you will be far happier to discover that now, while you're reading our catalog, rather than later, after you have become frustrated and wasted time trying to use a program that's not "you."

The following 27 reasons why you may not want to purchase Sonlight Curriculum are based on feedback we have received from former customers for whom Sonlight was not a good fit.

So ... why might you not want to buy a Sonlight Curriculum Core package?

1 You want a program that requires little reading.

If you decide to use Sonlight Curriculum, you and your children will be required to read. A lot. Sonlight is thoroughly grounded in literature and reading. If you don't like to read, or you find it difficult to read out loud, or your children hate to read—you may prefer another program.

On an encouraging note: many parents have purchased Sonlight in the hope that the program's great books will "hook" the interests of their reluctant readers. We are delighted to report that, in the vast majority of cases, the strategy has worked! Students are hooked, and they can't put the books down.

2 You can't afford to invest the time with your children.

We expect your children to do a fair amount of work on their own, but in Sonlight's areas of unique strength—History and Literature—we expect you to be involved. We choose our books with the idea that they will spark discussions between you and your children—deep discussions of values and perspectives, the kinds of discussions most parents would die for if they only knew how to engage their kids.

We've done as much of the preparatory work for you as possible so you can invest almost every minute of your time in direct interaction with your children. But, if you intend to do a complete curriculum in one year, Sonlight requires a time commitment somewhere in the range of what we suggest at the start of each Core year's curriculum description.

You can reduce the amount of time you need to invest each day by skipping assignments and, if you have more than one child relatively close to one another, by combining students into one program. Many parents also stretch their programs over a year and a half or even two years. Your children will receive a remarkable education "even" at that pace. Sonlight's programs are plenty rich enough.

But you still need to invest the time. If you leave your kids to their own devices, both you and they are likely to find yourselves disappointed, frustrated, and possibly even angry at the results. Especially at the elementary and middle school levels, the materials are not intended for self-teaching.

3 You want lots of hands-on activities inside your curriculum.

While Sonlight includes plenty of effective learning activities in the early elementary Math programs, and while our Science programs are loaded with experiments, you won't find us encouraging you to make raccoon-skin caps, create playground-sized maps of the world, or cook Pilgrim-era Thanksgiving meals.

We believe the educational value of most such activities isn't worth the hours of preparatory work required of parents.

We found that, as we read Sonlight books to our kids, the stories filled their minds with such strong mental images and challenging ideas that

our kids were able to decide for themselves what activities they wanted to engage in ... and the kids prepared for such activities on their own very easily. Have you ever watched an 8-year-old spontaneously transform a cardboard box into something unique? Or a huge sheet of blank paper

"I homeschooled for seven years before finding Sonlight. Yes, the curricula I used had instructor's guides and complete programs. But we were languishing in a desert of trite textbooks and boring workbooks!

In the midst of the wandering, we stumbled upon an oasis: Sonlight Curriculum! Our children have thrived in its richness and depth."

—Elaine B. May 2007

and some paint into a masterpiece? In our experience, when great books inspire children, those children can follow the whims of their creativity all on their own ... without the step by step direction of Mom and Dad.

Families who have used Sonlight over the years bolster our opinions about the need for parent-directed activities. Most children seem to master the material Sonlight covers without regularly-scheduled, hands-on activities.

But you know your kids' needs best. Maybe they really do need hands-on activities to master the material you're reading about. Or maybe you simply enjoy creative projects and feel energized when you do them. Based on your available time and unique make-up, we believe an activities-based approach can be a legitimate option.

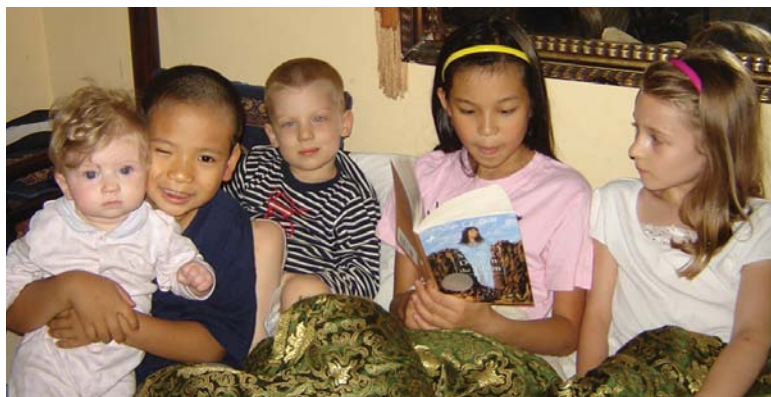
In either case, please come visit www.sonlight-forums.com, where you'll find fellow Sonlighters who will suggest activities to meet your requirements. You'll find moms just like you who engage their kids with lots of hands-on activities and use Sonlight Curriculum with joy and success!

But if you want hands-on activities defined for you within the curriculum itself, purchase something else, because Sonlight won't meet your needs on its own.

4 You might consider Sonlight books emotionally troubling.

As Sarita carefully selects the books in Sonlight Curriculum, one of her criteria has to do with the books' ability to move her and make a lasting impact. As a result, you are likely to find more than a few titles that bring tears to your eyes.

If you enjoy books that are "poignant," "heart-warming," "powerful," "deep," or "thought-provoking," then you and your children are likely to love Sonlight. The intense emotions—what some call a "wonderful heartache"—will make these books not only memorable but strengthen your children's broader learning experience.



"Our family deeply appreciates the flexibility of home education with Sonlight," writes Elizabeth V of East Asia. "We have school all through the summers so we can take time off when we need it—for new babies, family visits, and unexpected health crises!"

"While I was recovering from botulism poisoning, the children and I had school in bed for several weeks. Thankfully, the 'school in bed' idea meant our children were back at school only two days after I'd gotten out of the hospital!" Here, Elizabeth's oldest daughter Esther (9) reads *Sing Down the Moon* from Core 4 to her younger siblings, Joseph (8), Anneliese (6 months), Izaak (4), and Hannah (7). The V family has been homeschooling for seven years, all of them with Sonlight.

We've learned, however, that some people find such books unpleasant. They view any books that make them cry as "heavy," "sad," "dark," even "gut-wrenching." They find the experience of reading such works downright painful.

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

5 You want a program that demands minimal study time, so your kids can focus on extracurricular interests.

Or...

6 You feel you have to do EVERYTHING an instructor's guide suggests.

We want you as a parent to have a wealth of quality teaching options to choose from in the course of your school year. We want to help you in every way we can to maximize your children's potential to learn and grow. That's why Sonlight's Instructor 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 just because we suggest an activity doesn't mean you must, or even should, do it.

Compare Sonlight's Instructor's Guide to an elaborate Thanksgiving feast set on the table. Not only would it be rude, but it would be downright foolish for you to attempt to eat the whole thing. And it may not be smart, even, to sample some of everything. You can however, choose what you like best from a table loaded with lots of delicious dishes prepared and ready for the taking.

With a somewhat similar thought in mind, most parents pick and choose among the assignments Sonlight Curriculum suggests. Almost everyone does all the readings, but many will ignore the comprehension questions.

... Or they will skip science in the early years.

... Or (an extremely common practice) they will slow their pace and use a Sonlight program over the course of a year and a half or two years.

... Or (this is what we—John and Sarita—did as we were teaching our children!) they will read some of the Read-Alouds at night, before bed-time, or during the summer when the kids are bored.

So we encourage you to enjoy the "feast." But take it easy! "Eat" what makes sense and leave the rest. If you tend to think "I saw it in the *Instructor's Guide*; therefore I must do it," then we need to warn you: it is quite likely our options may frustrate you, and another curriculum may be a better fit. If you will filter the ideas we provide into what fits your family, we think you will find the suggestions useful.

7 You want to teach history in a chronological four-year cycle. Or you want to teach all your children exactly the same material, despite their age span.

Advocates of the four-year cycle approach cite two primary reasons for their enthusiasm about 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.
- 2) They say that a four-year cycle permits them to teach all of their children—no matter the age range—one subject at the same time: Ancient History one year, Middle Ages another, and so forth.

Our view: 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. And in order to explain these points, sometimes you need a separate narrative that may be "out of order" chronologically.

Is that bad? No!

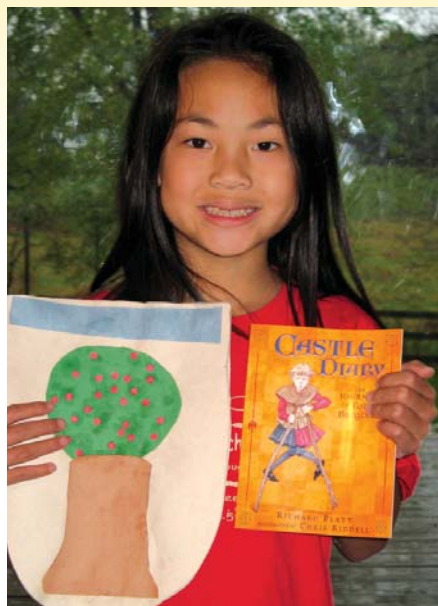
Think about the last movie or book you enjoyed that featured a flashback scene to fill you in on preceding events. Rather than creating confusion, this "jump" to another time probably helped you understand something important about the characters and the scenes to come.

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 our opinion, chronology is important, but not paramount! It does not trump geography and culture.

With respect to the second idea ... of teaching all of your children at the same time using the same materials: We agree with the concept and practice, as long as the kids are within a few years of one another. Indeed, that is exactly what we encourage you to do when you use Sonlight: combine teaching your kids in as few Core programs as reasonable at any one time.

However, this idea begins to break down if you employ this approach regardless of your children's span of ages. Laying aside concern about basic comprehension, maturity levels pose a problem. If the age gap between your oldest and your youngest is too great, you will either cheat the older or overwhelm the younger. In our way of thinking, an in-depth study of 20th century history—that emphasizes WWII and the murderous regimes of the Soviet Union, Communist China, and Nazi Germany (not to mention the horrors of the atomic bomb)—is just too much for your 1st and 2nd graders but a critical aspect of history in which your older students must engage. Realistically, we believe the study of history, at some level, must be tailored more closely to the development of your students than a "catch all" approach can achieve.



Krystal A. of Andover, MN, displays the coat of arms she created after reading *Castle Diary* from Core 2. The project led to many family discussions and lots of historical research with her grandfather. "It's fun to watch my daughter be so self-motivated and excited to learn something new, and then see how it fits into our life," writes Krystal's mom, Kelli.

"Homeschooling has been wonderful for our family, and Sonlight makes it easy for us. I love that I don't have to spend time preparing to 'do school.' I am confident that when I open my Instructor's Guide, I am going to have a productive day. I also love that Sonlight is helping me to share my love of reading with my little girl." This is Krystal's second year of Sonlight and her third as a homeschooler.

Furthermore, you must consider the problem of academic requirements. For example, most states require high school students to complete a course in civil government. If you pursue such focused studies with your high schooler, what parallel program will you pursue with your fifth grader at the same time?

Thus, if your children are spaced more than about three years apart, we don't believe you can properly teach all of them the same subjects at the same time. Sometimes it's necessary to use separate programs in order to give your children the best education.

In sum: We understand the appeal of chronology and group teaching and believe those methods can be utilized effectively—within limits. We have a reason for presenting history the way we do, but if you feel you must teach all your children together, despite their ages, or you think references to other times and places within history would confuse your children, then we encourage you to try another curriculum that follows a four-year chronological cycle.

8 You want a program that focuses on the "Great Books" that are part of the "Great Conversation."

Sonlight Curriculum is committed to introducing students to a large number of the most influential "Great Books" and authors of the Western intellectual tradition. We also desire to help our students enter into the "Great Conversation" of Western culture.



Steve H uses Sonlight to teach his daughter Elisabeth (14) Bible/Apologetics and History of God's Kingdom in Pensacola, FL. Mom Susan writes, "Since Elisabeth first began her formal schooling 9½ ago, Sonlight has been a joyful educational adventure for the whole family. Sonlight has been the map, compass, and guide. We have been greatly blessed and influenced by the Christian worldview offered by Sonlight. Sonlight has been especially instrumental to help us see life from God's perspective. Thank you for this tremendous service and gift."

However, we want to introduce students to literature at a point when they are ready to interact with the material on a deep level and pursue those books and ideas with interest and passion. Therefore, we typically wait until slightly later than the typical "classical education" timeline to introduce certain works. We find it more appropriate to deal with some issues in college or the adult years rather than during high school. When they reach a certain age, students who love to learn will study—on their own—the "Great Books" they desire to read. We parent-teachers don't need to (and, in fact, ought not to) push our students into reading such works before they are ready. Such an approach will not only overwhelm them, but leave them with a bad taste in their mouths: "Once I'm done with school, I will be so glad! I won't have to read any more of these boring books!"

As one mom wrote, "The Great Books will be drudgery to anyone not yet taken captive by the Great Questions, the Big Ideas. If you are not yet given to pondering the meaning of life, it is doubtful you are ready to read the ponderings of others [on these subjects]!"

Instead of cramming in as many classics as one can possibly schedule in a year, we offer a variety of engaging works designed to give students a taste of great literature and leave them hungry for more. We intersperse more challenging books with light-hearted ones to give children a balance to their selection and avoid burn-out. Our goal is to raise children who love to read and love to learn. We prefer to pursue this aim than check off every box when it comes to the "Great Books." If you want a curriculum that—without exception—requires students to read every title deemed "Great," you won't find your fit with Sonlight.

9 You want quizzes, tests, and grading services.

Because most homeschool parents are in daily, personal, one-on-one contact with their students (unlike the relationships between most classroom teachers and their students), we expect that—in general—homeschool parents can effectively evaluate the progress of their students through means other than quizzes, tests and gradable worksheets.

When you're reading a book, for example, you'll discuss it with your children. We provide comprehension questions to aid your discussion and spark ideas. As you converse, your children's understanding of the material should become quite clear. If your children are able to answer your questions, you will know exactly how much they understand—or how much they fail to understand.

We do offer a simple selection of testing aids to help you gauge your children's progress, though you'll find them much less formal (and less frequent) than a classroom school. We are convinced our methods for evaluating their development will give you all the feedback you need—without an over-abundance of daily quizzes and grading sheets—plus give your children all the stimulation and test-taking practice they require. You won't find a formal testing focus with Sonlight.

10 You want your children to study exactly as they would in a classroom.

We seek to offer a thorough education—more thorough, in fact, than one can find in almost any classroom school. Our primary aim is to create within our students a genuine, inquisitive spirit and love for learning, rather than to teach them everything their peers may learn in another curriculum or different school environment.

We choose this method with the expectation that our students will continue to learn—because they want to learn—even after they complete their formal "school" educations. As life-long learners, they will pick up later whatever information they happen to miss during their school years.

Far better, we believe, to lack a few facts and love to learn than to have all the "right" information and hate the learning process!

11 You want a curriculum that teaches all subjects as absolute truth without question or doubt.

Though we base our curriculum on a solid, mission-minded, evangelical Christian interpretation of Scripture, we recognize most history is far too open to conflicting interpretations to be presented in absolute terms.

We cannot possibly know "for sure" all the factors in every event in history. We refuse to speak as if we can. We do seek to give a fair representation of "both sides" of any issues which we ourselves are in some doubt. We take this approach in all subjects. We do this because we want to be fair when other perspectives merit discussion; we want students not just to know what they believe, but why; and we want to encourage them to think critically and act with gracious humility toward others with different views. We want to make sure students differentiate Scripture from men's ideas about events in our world and treat each accordingly. If such an approach bothers you, you may feel more comfortable with another program.

12 You don't want your curriculum to address false, foolish, or questionable ideas.

Parents who object to Sonlight Curriculum on these grounds usually either 1) believe it wrong to mention or teach about other people's (false) beliefs and practices; 2) can't invest the time to help their children process these ideas; or 3) lack the confidence to discern themselves what is true and false or provide their children with an appropriate reply. Whatever their motivation, they feel uncomfortable with Sonlight's commitment to present all sides of a case.

We believe that, in the supportive environment of their parents' home, with their parents' help, children should be made aware of false beliefs, foolish ideas, and questionable arguments. Parents have a unique responsibility not only to point out these ideas to their children, but to carefully explain why the ideas are false, foolish or questionable. Moreover, parents must teach their children how to respond to these ideas, beliefs, and arguments.

Sonlight Curriculum Instructor's Guides are designed to bolster your confidence and help you safely walk your children through the world of ideas with a steadfast faith. Still, if it is your desire to avoid controversial material, or if you lack the time or confidence to help your children understand these issues with our help, then Sonlight will be a poor choice for you.

13 You want to focus on American history and culture almost all 13 years of school.

The standard curriculum devotes 10 of 13 years—almost 80% of its time—to the study of American history and culture (the history of a nation and culture that has existed for less than 10% of recorded history).

Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd. recognizes 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.

However, we do not wish to ignore the other 95% of the world's population or civilizations with thousands of years of recorded history. Because we believe God cares about all people, regardless of their racial or cultural backgrounds, Sonlight seeks to emphasize the unique contributions, strengths, weaknesses, and needs—both physical and spiritual—of the other major peoples and cultures on Earth.

We begin our early elementary studies outside the United States so that when we look at American history and culture, students 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 rich content and engrossing presentation, those four years of education are equivalent to at least eight in almost any other program.

Beyond the United States, Sonlight devotes eight years to the rest of the world, including not only Western history and culture, but those of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and indigenous peoples all around the world.

Therefore, students get a broad view of the thousands of years of history and culture worldwide, in addition to the U.S. story. If you prefer to have American history focus every year, Sonlight may not be the curriculum for you.

“Using only one Core each year for both of my children over the past 5 years has been a blessing. Because Sonlight is literature-based, the almost 2-year age difference between my two kids is not an issue: they both bring their own experiences to the lessons and learn at their own levels.”

—Jeanne H, December 2007

Samuel Z (8) reads to his younger brother Isaiah (6) between events during a city championship swim meet in Portland, OR. “Samuel begged to bring this book to read during his swim meet. He learned to read with Sonlight, and he just can't put a Reader down until he's finished it,” his mom, Jemima, writes.

“Not ever wanting to be left out of a good story, his little brother Isaiah often convinces him to read the books aloud so they can both enjoy the stories. Thank you, Sonlight, for helping me give my children a love of quality literature.” The Z family has homeschooled five years total, all of them with Sonlight.



14 You want to guard your children from anything “offensive”—at all costs.

Sonlight has no interest in promoting unbiblical practices or ungodly behavior. However, we do believe a book should be judged on the value it offers, rather than the negative attributes it omits.

As you delve into some of the greatest literature ever written, you will probably come across some words, ideas, or characters that will offend you.

We hope that when our customers encounter truly “bad” characters in literature, they can help their children examine good and evil and gain wisdom. We envision the literary experience as a joint parent-child effort that sparks quality discussion of values and truth; it's a process of evaluating both the good and bad of the world in order to gain the treasure contained in an excellent work.

Imagine eating a nutritious fish, grilled to perfection and filled with all the flavors you love. The nutritional value and flavor of the meat make it worth your while to “work around the bones.”

Please consider: 1) If you want your older students never to read books with occasional profanities; 2) if you require that your children read literature with only wholesome characters; or 3) if it doesn't matter to you whether a work is a “literary masterpiece” or a cultural essential, if it has no overt Christian themes, you'd rather not have it in your home—you may have difficulty with some of the classic literature we offer.

If, normally, you find yourself able to read around an occasional use of offensive language in an otherwise outstanding work, you should do just fine with Sonlight—at least through the Core 200 program. (Core 300 and 400 include a few raw works that we have noted in the listings.)

On the other hand, if occasional bad language or a wicked character (or other pesky “bones”) will overwhelm your sense of propriety, you should look elsewhere. [For a more detailed discussion of this issue, please see the article “Why Sonlight Uses Certain Books Some Homeschoolers Won't Touch” on page 158.]

15 You want to shield your children from the world and the world's system, focus solely on Bible themes, and avoid broader social issues.

Sonlight Curriculum seeks to prepare students to become ambassadors for Christ in and to the world, not hermits for Christ removed from the world (John 17:14-19). We want to train students to hold onto truth as they interact with culture, and act as bold and informed witnesses in every area of life. While we don't encourage you to “throw your children to the wolves,” we believe direct, biblical engagement with the world is a key aspect of maturity in a believer. Children learn these lessons in small steps at a time, not in one huge leap when they leave home as adults.

In keeping with such scriptures 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, but in the broad social, moral, political, economic and legal issues of the day. Instead of only dealing with “safe” subjects of Bible and family, we challenge students to learn about and approach all aspects of society with a biblical worldview as courageous, wise and discerning leaders who challenge the world. If you are nervous about your children engaging the world at this level, Sonlight may not be a good fit for you.

To be continued.

Please go to www.sonlight.com/not-to-buy.html to continue reading all 27 reasons NOT to buy Sonlight and see the full treatment of these issues.)

We hope this article helps you understand a bit more about the reasons you may want to choose a different homeschool supplier. Please know we want you to make an informed curriculum decision. If what we share here (and online) causes you no great concern, then we hope you will give us the opportunity to serve you.

But whatever program you choose, from whatever supplier: We wish you God's blessing in finding the best to meet your needs! ■

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Articles

25 Reasons You Might WANT to Try Sonlight

Sonlight may be your best investment to help your family love to learn. Find out if you agree.

Sonlight parents regularly share how Sonlight changed their lives, transformed their kids into avid readers, and actually enabled them to learn along with their children instead of teach at them. Based on feedback from the people who use Sonlight every day, we'd like to share 25 reasons customers believe Sonlight is a captivating, challenging, user-friendly, God-honoring, discipline-making curriculum.

Why are customers convinced no other curriculum is such a uniquely refined tool to combine the best things about life, God, family, great books and exciting educational experiences in a manner that actually allows families to do school the way they've dreamed—every day? Read on to learn a few reasons families love Sonlight. Might they become your reasons, too?

1 Great books are the foundation for Sonlight Curriculum—and a great education.

We founded Sonlight Curriculum on the principle that great books make great libraries, and great libraries are the core of great education. You won't just get the books you need for one school year, you'll begin a legacy by passing on a love for truly great books that inspire your kids—AND you—to be life-long learners. Sonlight will help you build a library of books your entire family will want to read again and again. The books Sonlight offers won't just captivate your children, they'll grab YOUR attention, too.

"I LOVE Sonlight's books" titles at least 50 notes from satisfied Sonlight parents on the online forums... in the space of just a few days. What is it about these selections of books that draw families to them so loyally? After browsing Sonlight's book list, parents often tell us they feel like kids in a candy store as they discover childhood favorites to cuddle up with, as well as fascinating books they may have never heard of. The fact that Sarita carefully hand picks these stories is a major gift to busy homeschool parents, and every title truly is a treasure.

Countless families write to tell us stories about their beloved Sonlight library. In almost every case, both parents AND kids (and sometimes grandparents and friends, too!) beg for "just one more chapter" from Sonlight's Read-Alouds. For instance, Julie S of Minneapolis, MN, shared her son's bedtime routine with one of his Sonlight books:

"I found my son trying to change into pajamas one-handed ... because his other hand was busy holding open his book, so he could keep reading at the same time!"

Would you want learning to excite your children that way?

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

Sonlight's story-centered approach transforms "schoolwork" into "edge-of-your-seat" living history—history your kids won't soon forget.

Sonlight books tap into your children's imaginations, and engages not just their minds, but their hearts. Here's how Elaine B of Occidental, CA, compared textbooks to Sonlight's approach:

"We came to Sonlight in our 6th year of homeschooling. We had been using a textbook/workbook curriculum that was ... Boring. Tedious. Dry. I had tried another curriculum that was a hands-on unit study. I spent four hours at the library in prep each week and by the time I had to teach it to my kids, I was tired of the material. We went back to the textbooks/workbooks. Yawn."

"Then I found Sonlight: Joy! Life! Relief!"

"During our first year with Sonlight, I can't count the times my 4th grade daughter came to me and said, 'Thank you, Mommy, for our new schoolbooks.' Which book she had in hand varied, but her response to the materials Sonlight supplied was undeniable."

"Sonlight's way of tying in history with the Readers/Read-Alouds is optimal for kids. Not only is it more interesting, it gives them a hook to help them remember and understand the history they are studying. And they remember their friends from history much longer than they remember facts from a textbook alone."

Other Sonlighters say their children are known to dress up as their favorite book characters and act out the stories just for fun, or beg to read ahead to see what happens in a book that is supposed to be "just for school."

Robin W of Yuma, AZ, explains how a Core fits together to make history come alive:

"In Core 3, we read about the build up to the revolutionary war in *Landmark History of the American People*. Then we read about Ben Franklin, King George the Third, and Paul Revere in wonderful little books by Jean Fitz. We are reading about all that happened in Boston in the Read-Aloud *Johnny Tremain*. The kids read biographies about George Washington, Ben Franklin, biographical fiction about Paul Revere, and so much more in their Readers. It's all intertwined and tied together.

"We learn about Paul Revere's ride in many different places, getting more depth and details each time. We can fully imagine how it was like to live in those times; we fully understand the significance of the battle of Lexington and Concord."

With Sonlight books, your children can have a front-row seat to world-changing events. They'll reach out and touch the cultures, dreams, and struggles of average people throughout history. And your children will remember more of the history they learn, because they won't have merely studied it—they will have experienced it.



"Thanks to Sonlight and Geography Songs in Core 2, my son Burke, 8, easily recognized that the directional arrows in this picture provide visual appeal rather than accuracy," says Bethany M who lives in Christ Church, Barbados.

"In 2005, my husband's new job brought us to Barbados. The libraries here, unfortunately, do not compare with those back home. However, thanks to Sonlight, our family's personal 'library' consists of quality books my children return to again and again. We love homeschooling with Sonlight! " The M family has homeschooled with Sonlight for five years.

3 *Sonlight gathers all your quality materials for you, and does the research to give you the best.*

Sarita Holzmänn (Sonlight President, curriculum developer, and former homeschool mom), goes to great lengths to find the best resources on the market and provide them for you.

How do we make sure you get the very best books? Sarita not only reads every title Sonlight carries, she reads many that don't ever make it into the curriculum.

Sarita and her carefully selected team scavenge the shelves of public libraries, regularly access massive computer databases of books, browse the best bookstores, and devour every catalog they receive from more than 100 publishers. And Sarita always follows through when a customer suggests a book.

Her longstanding record: Sarita has read, on average, over 12 children's books a week for the past 18 years (not to mention the hundreds of books she read prior to the start of Sonlight Curriculum).

Out of every 40 or 50 books she reads, Sarita will find only one that merits a place in our program. Only the rare books that have the depth, the beauty, the cultural sensitivity, the inspiration, or the winsome, scholarly character we look for make the cut. These quality books make up the kind of library that builds a legacy of lifelong learning for your entire family.

Sonlight's thorough book selection process wows customers on regular basis as they tell us how much they appreciate Sarita's work to give them the best! Here's what Julie L of Lexington, KY, had to say about Sarita's picks:

"It's so nice to be able to pick up the next book and snuggle on the couch and EXPECT it to be a great book. Many are books I would have never discovered on my own. If I had to pick all of them myself, I know many of the books would not hold the interest or have the educational value I find with Sonlight."

"I could pick books from the library and learn history that way, but I would end up leaving out the interesting tidbits Sonlight highlights for me. I love how the books are intertwined. Sonlight's great Readers and Read-Alouds complement the history so well."

"Sonlight makes it so easy to teach multiple ages with one curriculum. I love that we all share the joy of learning together. It warms my heart to hear our older children explain a scientific principle or historic event to our 3-year-old who is right in the middle of all the learning, absorbing quality literature, poetry, history, and science."

—Susan W, December 2007

So, not only are the books truly great, they also come straight to you, strategically compiled and ready for a year of learning. Sonlight does all this research so you can spend that "hunting for books" time with your family instead.

As we've talked to Sonlighters, it's clear: For a busy homeschooling parent, having fabulous books and plans for the entire year come straight to the front door translates into actual time invested in family instead of extended days of online research and book hunts. The chance to skip that frustration drew Robin W to Sonlight:

"I came to Sonlight because they provide all the books (no library trips or scouring used book stores or websites), and Sonlight schedules those books and breaks them down to what needs to be done each and every day."

And that schedule is the very next reason so many families continue to use Sonlight year after year ...

4 *Sonlight plans your complete curriculum for you—so you can focus on your kids instead of lesson plans!*

Sonlight Curriculum accomplishes the lion's share of the work for you. Not only do we locate the best books on the market, but we coordinate and schedule them for you to form a fully-planned, ready-to-use curriculum.

"Sonlight saves me so much time and frustration," parents tell us again and again. So how does Sonlight actually save families time? Sure, Sonlight provides everything you need for a year and plans it out for you, but what does that actually involve?

When we asked homeschool parents what it would take for them to plan a Core curriculum for the year, here was Robin W's feedback on planning herself versus Sonlight's ready-to-use books, schedule, and teaching helps:

"Could I do this? Yes, I could. BUT it would require me to read each of these books in full, before I would even begin to know when to schedule them. It would also require me to CHOOSE the books, meaning I would have to read and not choose others. Can you begin to see the hours of work involved before I would even begin to make a weekly schedule?

"Then I would have to make that weekly schedule, arriving at 'enough but not too much' reading for each day. That is much harder than it sounds. With Sonlight I have a pace to aim for. I can rely on the Instructor's Guide to tell me what is enough for each day, each week, each year. It's very easy to aim for too little or too much when you have never taught a certain grade or age range before."

I've already shared the lengthy search Sarita conducts to find quality literature. So,



"History has come alive for my kids. How do I know this? Because I see it in their pretend play," writes Toni H of Kerrville, Texas. "They act out whatever time period we are learning about. After reading about American Indians in Core 3, my girls (Taryn, Hannah, Kendall and Darian) were so inspired to be Indians that I even made costumes and my husband, Charlie, built them a teepee. He had the honor of reading Squanto to them. What a joy it is for me as a mother to see them really taking their learning to heart!" The H family has used Sonlight from the start of their homeschool journey five years ago.

what happens once she finally finds a treasure of a book? The experts at Sonlight tackle the job of scheduling it into the curriculum—from highlighting specific characters and adding interesting historical notes to choosing where the book should fit into the year. Each Instructor's Guide even includes notes to counteract any biased information or one-sided arguments within a book.

Whew! We invest hundreds of hours in every one of the Instructor's Guides we publish. And Sonlight updates and improves the Instructor's Guides each year. You will always benefit from the latest research, the best input, and the most thorough study we can provide.

I cannot think of any other company that does so much of the work for you in the way Sonlight does. We are committed to diligently gather and coordinate fascinating, well-thought-out programs for your benefit and enjoyment.

Because of the ready-to use plans and great books, Sonlight enables families like Lora D's of Poland, IN, to stay the course of homeschooling.

Here's Lora's declaration to fully enjoy her family and let Sonlight do the planning:

"I am done researching, planning, etc.! I am going to enjoy my time with my children before it is too late!! I want to be a mom and a wife again. I want to have a life again. I want my children see me do other things besides research and plan homeschool stuff! I want to spend time learning with them and playing and talking and enjoying them. By sticking with Sonlight and following their plan, I can finally do that and be free."

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Thom W. of Denver, CO, listens as his four-year-old son David, reads to him. "I didn't want to push my son to read, but because of his interest, I purchased Sonlight's Kindergarten readers," writes Thom's wife, Grace-Ann. "We started at the beginning, but then the other day he pulled out the last book in the series. I warned him that it might be trickier to read than the others. But to my surprise, he did great!"

"I'm thankful for the wide variety of interesting Early Readers and the flexibility built into Sonlight to go at my son's pace!"

David is studying Core P4/5 for his first year of homeschool.

5 Sonlight Curriculum is biblically based, and provides your children with a truly 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.

Sonlight Curriculum's philosophical and theological foundation reflects an evangelical Christian perspective.

You should know, however, that only a portion of the books we carry are written by Christian authors or published by Christian publishers (you may want to see "Reasons NOT to Buy Sonlight" in this catalog for further explanation—pg. 148). While you won't find Bible verses on every page of our materials (besides our Bible curriculum), you can trust Scripture as our bedrock—we seek to reflect that basis in all we produce.

If you are coming from a different perspective than ours, it's important for you to know where we stand, but it's also important for you to know we are committed to understand your views. We think you'll find us open and honest as we explore the different sides of issues. It's our prayer

that we'll offer a reasonable argument for why we steadfastly believe what we do, as well as a fair look at others' perspectives. While our Sonlight materials are certainly not spiritually neutral, you should still be able to use our program successfully with minor adjustments.

We hope the learning process can be life-changing! Here's what Amey F of Lindale, TX, had to say about Sonlight's impact on her son:

"I am blown away! I am a first time homeschooler and we are using Sonlight's Core P4/5 for our Kindergarten. Each day we read and discuss several pages of the Sonlight's *Children's Everyday Bible* and then read *Right Choices*. My son tells me almost every day 'I just love our Bible Story time,' ... but today was the best. After reading from the book of Luke, my son said 'I wanna be just like Him,' and he pointed to the Jesus figure. If this curriculum does nothing more than give my child a desire to be like Jesus ... it will have done more than I ever hoped for! Thank you, Sonlight, for the great choices in children's literature that have my son so intrigued!"

6 Sonlight Curriculum gives your children a much broader perspective on the world than any other curriculum.

Sonlight expands children's views of the world around them. Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd. believes God's plan from the beginning has been to acquire a people for Himself from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. His work is international in scope. Sonlight's international emphasis stems from our commitment to raise children with a godly heart for the world.

"There are a lot of reasons I love Sonlight, but the fact that my husband can be so involved in our girls' learning by simply picking up a book and reading is right at the top of my list. I consider myself a bibliophile, so Sonlight's literature-rich approach really appeals to me. One of my baby Dori's first phrases was, 'Read book!'"

—Sue B, November 2007

Sonlight believes the entire world matters. But does that mean children will actually catch a spark of compassion for the world as they interact with the curriculum? We couldn't be more confident that they will. Consider Tammy P's thoughts from Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA:

"Sonlight's books were a huge draw for us, but when we got to Core 5, it blew our socks off. Our family will be forever changed emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually from what we learned that year. Sonlight's concern that people matter to God, even when they are half a world away, struck a huge chord with us. There is no way you can get that kind of education in a public school nor, I doubt, in any other private school."

Sonlight's literature brings the whole world into your home. Sonlight books will spark interest and compassion in your children for the people and cultures of many different lands. They'll enjoy learning the rich world history of countries that spans thousands of years.

Imagine being an American missionary in China or India—countries with populations of a billion or more people each, and recorded histories that go back to ancient civilizations.

You love your home country of the United States very much, but you also realize—and your children realize, too—that there is something out of balance with the majority of home-school curricula on the market.

Instead of spending ten of the typical thirteen school years on American history, Sonlight seeks to better balance your children's perspective by offering eight years of world history and four of specifically American history.

Sonlight not only offers a broad perspective on the world in our curriculum, we actively support missionaries and long-term expatriates in other countries. We long for the day when people from every tribe and nation become worshippers of the one true God.

Whether you live in the United States or anywhere else around the world, you can rejoice that, when you use Sonlight Curriculum, your children will acquire an education that directs them toward God's heart and plan for all nations.

7 Sonlight makes learning (and teaching) a pleasure.

Learning can be fun and rewarding ... not just for the kids, but for Mom and Dad, too.

"My husband just learned something new!" was the excited title of one Sonlight forum post from a couple delighted to learn along with their children. And that's no surprise. One of the benefits of homeschooling is that you as a parent have the chance to engage new ideas and make discoveries with your entire family.

Sonlight wants YOU to enjoy learning as much as your kids do, and wants you to have positive memories with your family every time you learn something together. That's why Sonlight materials are designed to engage people of every age. Whether you're a dad learning a little-

“Having fun with Sonlight makes age differences irrelevant. The closeness my kids enjoy has been one of our favorite parts of homeschooling. We find big brother getting interested in what the younger kids are doing, and expanding on their learning by telling them about things he himself is learning in Core 6. Our three-year-old has been surrounded by such a literature-rich Sonlight environment by tagging along with his older siblings, he ends up learning just as much as the older kids. For us, learning with Sonlight is a family experience.”

—Nicole L, November 2007

known fact about the slave trade or a 7-year-old learning about Asian culture, we seek to make the learning process not only rich in information, but fun and rewarding, too.

As we receive “success stories” from families, we find that even young children can grasp a relatively high level of knowledge with Sonlight’s curriculum. And yet, because the process is so natural and the stories families read together are so compelling, few realize how much they are actually learning—until later. One parent after another exclaims “I am amazed at how much is sinking in ... I would never have guessed—we don’t always feel like we’ve done any ‘work.’”

Not to say you won’t have hard days as you homeschool—we all meet challenges. But Sonlight’s format is a great motivator that can turn many of those potential teary-eyed days into fun-filled, “gather on the couch for another story” kinds of days.

Overall, we want you to have educational materials that will inform, challenge, and inspire you, the teaching parent, as much as they do your child. We want both you and your child to find yourselves drawn by curiosity to make new discoveries in the sciences, mathematics, geography, history and literature. Then, suddenly, it will be two people’s excitement that will intertwine and multiply the pleasure of learning.

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

The Sonlight Forums for homeschooling parents all over the world offer warm community, great advice, and the chance to get to know kindred spirits. You can find answers to all your homeschool concerns and share your joys 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can discuss ideas on how to help your child with ADHD, how to deal with unsupportive relatives, or how to make a particular assignment come alive.

For many, the forums are a favorite part of Sonlight’s website. Where else can you learn about homeschooling, get a good cookie recipe, discuss current events, and ask advice on how to increase vocabulary skills all in one place? Parents and students enjoy interacting with such a diverse group of people. From South Africa to Southern Alabama, these moms and dads are joined together in the mission to help their kids love to learn. Here you’ll find encouragement, practical help, and true friends. You can gather inspiration from someone who’s walked in your shoes and offer suggestions from your experience.

Want to identify with people who understand? Go to www.sonlight-forums.com.

Would your children enjoy meeting other like-minded homeschoolers their age? Introduce them to the student online forums—Sonlight offers a wide range of age-appropriate forums for students to meet and share. Your younger students might enjoy telling jokes at the “The Hang-

out” for students age 12 and under or your teens might like to discuss the latest books they are reading at the “The Library” or “Teen Lyceum.”

Our wonderful community of parents and students is looking forward to your visit at www.sonlight-forums.com.

Besides Sonlight’s forums, you’ll find a warm and caring community of support through Sonlight’s Ambassadors and Curriculum Advisors. These experienced homeschool moms are ready to answer your questions, offer teaching or curriculum suggestions, share in your victories and struggles—even offer up prayers on your behalf. We at Sonlight count it an honor to meet as a staff every morning to pray for you and your family.

Ultimately, we want you to know you’re not alone. As a parent, you guided your children’s first steps and delighted in their first words. You ARE the right person for the job of teaching your children, and we want to help you do what you do best: inspire your family to learn and grow. We seek to offer the community of support you need.

To be continued.

(While we can’t even begin to fit all the reasons families love Sonlight here, I hope you’ll go to www.Sonlight.com/to-buy.html to read the rest of this article and consider why you might also enjoy our curriculum. You may even want to visit the forums to do your own investigation of why families love to learn together with Sonlight.) ■

Nicholas B of Hoover, AL, reads Ginger Pye (Item #2A14) as his little sister Anna drifts off to sleep. “It’s a miracle! This is the peaceful result of persistence and patience,” reports their mom, Mindy. “Before Sonlight, Nicholas (6) did not like reading and Anna (2) could not sit still during our first days of school. Hallelujah! We all enjoy reading time and all of our other subjects because of Sonlight. It is wonderful to share learning as a family!” This is the B family’s first year with 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!

We know you care about more than just what information your children absorb. You are very concerned about what kind of people they will become. We share that concern. And in this article, we discuss the top goals we've had in mind as we developed—and continue to develop—Sonlight Curriculum ... so you can evaluate Sonlight in light of your values and your goals.

1 Teach students to seek God's Kingdom above all 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)

We want to keep that goal in front of ourselves and our students—at all times.

Not only does Sonlight challenge students to think from God's perspective in the solid Bible and apologetics curriculum we offer, we also promote purposeful parent/child dialogue with this aim.

Our Instructor's Guides aid this goal through Discussion Questions designed to spark "teachable moments" and meaningful conversations between you and your children related to the books they are reading. We've designed these questions to help children filter all they learn through the lens of putting God's honor above all.



"This picture of my son Samuel (7), laying in the grass reading to my daughter Teigan (3), captures so much of the relational side that I love about homeschooling with Sonlight. My children love the time that they spend together learning with Sonlight and are very close," writes Karyn H of Summerland, British Columbia. "Thank you, Sonlight, for adding to the joy of our close-knit family."

2 Create a learner's heart in students.

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

We want our kids to grow up with the same attitude and conviction Solomon had: "[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, nothing will stop them from achieving their goal. But if our sole work is to simply pass on information to our children: will they continue to educate themselves after "school" is done? We want them not only to acquire knowledge, but to love to learn.

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 approach.

We begin by introducing students to what is different and unfamiliar. Rather than just becoming acquainted with the roles of policemen and firemen, your primary-age children could read books like *Granny Han's Breakfast* with you to learn about a Christian ambassador to China. They could discover how people have learned to grow food in desert climates, even catch a glimpse of ancient Egypt and medieval Europe—all to give them a broad taste for the excitement of learning and the diversity of God's world.

That way, you and your students enjoy the surprise factor, the delight factor, and the ability to see, hear, and experience things you wouldn't expect. That's part of the adventure of education.

After they become familiar with the unfamiliar, we reintroduce students to their own culture. Now they can compare, contrast, and see it all in a bigger light.

Besides our desire to create this sense of perspective, and to instill enthusiasm and interest, we focus on the unfamiliar and "foreign" because we want 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 have completely different experiences from their own.

So, as I have just noted, we expose students to world cultures and world history in Preschool and Kindergarten. 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.

We also 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.

Sonlight seeks to achieve this goal by offering children compelling historical fiction and intriguing biographies ... so they can "experience" life as these "others" experience it. Through the power of a story, they get to walk with a young Incan llama keeper, or a meet a young man who faces the daily challenges of life during America's Revolutionary War.

We believe that when students enjoy this kind of up-close view of ordinary people, they remember lessons in history and understand culture in a deeper way.

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 has 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 needed to fulfill God's purposes in their lives.

We believe students are most likely to catch the vision and strive for these goals when we hold up godly examples of self-sacrifice and a Christ-centered life and when we push them to examine their faith in light of the world.

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 are able to 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. They must 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. They must also know their audience. They must know what their audience thinks, believes, and values. They 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 how 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." Especially those of us who wish to be effective communicators for Christ should listen more than we talk.

It makes sense. The act of listening communicates powerfully to another person that you care. 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"?

We use two vehicles to teach students to listen. First, we have 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. We want students to learn to respond appropriately and confidently to ideas different from their own.

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

So most of us are far more comfortable to remain ignorant of other people's claims than to first become familiar with what they have to say, and then to find quality answers or, possibly, to admit they have a point we had never thought about before.

Sonlight refuses to bow to this fear or laziness. This fits well with our next goal:

7 Teach students, through experience, that God is faithful; listening to other views won't destroy their faith.

In other words, in the supportive environment of their parents' home—with the help of their parents—Sonlight teaches students the tools, techniques, knowledge, and skills of godly intellectual warfare.

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). Students come to know this not just in their heads, as an article of faith, but in their hearts, through experience.

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 "walk our talk" and demonstrate true scholarship.

Sonlight's president, Sarita Holzmann, goes to great lengths to find books that capture beauty, engage important ideas, grow students' understanding of the world around them, and exhibit the highest standards of excellence. Sonlight's Instructor's Guides, too, draw students along in the scholarly process, by asking key questions and presenting opposing arguments to encourage students to dig deeper. 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 and winsomely with people who hold different perspectives.

9 Create within students a love for great literature—and prepare them for action 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.

In his bestselling work, *Cultural Literacy*, E.D. Hirsch, Jr. shows there is a certain basic set of background information every person must know in order to get along in a culture—let alone to influence that culture.

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

Sonlight seeks to help its students move far beyond the basics. We want to raise world-changers: people who will make a difference—for good.

And we are seeing these world-changers step up to the plate already.

One Sonlighter published a novel at the age of 15. Another family has two boys who expressed a call to the mission field. One student is preparing to influence the world of medicine, while another 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.

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 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.

So the question remains: What are your goals? Do they match ours? If so: why not buy a Sonlight Core program and enjoy the benefits? ■

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Articles

Why Sonlight Uses Certain Books Some Homeschoolers Won't Touch

Sonlight Curriculum 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 ...

Once read a consumer magazine that rated frozen pizzas on a number of factors, including the volume of contaminants each pizza contained. I remember being aghast at the things they 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 reported, they found contaminants in every pizza.

Now, before you decide never to eat a frozen pizza again, consider this truth: if you look at the world through a microscope, you will find that every food, every product, is contaminated to some degree. Whether by hair, insect parts and feces ... or molds, bacteria, and chemicals ... or—when it comes to books—by false, foolish, or inaccurate ideas.

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.”

This verse is often interpreted 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.

Rather than telling us absolutely to avoid all such things, God tells us on what we ought to focus.

We should not close our eyes to what is ugly, contemptible, unhealthy, or evil and pretend it doesn't exist. We must be aware of such things if we are to avoid their dangers. But, God says, 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—filled with disease-defying nutrients—garnish your plate and crunch at every bite. The tantalizing aroma of herbs and spices waft past your nose, begging you to plunge into their essence with your taste buds. 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?

Just because some food scientist tells you that, upon careful analysis, you can be sure the prunes are guaranteed free of rodent hairs and insect parts to the level of 0.0002 ppm, whereas the feast

is 1,000 times dirtier—guaranteed to only a 0.2 ppm level of purity: *there is no compelling reason we should ignore the feast and eat the prunes.*

Similarly, then, 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. Sometimes, for example, it 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 so many ways, say the detractors, historical fiction misleads students. And, therefore, they conclude, no self-respecting history program should include historical fiction.

Usually when someone complains about the historical fiction we carry, it is because they have discovered exactly how inaccurate one of our books really is. When this happens, I usually ask the critic how he or she discovered the inaccuracies.

“Well,” comes the typical reply. “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. For when was the last time you or your child read a history text—or textbook—and found yourself motivated to do further research?



“Our family loves when Daddy reads aloud! Sonlight offers us God-centered learning materials, plus opens the whole world to my children through carefully selected books and materials,” writes Carolyn L of Crooked Creek, AK. “We believe there’s no better curriculum out there—and we used a few others before finding Sonlight.”

“We have homeschooled our daughters Aurora (Core 200) and Ikey (Core 4) all their lives. Living out in the bush of Alaska with no roads and no school has required it of us. And Sonlight has made all the difference. We all love Sonlight and will stay with it until our homeschooling days are complete!” The L family has used Sonlight for six years.



"Before Sonlight, we tried all kinds of different curricula up until 2nd grade, but once we started with Sonlight, we've never turned back," says Rhonda L of Anaheim, CA. The L family has been using Sonlight for five years.

"When our Sonlight Curriculum arrives, our girls Autumn (Core 6) and Heather (Core 2) can't wait to open the box and see all the surprises inside. They ask, 'Whose book is this? Will I get to read this one or is it a Read-Aloud? I didn't get to read that when I did Core 2, can I read it also?' Of course the inevitable question is 'Can we start school tomorrow?' It is so nice to see them so excited about starting the next school year."

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 is because the book failed to grab your interest!

But stories do. 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 with emotionally and intellectually engaging historical fiction instead of uninspiring textbooks full of dry facts.

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

Many homeschoolers say, "I don't want to expose my children to evil, and I myself do not want to be exposed to evil." 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 when speaking of the roles we are called to fulfill, 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.).

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

Notice that counterfeit currency is inanimate. Foreign governments and opposing armies are both very active and alive. Soldiers' and ambassadors' training, therefore, is very different—it *has* to be different—from the training anti-counterfeit agents receive.

We must train our children differently as well.

Good soldiers must learn self-discipline. Just as quality anti-counterfeit agents, they must learn to avoid engaging in evil or becoming personally entangled in it.

To stay prepared for battle, they must not let their bodies waste away from misuse. They must exercise their bodies and maintain healthy diets.

But they must do more than fight internal demons and personal temptations. 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 themselves in private duels, so our children must be taught to use the sword of the Spirit (which is the word of God; see Eph. 6:17) for more than personal spiritual hygiene and protection from evil.

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

So how do ambassadors and soldiers train for active duty? Not merely through academic, classroom instruction. But by participating in "live" debates (ambassadors) and mock combat (soldiers).

So it is with spiritual training 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 world in which they live. Such books can provide sparring partners against whom our kids, backed by the coaching help of their parents, can engage in "round tables" and "war games" without hav-

ing to face live opponents who are bent on their destruction.

It seems to us 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 their deceptions 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

Remember the contaminated pizzas I mentioned at the beginning of this article? You may have thought, "But what if we're talking not about minor impurities, but a truly deadly poison—or a virus, perhaps?" It's a good question.

Obviously, you do not want to expose yourself to something that will kill you. But there is a way to protect yourself against viruses, infections, and deadly toxins.

And 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 consider using some books that other homeschoolers won't touch!* ■

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

"My kids love Sonlight: It's not 'boring' like their school textbooks were..."

We love the Eastern Hemisphere Explorer [Core 5]. It's going really great. We enjoy reading about how others live so differently."

-Dee G, September 2007

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Articles

Policies and Procedures

Doing Business with Sonlight

If you need clarification of any of the following policies, please contact us. Email: main@sonlight.com. Phone: 303.730.6292.

Order Methods

Website: www.sonlight.com

Email: orders@sonlight.com

Fax: 303.795.8668

Regular Mail: 8042 South Grant Way,
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Note: Time payments are offered for online orders in the United States and Canada only. Qualification for time payments is dependent on your credit score.

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- **We guarantee we will ship your order within 3 BUSINESS DAYS of receiving it.** Even in August. (If you pay with an e-check, we cannot ship your order until the funds clear.)
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Sonlight's unmatched 18-week "Love to Learn" Guarantee:

Try any eligible programs and enjoy "Sonlighting" with your children for a full 18 weeks. That's half a school year for you to test each program as it was meant to be used. Which are eligible programs?

Buy any Sonlight Core, Newcomer's 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.

Whichever eligible program you choose, use it for eighteen weeks. 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 everything you paid us. **This 18-week, 100% risk-free guarantee includes the following provisions:**

1. You have up to one year from date of purchase to complete the first 18 weeks of your eligible programs. Try 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/Love to Teach" 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 Newcomer 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.

How to Return Products

Exchange requests and new orders received with returns will be delayed. To receive better services 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. Clearly print your name & address on the outside of the box.
5. On your packing slip, circle or highlight the titles of the items you are returning.
6. 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.
7. For complete details see: www.sonlight.com/guarantee.html
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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 www.hslda.org and also by contacting your local homeschool support group. Don't know how to find a good group? Check out www.nhen.org.

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All Core club members receive FREE standard shipping to the lower 48 U.S. states and Canada for a full year. (See pg. 13 for details.)

For all others, the following rules apply:

- Orders **over** \$100 receive FREE standard shipping via FedEx® Home or UPS® Ground.
- Orders **under** \$100 incur a shipping charge of \$10 for standard shipping (FedEx Home/UPS Ground).
- Or, if you prefer, you can select USPS Media Mail for \$5 for qualifying orders (see www.sonlight.com/mediamail.html for details). Allow up to 2 weeks for delivery.
- You can also arrange and pay for a specific alternative service by contacting us via a comment on your order or call (303) 730-6292.
- FedEx® and UPS® require a street address (no PO Box) and a **phone number**.
- Allow 3-5 business days for delivery via FedEx® Home/UPS® Ground after your order leaves our warehouse.
- **Expedited shipping is available** via FedEx® Home Overnight and 2-Day service. (See the chart at www.sonlight.com/shipping-policy.html for costs.) Expedited Saturday delivery incurs an additional \$12.50 fee.

Alaska, Hawaii, APO/FPO, and US territories

- Select FedEx®/UPS® shipping (see our discounted rate chart below).
- Or, if you prefer, **Orders under \$100** that qualify for USPS Media Mail can select this service for \$5 (see www.sonlight.com/mediamail.html for details). Please allow up to 2 to 4 weeks for delivery.
- FedEx®/UPS® require a street address (no PO Box) and a **phone number**.

Canada

Standard shipping for Canadian orders is FedEx IPD (International Priority Direct) which takes 3-5 business days for delivery. To upgrade this service to FedEx®/UPS 2 day service, see our discounted rate chart to the right.

All Core club members receive Free IPD shipping for a full year. (See pg. 13 for details.)

For all others, the following rules apply:

- Orders **over** \$100 are sent FREE via FedEx® IPD
- Orders **under** \$100 incur a shipping charge of \$10 for FedEx® IPD (International Priority Direct) unless you select and pay for a specific alternative service.
- You can upgrade to FedEx®/UPS® 2 day service (see our discounted rate chart to the right).
- FedEx®/UPS® require a street address (no PO Box) and a **phone number**.

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

International (all other destinations)

- Select FedEx® or UPS® shipment via our discounted rate chart to the right.
- FedEx and UPS require a street address (no PO Box) and a **phone number**.

- FedEx®/UPS® generally takes 3-5 business days for delivery after your order leaves our warehouse.

- Sonlight normally holds orders that have backordered items up to four weeks in order to ship all possible materials together.

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**.

How to calculate

FedEx/UPS shipping costs for international orders (plus AK & HI—Category I)

If you are shipping internationally, find your country on the Country Category chart, then locate on the Shipping Category chart the percentage that matches your Country Category and the dollar value of your order. Calculate your shipping cost by multiplying the percentage in the chart by the total cost of goods you are ordering.

Example: You want to ship a \$425 order to Gabon (Category H). Category H at \$425 receives a 47% shipping rate. $\$425 \times 0.47 = \199.75 total shipping charge.

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

Order Total (\$)	2008 International Shipping Category Rates									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
0-10										
10.01-20.00										
20.01-30.00	\$23.00	\$27.00	\$33.00	\$35.00	\$34.00	\$37.00	\$44.00	\$52.00	\$17.00	\$10.00
30.01-40.00									45%	30%
40.01-50.00							137%	119%	35%	25%
50.01-60.00	60%	68%	82%	85%	81%	77%	122%	109%	30%	25%
60.01-70.00	52%	62%	79%	73%	71%	71%	114%	102%	30%	25%
70.01-80.00	46%	57%	65%	72%	67%	67%	108%	96%	25%	25%
80.01-90.00	41%	54%	59%	58%	62%	63%	103%	91%	25%	20%
90.01-99.99	38%	50%	52%	55%	57%	61%	99%	87%	20%	18%
100.00-149.99	32%	44%	46%	53%	47%	57%	90%	78%	19%	15%
150.00-199.99	26%	36%	40%	47%	42%	50%	81%	68%	18%	13%
200.00-249.99	23%	30%	36%	42%	39%	45%	74%	62%	17%	12%
250.00-299.99	20%	27%	33%	37%	36%	41%	69%	58%	16%	12%
300.00-349.99	19%	25%	31%	35%	34%	39%	64%	54%	15%	12%
350.00-399.99	18%	22%	30%	33%	32%	38%	61%	51%	15%	12%
400.00-499.99	17%	20%	28%	32%	31%	36%	60%	47%	14%	12%
500.00-599.99	15%	19%	26%	29%	29%	35%	57%	43%	14%	12%
600.00-699.99	15%	17%	25%	28%	28%	34%	54%	39%	14%	12%
700.00-799.99	14%	16%	24%	28%	27%	34%	56%	35%	14%	11%
800.00-899.99	13%	15%	24%	27%	27%	31%	47%	32%	14%	11%
900.00+	12%	15%	23%	27%	26%	31%	45%	31%	14%	11%

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2008 Sonlight Scholarship winners strive to advance God's kingdom

"I hope, through God's help, to shine His light into the world's darkness."

We are pleased to recognize our 2008 scholarship winners. If you wonder, "Does homeschooling actually work?" or will my children truly be ready for college?" these inspiring Sonlight graduates give ample evidence to respond with a resounding "yes"!

Because we seek to encourage personal excellence and quality education—and ultimately, to transform the world—we take great pleasure in acknowledging and supporting students who exemplify academic excellence, leadership, character, mission-mindedness, a heart for learning, creativity, and spiritual depth as they prepare for their future.

Sonlight will award \$82,000 over the next four years to these Sonlight Scholarship Finalists. All of the hard-working, talented applicants for this year's scholarships have completed at least four Sonlight Core programs (including high school level Cores up to graduation). Several of these students have very high test scores (one has a perfect SAT score and several had 35 on the ACT). All of the students have exceptional character, are active in their communities, and represent the cause of Christ exceedingly well.



Philip Sweigart,
Winner of \$20,000 Award

Two major distinctives set Philip Sweigart apart and determine his path: the fact that this 17-year-old has achieved fluency in Arabic through diligent study and 15 years of living in the Middle East, and the fact that he's determined to use his language skills and knowledge of the Middle East, not simply for the lucrative positions he might pursue, but also to serve the Arab world—the very place that's been his home and among the people so close to his heart.

His essay, "In Search of a Cause" dealt with his desire to strategically use his God-given abilities and circumstances for the

Kingdom. He hopes "through God's help to shine His light into the world's darkness." He plans to pursue a strong university Arabic program to help him prepare for further service.

That's right—further service. He has already been active in serving others by leading the worship band at his church, he taught English as a second language in Lebanon, tutored students in Algebra and Chemistry, painted houses and shared the Gospel in India, and still found time to serve as a Student Council Representative and member of his varsity basketball team.

Winners of \$10,000 Awards

Rachel Spoelman of Malaysia is a National Merit candidate who will attend INTI International University College in Malaysia and then Kettering University in Michigan. She plans to study engineering and continue to refine her writing skills. Her goal

is to become a published author, and she currently has four titles in the works.

Rachel is a passionate performer and profuse author who is dedicated to Christ and gifted at living cross-culturally and learning new languages. She excels academically both in the arts and the sciences; she's performed in numerous plays, served as a Bible and Missions teacher at her church, competed in forensics, and plays piano.

Jacob Springer of Huntsville, TX, plans to study civil engineering with a liberal arts focus at Texas A&M University. He's a National Merit candidate who's made significant impacts in the areas of competitive speech and debate; American Legion Boys State; and counseling, leading recreation and lifeguarding at Trinity Pines Conference Center.

He's encouraged over 300 children to love to read through literary promotions he organized for every third grader in his city.

Whether he is leading a young man from summer camp to Christ or leading his forensics and communication team to



a national qualification, Jacob is a natural leader and public speaker who effectively articulates his goals and values.

Eunice Wong of Malaysia exemplifies maturity, ministry-mindedness and creativity. She plans to draw on her talents in piano performance and songwriting as she attends Eastman School of Music. Eunice wants to one day produce music that will inspire people to rediscover the love and awesomeness of God.

She hopes to combine "skilled songwriting, cutting-edge technology and God's anointing to create a new sound of worship that will draw people to him."

She is an active leader in her youth ministry and church: she wrote and co-directed a play involving 40 young people and starred as the main character; she also served as a pianist, violinist, song-writer, worship leader, vocalist and dancer. She taught a workshop on prayer at a national conference, led a children's ministry in her second language, and achieved high honors in piano competition.

Winners of \$4,000 Awards

Sonlight will award eight additional scholars a \$1000 scholarship for each year of college. All of these winners will make a mark in the world and continue on the path of life-long learning.

Winners in alphabetical order are: **Bethany Carlson** (Clinton, MI); **Elizabeth Clevenger** (Capri, Italy); **Joshua Coleman** (Augusta, GA); **Spencer Johnson** (Signal Mtn., TN); **Nathan Kinard** (Signal Mtn., TN); **Jay Kinard** (Signal Mtn., TN); **Erin Tillson** (Gainesville, FL); and **Andres Vargas** (Durham, NC).

You could be a winner next year!

Sonlight will again award 12 four-year college scholarships for students planning to attend college in the Fall of 2009.

Visit www.sonlight.com/scholarships.html to find out the requirements and complete details for next year's scholarship competition, as well as to learn more about this year's winners and catch a further glimpse of their individual stories and future plans.



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Articles

A Burst of Sonlight

Welcome!

I, Sarita, count Sonlighters as kindred spirits—we've shared a lot of life as we've learned together over the years. I long to make your job as a homeschooling parent easier and seek to make learning along with your children a peaceful and meaningful experience. That's why we at Sonlight strive to continually improve our products, services, support, and community to help you and your children love to learn. I delight to find a new book or update an Instructor's Guide to achieve more clarity, because I know those details make a difference in your everyday life. My primary purpose with the Burst of Sonlight is to offer you a glimpse of ...

What's New

Newcomer Packages

The Sonlight Newcomer Packages take us back to our roots. At the beginning of Sonlight (19 catalogs ago!) we offered a package of resources that included everything a child needs for the school year, a collection of the best of the best.

Over the years, we sought to enable parents to customize their children's curriculum. Some parents wanted their curriculum base to stay consistent, but wanted to substitute a different math or science, or a different set of Readers. As we provided these options, our catalog became more complicated. We want to offer what you're looking for, but at the same time, we don't want you to feel overwhelmed with unnecessary complications, especially if you're new to homeschooling.

While we seek to continue to offer parents all the choices they enjoy with Sonlight, we want to continue to offer a simple, one-order solution as well. For a new homechooler, we recommend the Newcomer Package as a collection of our best recommendations—everything you need for one child for the entire school year. After you've tested the waters, you may want to take advantage of your ability to customize with Sonlight's mix and match materials.

As a new homechooler, you want to know you are getting a quality curriculum and not missing essential elements for your home school.

The Newcomer Packages offer a great chance to just jump in and get started without researching every piece of the curriculum. Once you've had a year or two of experience, you may sense things you'd like to change or substitute. When you're ready to mix and match a little, Sonlight is ready with a wealth of great options we truly believe are high quality material.

We've simplified, so you can customize with ease.

Even if you don't plan to order a Newcomer Package, we've simplified the process of customizing your curriculum choices as well. This year, you'll find a removable checklist attached to your order form near the back of your catalog. As you mark your checklist, you can easily keep track of what you choose for each child. You can also glance at our simple colored chart at the beginning of each Core section to help you think through which subjects you want to cover throughout the year. That way, you can customize a little or a lot, without any confusion or missing subjects.

A new and simple way to find what you need for your children:

Updated sidebars point you to the usual age/grade range of every program or Core.

Rather than ask you to examine a "Choosing chart" at the beginning of the catalog, we now provide a small sidebar on every page of the catalog, displaying the range of ages and grades a certain product or Core is usually appropriate for. You can tell at a glance if a certain product might work for your children, or even if you could use a certain program with several children within a particular age span. We don't generally use textbooks, and most books aren't naturally for just one particular age or grade. Therefore, if we believe students of several different ages and abilities might enjoy a certain book or program, we include that range.



Lysa S. of Highlands Ranch, CO, reads a favorite from P3/4 to her son Jayden, 19 mo.

"Jayden loves Sonlight's books, especially *What People Do All Day*. Most Sonlight children's books have big, colorful pictures and he gets excited and points to the illustrations every time," says Lysa. "I read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* when I was a child, and that's one of Jayden's favorites now. Reading books with my child is a great way to help him learn and a real adventure."

New Products

Introducing P3/4: Cherish precious moments and memorable books with your little ones.

We created P3/4 (page 2) for preschoolers because of our belief that children whose parents read to them and spend time learning with them from a young age can reap life-long educational and relational benefits. I have wonderful memories of reading fabulous stories to my children from the time they were young. P3/4 is a collection of captivating fairy-tales, truth-filled Bible stories, colorful science books with fun facts about the world God made, and children's stories your young ones are sure to make favorites.

My eldest daughter, Amy, considered hundreds of books to choose the titles in this collection. Here's what she has to say about her choices for this collection:

"Many of the books are titles both my parents and I loved when we were children," she said. "I still remember my dad's voice growing happy as he prepared to read *Make Way for Ducklings*: This was my favorite book! Still others are books my sons love. For the last several years, almost no rest time has passed without one of them selecting Richard Scarry's *What Do People Do All Day?* as one of their rest time companions."

Amy designed P3/4 to foster simple, quality time with your children, so you won't find classroom assignments here! She added a Parent's Guide with a checklist of the books in your package so you can keep track of what you've read. The guide also provides simple activity suggestions to try with your children that tie into the books you read through the year and serve as "memory makers." For example, when you read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, you might delight your preschoolers by baking cookies with them.

"When I started homeschooling, I had no idea what I needed or how to do it. We've not only enjoyed Sonlight through the years—I think I learned as much as my children. Now we've 'graduated' from homeschooling. My oldest son won a partial scholarship to Vanderbilt University and my youngest won a nearly complete scholarship to Mississippi State University."

—Cora S, September 2007

New MathTacular—Unbelievably Understandable Math DVDs

The team that brought you *MathTacular 1* just finished another *MathTacular: Unbelievably Understandable Math DVD* (page 125) to help reinforce math concepts through engaging activities, humor, and creative vignettes. If your children loved my son Justin from *Discover and Do Science* or *MathTacular 1*, he's back—this time, to do math activities that make your children think, laugh and learn all at the same time. You and your children may help solve math mysteries with Detective Justin Time and his anxious Southern belle client, Amber Waves. Or you might practice subtraction facts with the help of a drill sergeant and his platoon.

MathTacular 1, designed for K-2, serves as a reinforcement for addition and subtraction concepts. *MathTacular 2* builds on concepts established in the first DVD. **Coming soon:** *MathTacular 3* and *4* are on the horizon! *MathTacular 3* illuminates facts about multiplication and division. Fractions, decimals, time zones and measurement conversions have never been so much fun! *MathTacular 4* tantalizes kids with a completely new and exciting format. The DVD features a full "movie" script and an ongoing story of colorful characters to highlight and practice the secrets of solving word problems.

New Sonlight College and Career Planning Kit: Mom of homeschool graduates shares her game plan.

Kelly Lutman is a Sonlight mom and one of our long-time Sonlight Curriculum Consultants. In her 18 years of homeschooling, two of her three children have successfully graduated from homeschool and entered college and the work-



Braden S (6) of Ladson, SC, "does school" with his brother Benjamin (2). "I love the fact that Sonlight and homeschooling gives our boys so much time together," writes their mom, Debra. They truly enjoy each other's company. Braden loves everything we read together so much, he wants to share it with his younger brother. He found *The Family Time Bible* from P4/5 on the shelf and was reading Bible stories to Benjamin before bed. In perfect imitation of Mom, he asked Benjamin to retell the story after he had read it! Thanks, Sonlight, for such wonderful resources!" The S family has been "Sonlighting" three years, and Braden is currently enjoying Core 1.

force, while her youngest is still enjoying high school. We're thrilled to offer our *College and Career Planning Kit* Kelly designed to help guide your student through high school and on into college and career (page 99).

Kelly created the *College and Career Planning Kit* to meet the needs of parents who want to help their children prepare for a fulfilling life, but may feel overwhelmed by all the details involved. Sonlight's complete package enables you to teach your students to think about work from a biblical perspective, help them discover their gifts and talents, and watch them make wise choices for college and career.

Kelly includes loads of organizational resources, key terms, links to helpful websites, and discussion questions related to the books *Finding the Career that Fits You* and the *Homeschoolers' College Admissions Handbook*.

New Sonlight Economics helps your high schooler understand the "head and heart" of the matter.

I couldn't be more pleased with our new Sonlight Economics program (page 98). Many high schools and colleges require a credit in economics, and in my opinion, there's no better way to demystify the theories and terms of economics than this program. The online, multi-media "text-book" from Thinkwell provides economic information in an understandable, palatable way.

Engaging multi-media video lectures give your student a comprehensive study of macro and micro economics. Professor Tomlinson is engaging and makes use of easily understood examples to simplify complex principles. This complete program addresses all topics that should be taught in an AP¹ Economics course.

Dynamic, interactive animations and full-color, illustrated review notes make their studies come alive. With Thinkwell's technology, you can track your students' progress (even login times!) and automatically graded learning exercises simplify your school days!

We include extra books and daily Bible readings (plus daily thought-provoking questions) with the goal to give kids a right understanding of money and talents. While we would be thrilled if students scored a five on the AP exam, we'd be more thankful if they lived their lives with a godly understanding of the treasures entrusted to them.

I think many families have not had good Bible training on their finances. We attempt to rectify that.

New art program: Artistic Pursuits fosters creativity and observation skills

Our new art curriculum is the most interesting and complete program I've seen. Within the vari-

¹Note: Advanced Placement, Advanced Placement Program, and AP are registered trademarks of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not endorse, this product.

"I first started with Sonlight when I was a new homeschooler, and didn't have a teaching background. I loved that I could just open my Instructor's Guide and in five minutes know exactly what to do. That gave me so much confidence! Now three years in, I am more familiar with the process and I can pick and choose what I want to do from the wealth of options Sonlight offers and still know the girls are getting a quality education."

—Sue E, November 2007

ous levels of *ARTistic Pursuits*, your students can refine their observation skills as they study how artists think and see. They'll practice symmetry and basic composition and discover their own creative strengths.

ARTistic Pursuits feature new skills in every set of individual books for K-3, 4-6, Junior High, and Senior High. We offer an art supply kit for every level with tools from pastel oil crayons and special paper, to watercolor brushes and charcoal sticks. Your children's supplies arrive ready to use and tuck neatly into the included drawstring backpack. You won't want to miss this thorough exposure to art and creative expression (page 132).

New computer education tools offer complete, interactive training.

I'm happy to introduce two new *Professor Teaches* software programs, to help your students get an edge on the computer skills they need in today's society. *Professor Teaches* courses use real-world settings and accurate simulations to help you apply your new computer knowledge directly to daily tasks, and the knowledge you gain becomes an asset for life (page 136).

Self-paced, interactive lessons, practical exercises, and examples make learning easy. Introductions, summaries, and end-of-chapter quiz questions all reinforce learning. I think you will like this realistic, interactive, and complete training.

Professor Teaches Microsoft Office 2007 is a complete tutorial, covering each application in the newest version of Office. Start out with the basics, then move onto advanced elements professionals use. Become an expert with Word,



A Burst (cont'd.)

- ▶ Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook and many more. This program includes Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Topics with colorful graphics, professional voice narration, and clear learning objectives.

Professor Teaches How to Create Web Pages and Graphics 6.0, an easy-to-use 3-CD set, gives users the knowledge they need to design and publish Web pages and graphics. Twelve comprehensive training courses include Web Design Fundamentals, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, HTML, Publisher and Flash—among others.

Changes and Revisions

Core 300's new book

This year's Core 300 replaces the technologically-burdensome DK CD-ROM with *The Visual History of the Modern World*, a comprehensive look at the major events of the 20th Century through compelling photographs and detailed reporting. This book will draw you and your children into the 20th Century in a fresh way.

We've lived up and simplified our I Can Read It series.

I Can Read It books are a favorite of many young Sonlighters. We still offer these four little books, but this year we've simplified and lived them up a bit. We've added 300 plus new color illustrations, shortened the number of words and sentences on a page, and included more white space between lines. Overall, we just made it simpler and more achievable to foster an early love for reading in your children. The gorgeous illustrations should be ready soon, so look for the updated *I Can Read It* this summer.

Innovation for Eastern Hemisphere Explorer makes geography come alive.

The idea behind the Eastern Hemisphere Explorer is to help children identify and differentiate various countries. We want to make them aware of the world around them; we want them to read the newspaper intelligently with a grasp on the geography and culture of the places they read about.

In the past, we've used more of a classroom-school method for students to find information from the *World Book Encyclopedia* and record it. Our updated version employs

“My granddaughter is learning a lot more than we ever thought possible.

While my daughter was serving in Iraq, I decided to do Sonlight with Melinda, her 6-year-old girl. We're in our second year. I sometimes wondered, when I read to her, if she was learning or spacing out. Last Christmas, while my daughter was home, we played [a popular knowledge question game].

Melinda is in Kindergarten. We gave her plenty of first and second grade questions. Oh, the look of wonder on my daughter's face when Melinda answered correctly—and Melinda's smiles at her own success.”

—Anita B, December 2007

a variety of learning styles as we encourage children to create a scrapbook-style document of the countries they read about. Rather than have children simply look up answers to geography questions and record them in a plain book where all the pages look the same, students can search out key information and add it to their personal geography scrapbook in order to reinforce the culture and interesting differences between the various nations they study. Each section will feature pages from the country the students read about. I hope this change will enhance students' memory of what they learn and make the nations and people more real to them, as well as give them a neat book to share.

We've simplified our history timelines.

As you work through our history timeline figures, you'll find we've opted to go with one chronological source, rather than many different sources. In an effort to reduce stress and strain and simplify your teaching process, we've merged our lists and cleaned them up. As you go from year to year, everything will be unified and in order.

Our Love to Learn/Love to Teach Guarantee just got better.

As always, we want you, the customer, to have a safe way to find out if Sonlight is right for your family. So, we plan not only to continue our 18-week risk-free trial, but we've added to it.

We've extended our full refund to cover any or all of the Language Arts, Math, Science, Bible, and Required Resources packages you select to complete one child's program, when purchased on the same order as a Core.

This means you can “test drive” one package of each subject (any or all: LA, Math, Science, Bible, or Required Resources) per Core, when purchased at the same time. Try all the components for 18 weeks. If they're not a perfect fit for your family, you can return them for a full refund—used books and all.

The Jerusalem Cross: A gift of symbolism and beauty for returning Core Curriculum purchasers

When John and I visited the Holy Land several years ago, I found it amazing to stand in places where Jesus stood. Our guide spoke of the hardships experienced by Christians—although they have no quarrel with either Jews or Muslims, they are directly impacted by the fighting between the two groups. He said not a single family in Bethlehem has all the members still living there—all of them had family members living overseas (and sending money back home) to try to maintain the family there.

I wondered if I could do anything to help. When we returned home, we asked the Palestinian Christians we met in Bethlehem to help us offer authentic Widow's Mite pendants to our first-time Core purchasers. We'll continue to offer this unique gift to those families who purchase a Core for the first time.

This year, we've found another treasure we want to share with all our **returning Core purchasers from 2008 on**. We order the Jerusalem Cross directly from Bethlehem, from a shop owned by a fellow believer.

Sterling silver with blue opal inlays, the rich-hued jewels in the Jerusalem Cross pendant glimmer as the sun hits them. The pendant reminds me of the richness and strength of the biblical history we encountered in the Holy Land. Its heritage dates back to the fourth century, and it is rich in symbolism. The four small crosses of the pendant are symbolic of the four Gospels proclaimed to the four corners of the earth, and the large center cross represents Jerusalem, the city where Christianity began. I pray this pendant will be a special reminder of both our beginnings and our mission. Please accept it as our gift to you, and be encouraged that you are helping fellow believers remain in their homeland.



“We recently spent a month in Haiti serving at an orphanage from which we adopted two more children. As a first year homeschooling family, our three children were able to go with us and meet their new brothers without the worry of missing schoolwork,” writes April S of Mechanicsville, VA.

“Sonlight was very easy to pack with us. The schedule is so easy to follow and the curriculum is in depth, yet comprehensible for my children's level. I love it and look forward to expanding our investment with Sonlight in the future.”

A sample of our new book titles ...

I'm always on the lookout for excellent books to add to the Sonlight collection. Every year we add new titles, so you always know, you have the best of the best on your bookshelf. These new titles are selected for their essential information, historical richness, excellent literary value, or high level of creativity and fun. You'll find even more within the pages of our catalog.

Why Gender Matters by Leonard Sax

This fascinating book demonstrates that the differences between girls and boys are more profound than we ever imagined. The good news: you can use what you learn about your children's unique design to teach and parent more effectively. Understand their "hardwired" differences, and you can better help boys and girls reach their fullest potential.

The Case for a Creator by Lee Strobel

When I read this intriguing book, it made me wish I had done even more to prepare my own children for all they would hear from an evolutionary perspective in college. Strobel does an excellent job of interviewing some of the most intelligent scholars and scientists who hold to the theory of Creation, and argues they make a reasonable case for a God-centered Creation account.

Summer of 2010: 20th Anniversary Sonlight Celebration

We'll celebrate our 20th Anniversary of Sonlight the summer of 2010 here at the Sonlight headquarters just outside Denver, Colorado. But will we include just Sonlight staff, or should we open the party to the world? We'd like to gauge your interest in an event like this. Should we celebrate together? Help us decide whether to host Sonlighters worldwide in 2010. Please email us and let us know if you're interested at meetup2010@sonlight.com.

As we envision our first ever internationally-announced welcome event, we look forward to meeting Sonlighters from all over the world to en-

"My oldest daughter attended public school up until third grade and was never a very big reader. Our first year of Sonlight, she read six books before we even started the school year. Both my girls beg for the next book as soon as we finish one. What a change!"

—Sue E, November 2007



"Not one member of our family wants to miss a moment of history with Sonlight. It is fun, informative, and intriguing," writes Jemima Z of Portland, OR. "My husband Ray and our boys Samuel, Isaiah, and Elijah got so excited about Core 3's book, The Lewis and Clark Expedition that they wanted to know more."

"They did extra research online and Ray took time off work to drive us around the Lewis and Clark National Parks. Living history experts at the parks were amazed with the boys' knowledge of the expedition, and enjoyed answering their questions and demonstrating different aspects of life on the corps' journey." Here, the Z boys are all smiles outside Ft. Clatsop. The Z family has been homeschooling five years with Sonlight.

joy special events, tours of Sonlight Curriculum, and tons of exciting things to do in and around Denver. From the amazing natural beauty of camping and hiking to a professional baseball game with the World Series contenders, the Colorado Rockies; whether you look forward to a relaxing soak in a natural spring or a wild ride at Six Flags Elitch Gardens, your family could have the time your lives—and connect with other Sonlighters for fun and encouragement.

Stay posted for more details as the time draws closer, and let us know what you think.

Share the joy of Sonlight.

Do you know someone who might be interested in homeschooling with Sonlight? Your friends can request a catalog at this web page: www.sonlight.com/request-catalog.html, or you can request additional catalogs to pass along yourself. Share the joy of Sonlight with those you care about.

No regrets.

As I reflect on this year, I find myself at a new stage in life. I have three grandchildren, with two on the way, and finally have the privilege of watching a grandchild use Sonlight. What a blessing to see the fruits of our labor poured into these precious ones!

I was asked at a convention once, "Do you have any regrets regarding homeschooling?" I can honestly admit I have none. I never experienced the "terrible teenage years" I kept hearing so much about, rather I saw my children's adolescence as a time to step back and watch them advance forward to do great things—what a blast!

I have four very different children, with personalities ranging from a completely laid back lover of jokes, to a very serious, driven and directed child. In a natural school setting, my children might never have been friends. They might have simply co-existed in the family. And yet I thank God for the way they get along with one another, enjoy deep conversation, look each other in the eye as we talk around the dinner table together each Sunday ... even as adults!

One of the goals closest to my heart for Sonlight is to encourage you, and your family, to grow closer and build stronger relationships as you learn together.

I commend you.

Every morning, John and I and the Sonlight team meet to pray for our company and for our customers. We count it an honor to lift up the strategic role you play in the kingdom as you homeschool your children. I commend you in your decision to dedicate yourself in this way and want to exhort you: what you are doing is strategic, important, and compelling. Hang in there!

I want to encourage and help you in every way I can. I ask for your feedback as you use Sonlight's products so we can improve our service to you and enhance your family's learning experience.

Enjoy this catalog and blessings on your school year ahead. May you enjoy a renewed closeness with family as you learn together.

Sincerely,
Sarita Holzmänn
President, Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd.

You risk nothing at all with Sonlight's "Love to Learn" Money Back Guarantee:

No other curriculum company actually invites you to test-drive up to half of your program (your first 18 weeks) before you make up your mind ...

Try any of the eligible Sonlight programs (even combine them) and enjoy "Sonlighting" with your children for a full 18 weeks. That's half a school year for you to truly test each program, the way you would like to use it, every day.

Open your books wide. Use up the activity sheets. Don't worry if any pages get wrinkled, stained or marked up.

In fact, you can take up to one full year to try those 18 weeks of materials.

If you are not convinced Sonlight makes homeschooling a real pleasure for your whole family, please return the entire program—used books and all. If you do decide to return a complete eligible program (any Newcomer or Core package, or your choice of Language Arts, Math, Science—one each when purchased with a Core—and Required Resources), we will give you a full, unconditional refund of your purchase price.

See page 160 for complete details. Try Sonlight today, with no risk at all.

Start school now—and take up to 6 months to pay.

Not only can you try Sonlight for up to 18 weeks before you decide to keep it, you can also take up to 26 weeks to pay for your materials!

Order any eligible Sonlight program, or \$500 in total resources on one order, and we'll divide your balance into 7 installments: you pay one third (plus a small fee) when your order ships, and the rest in 6 equal payments 30 days apart. See page 160 for details on time payments.

Try Sonlight today, and choose a payment option that works best for you.

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