



SONLIGHT INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDES INCLUDE COMPLETE LESSON PLANS AND NOTES FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR!

Peek inside an Instructor's Guide (IG)

Parents often rave about their Core, Language Arts and Sonlight Science Instructor's Guides! Take a look and see what the excitement is all about ...

Imagine having a personal homeschool mentor plan and organize your entire homeschool year. What if she gave you customizable schedules, complete lesson plans, pertinent activities, and thoughtful questions to aid your students' comprehension? What if she left you handy tips and pointers to help you relax and homeschool with confidence all year long? This is exactly the support you get with a Sonlight IG.

IGs show you the way every day, all year long:

Your IG is a road map for the entire school year ... with virtually all the planning done for you. You get:

- **Complete 36-week lesson plans** that integrate your children's various subjects into an exciting, unified learning experience.
- **Activities, teaching tips, discussion questions, counter-balancing commentary** and more.
- **Two schedule options (5-day or 4-day)** to fit your needs (in many of the IGs for early grades). Choose a full 5-day schedule, or pick the 4-day to leave room for a day of extra-curricular activities each week. High schoolers use a 5-day schedule.

IGs eliminate the stress of everyday planning:

Imagine falling asleep tonight relaxed, with no worry about what you're going to teach in the morning. That's what an IG does for you. It does the planning for you. Put simply, these guides just make your life easier. As Lois M writes:

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

Curriculum experts develop each IG ... so you're free to focus on your expertise: knowing and guiding your children.

Each Sonlight Instructor's Guide is the result of untold hours of research and experience (see p. 141 for more on that). This saves you significant time, stress and frustration, so you can **spend time teaching and enjoying your kids, not planning lessons.**

This sentiment is echoed by many customers: "Sonlight helped save me loads of time so I could focus on teaching instead of planning."

—Lois B, June 2011

IGs turn your books into curriculum

Each **Core Package**, **Language Arts** course and **Sonlight Science** program includes an Instructor's Guide (see pp. 136-139 for more). That guide weaves your books and supplies together into a cohesive full-year curriculum.

"The schedule is already written for us, which makes it easy, worry-free, and keeps us on track and accountable for reaching our school year's goals."

—Jennifer G, Aug. 2011

See for yourself!

Interested? Turn the page for an in-depth look inside an IG. Better yet, visit sonlight.com/3-week-samples to request a free sample of any IG.

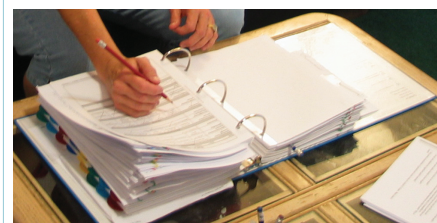
Backed by a money-back guarantee

Buy any Core program (or any individual IG) and your purchase is backed by a one-year money-back guarantee. If for any reason you don't love the materials, simply return them for a complete refund of your purchase price. That's confidence you can bank on!



Protect and organize your IGs with a convenient and sturdy binder and tabs. Look for the binder and tabs listed as a Required Resource for your specific Core program.

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



With Sonlight's Core, Science and Language Arts programs, you get an Instructor's Guide that takes you step by step through each day. Just follow along – no planning necessary!

"We now have time to pursue our hobbies and passions, thanks to Sonlight's well-structured yet flexible schedule and Instructor's Guides."

—Chantal P, Aug. 2012



"I love Charlotte Mason principles and have floundered through the last four years trying to piece together an education for my kids. So I was thrilled to find it was already done for me by Sonlight," writes Kristen J of Sierra Vista, AZ. "Here, we thought we'd lost our tadpole when we realized he had turned into a toad! And although the children all use different Cores, they all appreciate a good picture book to help identify their wild toad. The book is from Core A Science readers, but it certainly brought kids of all ages together for a moment in time." In their initial Sonlight year, Ben (5), Bryan (15) and Caleb (9), as well as brother Tim (18, not pictured) are studying Cores A, D, 100 and 400.



INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDES

Our IGs Will Make Your Day (Easier)

How? Take a look at some of the noteworthy benefits you'll realize with Sonlight IGs. See pp. 137-139 for Core, Language Arts and Science specifics.

Easy to use

- **Get started quickly.** At the beginning of your school year, read the essential "how" and "why" information for your Core, located at the front of your IG. This will ensure a good start.
- **View your schedule options on one page.** In the early grades, 4-day users only do Bible and Readers on Day 5 each week; 5-day users do that plus enriching History and Read-Aloud assignments on Day 5. High schoolers use a 5-day schedule.
- **Everything you need is in one place.** Find each week's schedule, notes, discussion questions, timeline and map activities, vocabulary and teaching tips, all in one section. Your daily notes for subjects are all right behind your weekly schedule.
- **Take school with you on the go.** Want to do Sonlight outside or on a road trip? Just pull out that week's section of the IG, grab the scheduled books, and enjoy your adventure.

An intuitive setup

The Core IG setup makes sense. You can find what you need quickly and follow along. For example:

- **Mapping helps you incorporate geography seamlessly into the school day.** Younger students use their Markable Maps to locate places they read about. Parents get full color maps with answers to that Core's assigned map points. These hole-punched, laminated maps fold into your IG and also serve as a bookmark to hold your place. With clear location names, students make a visual connection to how all their Readers, History books, and Read-Alouds relate geographically. Parent notes provide place names and coordinates, so you can easily find and check each map point. High schoolers' black-and-white maps are included in their Student Guide, while the Parent Guide has identical answer keys. Just watch your students' geography knowledge soar!

Comprehensive and effective

- **Q&A format helps you focus on what's important.** Discussion questions with answers for each day's reading hone in on the key points. They help your kids get more meaning out of their reading and allow you to assess how well your children understand what they're learning.
- **Understand the rationale behind scheduled activities and methods.** We offer abundant explanations that let you in on the "why" behind many of the suggested activities. We explain the purpose behind these activities and what your children can gain. So you're better equipped to take advantage of the ideas behind the activities and perhaps make modifications.
- **Numerous notes help you take advantage of teachable moments.** We want you to know why we chose a certain book or what we hope your children learn. We talk about "heart matters" (e.g., "Note the beauty of family relationships revealed in this book."). We give you warnings about specific books or about difficult content, telling you what to expect and often suggesting how to discuss it. This helps you capitalize on teachable moments and discuss important issues (such as racism).
- **Science and Language Arts IGs Activity Sheets reinforce your teaching and further engage learners.** A variety of activity options coordinate with your students' Science and Language Arts studies and draw on a range of skills and interests. (See pp. 138-139.)

How it works:

1. Do the scheduled readings.
2. Do the vocab and Discussion Questions in the Notes that follow your Schedule page.
3. Do the Timeline, Map and any other activities.
4. Now you're ready to move on to Language Arts!

Week 1

Core D & LALD

Week 1

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Read-Alouds

The Discoverer's Bible

Genesis 1:1-22

Genesis 1:23-31

Genesis 2:1-4

Genesis 2:5-14

Genesis 2:15-17

Genesis 3:1-22

Genesis 3:23-24

Genesis 4:1-26

Genesis 4:27

Genesis 5:1-32

Genesis 6:1-9

Genesis 6:10-22

Genesis 7:1-23

Genesis 8:1-13

Genesis 8:14-22

Genesis 9:1-17

Genesis 9:18-29

Genesis 10:1-32

Genesis 11:1-32

Genesis 12:1-20

Genesis 12:21-20

Genesis 13:1-12

Genesis 13:13-17

Genesis 14:1-24

Genesis 15:1-21

Genesis 16:1-16

Genesis 17:1-22

Genesis 18:1-15

Genesis 18:16-33

Genesis 19:1-38

Genesis 20:1-18

Genesis 21:1-34

Genesis 22:1-19

Genesis 23:1-20

Genesis 24:1-67

Genesis 25:1-34

Genesis 26:1-34

Genesis 27:1-29

Genesis 28:1-22

Genesis 29:1-30

Genesis 30:1-43

Genesis 31:1-55

Genesis 32:1-32

Genesis 33:1-20

Genesis 34:1-30

Genesis 35:1-29

Genesis 36:1-43

Genesis 37:1-36

Genesis 38:1-30

Genesis 39:1-23

Genesis 40:1-23

Genesis 41:1-56

Genesis 42:1-38

Genesis 43:1-34

Genesis 44:1-34

Genesis 45:1-28

Genesis 46:1-34

Genesis 47:1-26

Genesis 48:1-22

Genesis 49:1-28

Genesis 50:1-26

Exodus 1:1-22

Exodus 2:1-25

Exodus 3:1-10

Exodus 3:11-22

Exodus 4:1-17

Exodus 4:18-26

Exodus 5:1-21

Exodus 6:1-27

Exodus 7:1-13

Exodus 7:14-25

Exodus 8:1-15

Exodus 8:16-32

Exodus 9:1-35

Exodus 10:1-10

Exodus 10:11-13

Exodus 10:14-27

Exodus 11:1-10

Exodus 12:1-51

Exodus 13:1-16

Exodus 13:17-22

Exodus 14:1-31

Exodus 15:1-27

Exodus 16:1-36

Exodus 17:1-16

Exodus 18:1-27

Exodus 19:1-25

Exodus 20:1-17

Exodus 21:1-36

Exodus 22:1-31

Exodus 23:1-19

Exodus 24:1-18

Exodus 25:1-46

Exodus 26:1-35

Exodus 27:1-8

Exodus 28:1-43

Exodus 29:1-45

Exodus 30:1-37

Exodus 31:1-18

Exodus 32:1-35

Exodus 33:1-34

Exodus 34:1-28

Exodus 35:1-49

Exodus 36:1-38

Exodus 37:1-24

Exodus 38:1-26

Exodus 39:1-38

Exodus 40:1-38

Leviticus 1:1-17

Leviticus 2:1-16

Leviticus 3:1-17

Leviticus 4:1-26

Leviticus 5:1-13

Leviticus 6:1-7

Leviticus 7:1-38

Leviticus 8:1-13

Leviticus 9:1-24

Leviticus 10:1-15

Leviticus 11:1-47

Leviticus 12:1-13

Leviticus 13:1-59

Leviticus 14:1-57

Leviticus 15:1-15

Leviticus 16:1-35

Leviticus 17:1-16

Leviticus 18:1-30

Leviticus 19:1-37

Leviticus 20:1-17

Leviticus 21:1-23

Leviticus 22:1-37

Leviticus 23:1-44

Leviticus 24:1-23

Leviticus 25:1-55

Leviticus 26:1-46

Leviticus 27:1-34

Leviticus 28:1-38

Leviticus 29:1-30

Leviticus 30:1-38

Leviticus 31:1-17

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Leviticus 34:1-35

Leviticus 35:1-35

Leviticus 36:1-35

Leviticus 37:1-35

Leviticus 38:1-35

Leviticus 39:1-35

Leviticus 40:1-35

Numbers 1:1-54

Numbers 2:1-34

Numbers 3:1-39

Numbers 4:1-49

Numbers 5:1-35

Numbers 6:1-12

Numbers 7:1-89

Numbers 8:1-26

Numbers 9:1-14

Numbers 10:1-10

Numbers 10:11-13

Numbers 10:14-27

Numbers 11:1-35

Numbers 12:1-16

Numbers 13:1-33

Numbers 14:1-45

Numbers 15:1-16

Numbers 16:1-50

Numbers 17:1-12

Numbers 18:1-32

Numbers 19:1-22

Numbers 20:1-13

Numbers 21:1-35

Numbers 22:1-38

Numbers 23:1-28

Numbers 24:1-25

Numbers 25:1-18

Numbers 26:1-65

Numbers 27:1-23

Numbers 28:1-38

Numbers 29:1-39

Numbers 30:1-38

Numbers 31:1-54

Numbers 32:1-35

Numbers 33:1-35

Numbers 34:1-35

Numbers 35:1-35

Numbers 36:1-35

Numbers 37:1-35

Numbers 38:1-35

Numbers 39:1-35

Numbers 40:1-35

Deuteronomy 1:1-46

Deuteronomy 2:1-37

Deuteronomy 3:1-22

Deuteronomy 4:1-40

Deuteronomy 5:1-22

Deuteronomy 6:1-25

Deuteronomy 7:1-26

Deuteronomy 8:1-26

Deuteronomy 9:1-21

Deuteronomy 10:1-22

Deuteronomy 11:1-32

Deuteronomy 12:1-19

Deuteronomy 13:1-22

Deuteronomy 14:1-29

Deuteronomy 15:1-22

Deuteronomy 16:1-17

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Deuteronomy 19:1-21

Deuteronomy 20:1-32

Deuteronomy 21:1-23

Deuteronomy 22:1-29

Deuteronomy 23:1-18

Deuteronomy 24:1-22

Deuteronomy 25:1-19

Deuteronomy 26:1-19

Deuteronomy 27:1-26

Deuteronomy 28:1-68

Deuteronomy 29:1-28

Deuteronomy 30:1-19

Deuteronomy 31:1-29

Deuteronomy 32:1-35

Deuteronomy 33:1-34

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Joshua 1:1-9

Joshua 2:1-24

Joshua 3:1-17

Joshua 4:1-24

Joshua 5:1-10

Joshua 6:1-27

Joshua 7:1-26

Joshua 8:1-29

Joshua 9:1-27

Joshua 10:1-49

Joshua 11:1-23

Joshua 12:1-24

Joshua 13:1-22

Joshua 14:1-15

Joshua 15:1-64

Joshua 16:1-15

Joshua 17:1-18

Joshua 18:1-28

Joshua 19:1-51

Joshua 20:1-9

Joshua 21:1-45

Joshua 22:1-34

Joshua 23:1-32

Joshua 24:1-27

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Judges 9:1-57

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Judges 14:1-20

Judges 15:1-20

Judges 16:1-31

Judges 17:1-13

Judges 18:1-30

Judges 19:1-29

Judges 20:1-48

Judges 21:1-25

Ruth 1:1-22

Ruth 2:1-13

Ruth 3:1-18

Ruth 4:1-22

1 Samuel 1:1-28

1 Samuel 2:1-36

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Isaiah 63:1-6

Isaiah 64:1-12

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Isaiah 66:1-24

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Jeremiah 4:1-4

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Jeremiah 7:1-34

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Jeremiah 25:1-38

Jeremiah 26:1-24

Jeremiah 27:1-22

Jeremiah 28:1-17

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Jeremiah 31:1-40

Jeremiah 32:1-15

Jeremiah 33:1-26

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Jeremiah 35:1-19

Jeremiah 36:1-32

Jeremiah 37:1-38

Jeremiah 38:1-28

Jeremiah 39:1-21

Jeremiah 40:1-6

Jeremiah 41:1-18

Jeremiah 42:1-22

Jeremiah 43:1-13

Jeremiah 44:1-30

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Ezekiel 5:1-17

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Ezekiel 11:1-25

Ezekiel 12:1-17

Ezekiel 13:1-23

Ezekiel 14:1-23

Ezekiel 15:1-7

Ezekiel 16:1-59

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Ezekiel 35:1-12

Ezekiel 36:1-38

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Ezekiel 38:1-39

Ezekiel 39:1-27

Dan 1:1-21

Dan 2:1-48

Dan 3:1-30

Dan 4:1-37

Dan 5:1-31

Dan 6:1-28

Dan 7:1-28

Dan 8:1-27

Dan 9:1-27

Dan 10:1-21

Dan 11:1-45

Dan 12:1-43

Hosea 1:1-11

Hosea 2:1-22

Hosea 3:1-5

Hosea 4:1-19

Hosea 5:1-15

Hosea 6:1-12

Hosea 7:1-17

Hosea 8:1-14

Hosea 9:1-17

Hosea 10:1-15

Hosea 11:1-12

Hosea 12:1-10

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Hosea 14:1-9

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Joel 3:1-17

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Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah 4:1-11

Micah 1:1-16

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Micah 3:1-12

Micah 4:1-7

Micah 5:1-15

Micah 6:1-16

Micah 7:1-20

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Ezekiel 16:1-59

Ezekiel 17:1-24

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Dan 8:1-27

Dan 9:1-27

Dan 10:1-21

Dan 11:1-45

Dan 12:1-43

Hosea 1:1-11

Hosea 2:1-22

Hosea 3:1-5

Hosea 4:1-19

Hosea 5:1-15

Hosea 6:1-12

Hosea 7:1-17

Hosea 8:1-14

Hosea 9:1-17

Hosea 10:1-15

Hosea 11:1-12

Hosea 12:1-10

Hosea 13:1-16

Hosea 14:1-9

Joel 1:1-22

Joel 2:1-27

Joel 3:1-17

Obadiah 1:1-21

Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah 2:1-10

Jonah 3:1-10

Jonah 4:1-11

Micah 1:1-16

Micah 2:1-13

Micah 3:1-12

Micah 4:1-7

Micah 5:1-15

Micah 6:1-16

Micah 7:1-20

Nahum 1:1-15

Nahum 2:1-13

Nahum 3:1-19

Habakkuk 1:1-17

Habakkuk 2:1-20

Jeremiah 1:1-10

Jeremiah 2:1-37

Jeremiah 3:1-25

Jeremiah 4:1-4

Jeremiah 5:1-17

Jeremiah 6:1-30

Jeremiah 7:1-34

Jeremiah 8:1-13

Jeremiah 9:1-21

Jeremiah 10:1-16

Jeremiah 11:1-17

Jeremiah 12:1-14

Jeremiah 13:1-17

Jeremiah 14:1-22

Jeremiah 15:1-21

Jeremiah 16:1-21

Jeremiah 17:1-27

Jeremiah 18:1-23

Jeremiah 19:1-15

Jeremiah 20:1-18

Jeremiah 21:1-46

Jeremiah 22:1-30

Jeremiah 23:1-40

Jeremiah 24:1-10

Jeremiah 25:1-38

Jeremiah 26:1-24

Jeremiah 27:1-22

Jeremiah 28:1-17

Jeremiah 29:1-32

Jeremiah 30:1-33

Jeremiah 31:1-40

Jeremiah 32:1-15

Jeremiah 33:1-26

Jeremiah 34:1-22

Jeremiah 35:1-19

Jeremiah 36:1-32

Jeremiah 37:1-38

Jeremiah 38:1-28



Core Guide

What you get in a Core IG:

1. Complete, ready-to-use lesson plans

All your books and activities are fully scheduled for the entire year. No need to create your own plans!

2. Daily schedules

Daily schedules outline 36 weeks of material for Bible, History / Geography, Read-Alouds, Readers and Language Arts.

3. Discussion questions

Discussion questions (with answers) for the assigned reading help you track your children's comprehension.

4. Timeline and map activities

Put your learning in chronological and geographical context. Timeline Activities tell you when to add people, events and dates to your timeline of history. Map Activities help you plot the places you visit in your reading. Your kids plot points on their Markable Map, and you have all the answers in the included map keys.

5. Vocabulary and cultural literacy notes

Find clear definitions for important vocabulary that appears in your reading. Enjoy useful cultural literacy notes that add depth to your reading and explain things students probably should know but likely don't know (e.g., what a hoop skirt looks like).

6. Teaching tips for Mom or Dad

See the rationale and educational philosophy behind Sonlight's methods and activities. Get help discussing tricky topics (such as poverty) with your kids. We've got you covered, so you can teach with confidence.

7. Extensive notes

Train your children to read discerningly. Our notes provide counter-balancing arguments to lopsided readings. These notes help you "listen to the other side" - as Proverbs 18:17 seems to encourage - in order to hone understanding. You won't believe how much you'll learn!

8. An easy record-keeping system

With space to record completion dates, your children's initials, extra notes and even extra subjects, all your records are in one place for reporting requirements.

9. Complete Language Arts program (for Cores D and up)

Turn the page for a peek at the Language Arts portion of your Core. In Cores A-C, this comes with your Core, but as a separate Instructor's Guide. In all other Cores, it comes as part of the Core Instructor's Guide.

Complete lesson plans save you hours of planning time and frustration every week and maximizes quality time with your kids.

Core D + LA D WEEK 1 SCHEDULE

Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Bible					
Reading	Luke 1:1-23	Luke 1:24-38	Luke 1:39-56	Luke 1:57-80	Luke 2:1-20
The Discoverer's Bible for Young Readers	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Genesis 3	Genesis 4:1-16	Genesis 6:5-22	Genesis 7
American Indian Prayer Guide—Maya	Day 1 p. 9	Day 2 pp. 9-10	Day 3 pp. 10-11	Day 4 p. 11	Day 5 p. 12
Memorization & Sing the Word: Great in Counsel and Mighty in Deed	Psalms 8 —Track 1				
History/Geography					
Pedro's Journal	Aug. 3–Sept. 10	Sept. 13–Sept. 30	Oct. 5–Oct. 12	Oct. 16–Nov. 25	
The Light and the Glory					chap. 1
Read-Alouds					
A Child's Introduction to Poetry		"Introducing Professor Driscoll" pp. 7-8			
Walk the World's Rim	Preface & chap. 1	chap. 2	chap. 3	chap. 4	
Lawn Boy					
Readers					
Regular: A Lion to Guard Us	chaps. 1-2	chaps. 3-4	chaps. 5-6		
Advanced: The Corn Grows Ripe	chap. 1	chaps. 2-3	chap. 4		
Other Subjects (Math, Science, etc.)					

Core D & LA D (Map 2)

Timeline Suggestion Application Assignments

Section Two | Week 1 | Schedule: Core D

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

Your Core IG gives you flexibility:

- **Choose between a 4- or 5-day schedule.** In Cores A-W, Bible reading and Readers are scheduled all five days; 5-day users also do enriching History and Read-Aloud on Day 5. High school students have a 5-day schedule.
- **You are in the driver's seat.** The IG is a guide, not a taskmaster. As you become comfortable teaching your children, you can skip or alter assignments to fit your family's unique needs.

- **You have options to work how you want.** If you prefer to do a week's worth of a single subject in one day, work horizontally across your schedule page. If you prefer doing a little bit from every subject each day, work vertically.
- **Day-by-day schedule frees you from a traditional Monday through Friday school calendar.** Take breaks when you want and pick up right where you left off.



Language Arts Guide

Teach writing naturally and with confidence!

Your Language Arts Guide includes:

1. Clear Language Arts instruction

Our Language Arts programs helps you get the most from your studies each day. Assignments are as clear and engaging as possible. An appropriate level of grammar instruction and copywork/dictation passages ensure that you get the most helpful assignments.

Simply follow the daily schedule for a complete year of learning. Extensive teaching notes help you instruct your students with excellence, answer questions and ensure that they grasp key concepts. (See p. 96 to discover Sonlight's "natural learning" approach to Language Arts.)

2. Copywork/Dictation assignments

Weekly copywork or dictation assignments help children learn the basics of writing based on the models of master communicators. Assignments are based on your child's age and ability level, and most passages come from the Readers in their Core or Language Arts program.

3. Phonics instruction (in Cores A-C)

Assignments and activities coordinate with your children's Readers to develop confidence in reading and spelling.

4. Readers' Schedule & Notes (Cores A-C)

Cores A-C let you pick the appropriate Readers / Language Arts set for each child, so your Language Arts Guide includes the Schedule and Notes for those corresponding Readers.

5. Grammar and writing mechanics

Each week in Cores A-W, you receive clear grammar instruction about a specific concept that ties into the week's copywork/dictation passage. Then your students get a few exercises to practice and cement what they learned.

6. Effective creative writing instruction

Our step-by-step direction encourages exploration, sets children free to develop their creative side and helps them become superb written communicators, too.

7. Activity Sheets and answers

Students complete assignments on the included Activity Sheets. Weekly Notes show the answers to grammar questions and suggested responses for Creative Writing assignments.

8. Your choice of a 4- or 5-day schedule

Extra Friday activities mean you can get complete instruction in four days each week, plus some fun and stretching activities with the enriching fifth day.

LANGUAGE ARTS 2		WEEK 2				SCHEDULE & NOTES	
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5		
Spelling/Phonics							
Spelling	Rule & Write	Pre-Test	Check	Post-Test	Optional: Write a Sentence		
Activity	Index Cards						
Optional: <i>Explore the Code 4</i>	pp. 9–10	pp. 11–12	pp. 13–14	pp. 15–16			
Handwriting							
Readers							
<i>The Beginner's Bible</i>	"A New Home" pp. 39–45 👤 ↻	"The Visitors" pp. 46–51 👤	"A Bride for Isaac" pp. 52–57	"Isaac's Blessing" pp. 58–62	"Jacob's Dream" pp. 63–65 👤		
Vocabulary Development							
Optional: <i>Wordly Wise A</i>				True or False 1 p. 4			
Creative Expression							
	A: Copywork 1	B: Copywork Application	C: Similes	D: Like What?			
					5-Day: Simile Shout Out		
Other Notes							

Week 2

Day 1

Spelling/Phonics

Read & Write

Rule: When using a suffix (an ending added to a root word, like *ful*, *ing*, *est*, *ed*, *ness*), usually the root word spelling remains the same.

When connecting the syllables in a word with a suffix, if you pronounce the vowel in the suffix, the suffix is a syllable (*hopeful*, *gladness*, *winkling*). If you do not pronounce the vowel in the suffix, then the suffix is not a syllable (*loved*, *clapped*, *baked*).

Activities

Index Cards Index cards, writing, basket, longest, careful, fishing, singing

From your spelling words, write the root word on an index card and a suffix on a separate card. Have your children combine the two cards to form the new word. How many suffixes work appropriately with the various words? (e.g., *hopeful*, *hoping*)

Optional: Exploide the Code 4 [pp. 9-10]

Readers

The Beginner's Bible "A New Home" pp. 39-45

To Discuss After You Read

- What blessing did God give Abraham?
- All the land that Abraham could ever see? Why, and he was told something would have a child.

Timeline and Map Activities

- A** **Abraham (ca. 2100 BC)**
- H** **Hebron (ca. 2000 BC)**

Creative Expression

Arty Copywork 1

Read the children to copy the passage on **Week 2 Activity Sheet**, "Arty Copywork 1."

Optional: Copywork 2

The servant gave her the girls, and they went to meet her hand. The servant asked for his permission to take Rebekah to Isaac:

Notes

Day 2

Spelling/Phonics

Pre-Test

Words: hopeful, helpful, gladness, basket, longest, careful, fishing, singing

Optional: Exploide the Code 4 [pp. 9-10]

Readers

The Beginner's Bible "The Visitors"

Vocabulary

Isaac means "he laughs."

To Discuss After You Read

- Why did Sarah laugh when she heard he was born?
- She was too old physically, a woman after her kind.

Timeline and Map Activities

- I** **Isaac (ca. 2100-2000 BC)**

Creative Expression

Arty Copywork (Calligraphic)

What action words (action verbs) are in the copywork passage? (*foretold*, *conceived*) Discuss how using such intense verbs makes the sentence more lively and more powerful. "Animals came and gave birth." Can you children think of any more verbs to use? (*foretold* will never be used, *conceived*, *stroked*, *enjoyed*.)

What animals might the verbs be of? What animals may have crept on their hands? What animals may have crawled on their hands? What animals may have walked on their hands?

Arty Copywork Activity Sheet

Read the children to write a copy to about the particular animals that might be found in these specific ways. Two barnyard horses *loped* under the ark.

LA Week 2 Activity Sheet

Copywork 1*

Animals creeped, crawled, hopped, and galloped onto Noah's new boat.

After everyone was inside, the rain began to fall.

Write two sentences about animals that might have boarded Noah's ark in particular ways they creep? crawl? jump?!

Write two sentences about animals that might have boarded Noah's ark in particular ways they creep? crawl? jump?!

Copywork Application

Choose at least three of the descriptive words that you created last week. For each of those descriptive words, dictate at least two imaginative similes on the lines below.

1. Descriptive word: _____
Similes: _____

2. Descriptive word: _____
Similes: _____

3. Descriptive word: _____
Similes: _____

The Beginner's Bible, Noah's Ark, pp. 26, 30

Lesson 2, Unit 2 | Week 2 Activities

- Your Language Arts program comes with your Core Package and coordinates with what your children are already reading and studying each week.

- Your children write daily in a wide variety of genres: from copywork or dictation to brainstorming notes, imaginative pieces to research papers (starting at Language Arts D). You'll be thrilled with what they create.

- Weekly notes give you well-thought-out assignments and lots of variety. These notes walk you through what to teach your children and help you guide them in their assignments.

- Activity Sheets provide assignments that make your children eager to learn how to write well. Reproduction rights mean these sheets are good for the entire family.

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

9. Schedules for optional workbooks

If you want more instruction in phonics, grammar or vocabulary, we include schedules for optional workbooks.

Where do I find the Language Arts Guide?

In Cores A-C, you receive a separate Language Arts Instructor's Guide with your Core purchase. This guide coordinates with the

Readers Pack you choose and integrates your Readers' Schedule and Notes.

For Cores D and higher, the Language Arts Schedule is in your Core IG, on the back of the main Schedule each week. Your Language Arts Notes and assignments come after the other Core notes and assignments each day.

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





Science Guide

Science lessons made easy (and fun)!

Your Science IGs (for Science A-G) provide:

1. Complete, ready-to-use lesson plans

All your science books and experiments are fully scheduled for the entire year. No need to create your own plans!

2. Detailed teaching notes

Weekly Notes help you get the most from your materials. They explain each assignment and activity, point out fun facts about your reading and provide extra information about important topics.

3. Weekly experiments and activities

Simple, engaging experiments coordinate with your reading and provide hands-on learning. Sonlight's Science kits provide the key supplies ... so you actually do the experiments.

Many experiments are simple activities that build on the day's lesson - such as exploring taste buds using basic ingredients like lemon juice and sugar. Again, no planning necessary!

Your kids will relish the discoveries they make throughout the year. (And you'll love that they're demonstrating concepts that make learning stick.)

4. Organizational tools to plan ahead

See at-a-glance the supplies you need for experiments this week and in the coming week. Know what supplies you'll find in your Sonlight Science kits, and which household items you'll want to have ready.

5. Interactive Activity Sheets

Your Activity Sheets - with hundreds of activities, illustrations, charts and pictures - help students remember what they've learned.

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

Prep time? Zero! Educational value? Immense. Reproduction rights mean one guide is good for the entire family.

6. Complete Answer Keys

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

SCIENCE C	WEEK 3					SCHEDULE
Date:	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	
The Usborne Book of Knowledge	p. 98	pp. 100-101	pp. 102-103			
Activity Sheet Questions	#1-2	#3	#4-5			
5-Day: The Usborne Book of Knowledge						pp. 66-67
Activity Sheet Questions						#8-10
Discover & Do Level 2 DVD				#47-48		
Science Activities, Vol. 3				"Feeding Your Body" pp. 40-41		
Activity Sheet Questions				#6-7		
Supplies	We provide: NSK—mirror. You provide: apple, milk, kiwi, box of gelatin, two large bowls, box of pudding (if you want to do the alternate experiment).					
Shopping/Planning List	For next week: tennis ball, watch with					
Other						

Notes

Day 1

The Usborne Book of Knowledge [p. 98]

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

Activity Sheet Questions #1-2

Day 2

The Usborne Book of Knowledge [pp. 100-101]

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

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

It's fine if you don't follow all the text in the text bubbles exactly in a particular order, so long as your children get an idea of the concepts. Note, too, that sometimes you will see little boxes of text and images, such as the "bag of worms" on page 100. "Where Your Eating Machine Is" (pp. 100-101) are sidebars that provide additional information about the topic being studied.

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

Activity Sheet Questions #3

Day 3

The Usborne Book of Knowledge [pp. 102-103]

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

Activity Sheet Questions #4-5

10 | Week 3 | Section Two | Geology, Meteorology, and Mechanical Technology

Week 3 Activity Sheets

1. What is one kind of machine? What can it do?

2. How did God create the world?

3. Match the pictures to the words.

4. What four tastes do the taste buds sense? (p. 103)

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____

5. Why does brushing your teeth help you avoid cavities? (pp. 102-103)

(because when you brush the liquid from chewed food off of your teeth, it can't make tiny holes where bacteria can grow to cause cavities.)

Science Activities, Volume 3

a. Are all of your teeth the same shape? (p. 40) Yes No

b. Which of your teeth bite (choppers)? (p. 40) Front Back

c. Which of your teeth chew (grinders)? (p. 40) Front Back

7. Use the words in the box to complete the statements.

food saliva stomach

In your body, enzymes are in your _____ (saliva) and in your _____ (stomach).

They help your body break down _____ (food). (p. 41)

Week 3 | Geology, Meteorology, and Mechanical Technology

Note: Sample pages are typical for levels A-G.



"Sonlight Instructor's Guides lay out everything for me, saving so much time and frustration," writes Emmy D of Pinedale, WY. "It's evident that much research and thought has been put into the curriculum, and I'm amazed at how quickly and well my oldest son learned to read. I believe that if I hadn't discovered Sonlight my first year of homeschooling, I wouldn't have wanted to continue. I look forward to teaching without any of the anxiety many homeschool parents experience." Adrianna (6) and Thane (7) are both using Core C in their third Sonlight year.

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

Is Sonlight Worth the Investment?

Sonlight isn't the cheapest homeschool curriculum on the market. Nor is it easiest academically. It requires that you spend time reading to and talking with your children.

So you might wonder ... is Sonlight worth the investment? Thousands of homeschool families worldwide give a resounding YES! Why? Customers consistently tell us about the return on their Sonlight investment: a truly enjoyable, successful and rewarding homeschool experience.

Invest dollars ... get peace of mind

Sonlight gives you curriculum you can use again and again, provides a lasting library, saves you untold hours of stressful planning and material-gathering, and gives you peace of mind because you know your kids are getting a great education.

Get details on Sonlight's financial value on p. 148 (see reason #13) and p. 144 (reason #4). For a close look at the cost of Sonlight vs. private school, public school, using the library, or creating your own curriculum, visit sonlight.com/pinching-pennies. These are just a few of the returns you can expect on your Sonlight investment. There are more!

Invest shelf space ... and build a library with lasting benefits

Sonlight programs include lots of books. You'll get a box (or two or three) full of quality books with your curriculum purchase. Why so many?

You probably know that great books help students interact with history, geography and faith. When children form emotional connections with characters, they actually remember what they read. They gain the context they need to understand the flow of world history. You just can't get these benefits from a few books each year.

But why should you own these books? An extensive new study shows, "A child from a family

rich in books is 19 percentage points more likely to complete university than a comparable child growing up without a home library."¹ In fact, the size of a home library greatly affects educational achievement, "even adjusting for parents' education."

This library also provides quality family entertainment that will last for years. Sonlight books are so good, kids really do read them again and again. And that nurtures a love for reading and learning.

Through hard work, students get prepared for life

Sonlight students will work hard. They will read more books, cover more history, learn more science, do more experiments and complete broader writing assignments than most other students.

We often hear stories of Sonlight students wowing parents, pastors, public school teachers and college professors with their understanding of geography, the flow of history and the world. Sonlight students are academically prepared for life.

Sonlight fosters a love to learn

Much of this success comes because Sonlight students truly love to learn. You can only force-feed an education for so long, and with limited success. As children read great books and learn with Sonlight, "force-feeding" becomes unnecessary. And once that fire is lit, the sky is the limit for what students will accomplish.

Sonlight prepares students to think critically

Sonlight is different than most other curricula because it asks you to do the significant work of listening to more than one point of view. Instead of sticking to "safe" topics and books that all agree with one another, students and parents (especially in the older years) interact with top-notch books from diverse viewpoints. All with the guidance, balancing commentary and firmly Christian perspective of your Instructor's Guide.

Because of this crucial work, your kids will be able to discuss tricky topics with their hearts and minds when they graduate – topics such as evolution and design, postmodernism and absolute truth, politics and reasons for their faith.

Sonlight prepares students to live in this world

Many young Americans from Christian homes walk away from their faith in college and early adulthood. One study reports that "a majority of twentysomethings – 61% of today's young adults – had been churched at one point during their teen years but they are now spiritually disengaged."² We suspect most didn't face the tough questions of faith and modern culture until college. Since they hadn't been prepared to navigate these issues from a Christian perspective, they reached an intellectual or emotional impasse and walked away.

Sonlight doesn't ignore these tough questions.

1. "Home Libraries Provide Huge Educational Advantage," April 2010. Accessed at miller-mccune.com in Jan. 2012.
2. "Most Twentysomethings Put Christianity on the Shelf Following Spiritually Active Teen Years," Sept. 2006. Accessed at barna.org in Jan. 2012.

Students engage with them from the safety and guidance of their parents' home as they grow. We can't guarantee that your children will always walk with the Lord (no one can guarantee such a thing). But with Sonlight, you can help your children gain sure footing before they head out into the world.

Sonlight equips students to do whatever God calls them to do

The well-rounded education that comes from a rigorous literature-rich approach prepares students for whatever God may have for them.

Sonlight graduates are now college students, pastors, engineers, missionaries, musicians, elected officials, entrepreneurs, doctors, farmers and more! Meet recent grads and read their stories on p. 161 or at sonlight.com/scholarship-winners-2013.

Parents invest time with their children ... and reap lifelong benefits

The most important investment you'll make with Sonlight is yourself and your time. In return ...

Sonlight fosters a genuine connection between parents and children. Our curriculum involves lots of parent-child interaction because we believe you are your child's most valuable teacher and guide. Customers tell us that the special times reading and talking together have created family bonds stronger than they could have imagined.

One of the big benefits of Sonlight – a true return on your investment of time and energy – is that the curriculum opens up all sorts of conversations you may not have otherwise had with your children. You'll learn about character development, hard choices, difficult points in history and the amazing stories of people who follow God. You'll naturally talk with your kids about everything from politics and faith to nature and history. (Don't worry – we provide tools to guide you in those discussions.)

When children learn to trust their parents as a valuable source of guidance, this helps instill an important lesson: You are a trusted, safe and good source of life wisdom and direction.

We often hear from parents of high schoolers who have used Sonlight for years. "You won't believe the caliber of conversations we're having!" they write. "The years of hard work and talking are paying off in ways I would have never imagined. My teenagers and I are close, and talk about everything." Oh, what many parents would give for a relationship with their teenagers like that!

So you decide: Is Sonlight worth the investment? With a one-year money-back guarantee (see p. 24), give it a try and find out.

"We've done our best to keep costs in check and continue to offer significant discounts on Multi-Subject Package and Core purchases."

-Sarita Holzmann, President



"One of the things our kids love most about Sonlight is the hands-on experiments," writes Bryan G of San Diego, CA. "I was pleasantly surprised to discover that my children were able to construct them almost entirely themselves just by watching the Sonlight Science DVD and following the step-by-step instructions. Even our preschool-aged daughter can join in the fun at her own level and learn!" In their fourth year of Sonlight study, Ethan (9), Austin (10) and Katie (5) are using Science D and Language Arts 2.

What Makes Sonlight Programs Remarkable

by Sarita Holzmann

How do we choose books for each Sonlight Core? Is a Core more than just books? Well, here's the inside scoop of how we pick books and turn them into robust curricula. Head to sonlight.com/sarita-letter for more details (and the story of my \$1,000 rookie homeschooling mistake), and please enjoy *the rest of the story* ...

-Sarita Holzmann, President

For each Core, we ...

1 Start with a strategic topic

The curriculum development team and I have outlined what children should learn from preschool through high school. Each Core has a unique place in that plan (see p. 154 for the full outline). Armed with a strategic topic, the creation process begins ...

3 Pick the very cream of the crop.

Of every hundred books I read, I find only two or three that merit consideration for a Core Program. From that small pile I, with help from the curriculum development team, strategically choose the History books, Readers and Read-Alouds.

4 Create a schedule to weave those books together.

My team and I look at the span of each Core (e.g., World History from the fall of Rome through the present) and create a schedule that logically moves through the material in an intellectually and emotionally satisfying manner. We make sure to cover what is most important: from events and ideas to key people and places.

5 Turn that schedule into a full Instructor's Guide with assignments, extensive notes, maps, teaching helps and more.

In this stage, we transform a pile of books into a cohesive learning package. We develop academic exercises, dictation assignments, discussion questions and writing assignments to accompany the books. We provide relevant maps and cultural literacy notes. If passages in a book are unclear or biased, we do the research and give explanations, commentary or counterbalancing arguments. We craft teaching pointers to help you discuss important but tricky subjects (such as slavery in the US before the Civil War) with your kids.

Know that each Guide is the result of hundreds - probably thousands - of hours of work by Sonlight's curriculum developers. We do the work so you don't have to!

And don't forget, you also get ...

- Your materials shipped to your doorstep
- A one-year money-back guarantee (p. 24)
- Non-stop support if you ever have questions about orders or using your materials (sonlight.com/contact).
- The benefit of our constant work to research, update and improve our Core, Language Arts and Science Programs. This means you enjoy an up-to-date, truly remarkable home-school experience with your children.



2 Read stacks of books

I constantly review new books (on average, over 50 every week). I read - I mean really *evaluate*, in-depth - nearly a dozen books a week. So in 20 years, I've read *at least* 10,000 books. Being able to compare and contrast so many books helps me evaluate any new ones I read. And it helps me find the true all-stars, which are the only books that make it into a Sonlight Core.

What it takes for a book to become a

**Sonlight
ALL★STAR**

Except in rare circumstances, every book in a Sonlight Core must pass my **7-point test**:

1. **Real/realistic characters.** Heroes should not be flawless. Anti-heroes ought not to be thoroughly detestable. They need to be nuanced and complex - the way real people really are.
2. **Solid character development.** The protagonist must change (for the better) over the course of the book.
3. **Content that adds to the reader's cultural literacy.** The book's plot, setting, characters, or vocabulary - something - must contribute to a reader's knowledge about world events and cultures, or their understanding of "the way things work" in human relations ... in life.
4. **Intriguing, multidimensional plot.**
5. **Emotionally compelling.** The story has to move me.
6. **Verbally beautiful.** The writing must be superb and allow for fluent reading - silently or out loud.
7. **Re-readable.** You have to want to read it over and over again.

6 Add hands-on activities (for Cores P3/4 through F, ages 3 through 13).

From the built-in activities in Cores P3/4 and P4/5, to the "Core Tips" CD-ROMs that accompany Cores A-E, to the engaging activities in the Core F Instructor's Guide, we give you ideas for relevant, simple, hands-on activities and enriching extras whenever you want them.

ONE-YEAR see p. 24
MONEY-BACK
GUARANTEE
LOVE TO LEARN, LOVE TO TEACH

“Can we *please* do school today?”



“Taking time to read each night with the kids has been one of the highlights of my husband’s day,” writes Kathryn Z of Columbus, MS. “I think he enjoys Sienna’s Read-Alouds as much as she does! I am very glad we finally chose to purchase Sonlight. The layout of the Cores is easy to follow and we know what we need to do. I needed a more organized approach to school, but not so rigid that it would interfere with the flexibility of our home life. Sonlight is exactly what our family needed!” On a typical evening, Dad settles in for a Read-Aloud with Micah (8), Sienna (6), Luca (3) and baby Elijah. Micah is using Core D this year as Sienna enjoys Core A and Luca explores Sonlight preschool.



“Sonlight Science D is excellent in answering so many of their questions about the world around them,” writes Jeff G. “Both Tate and his sister Abby eagerly pull out the science books (spelling and writing can wait) and want to hear about biology, water, animals and LIFE. [Overheard] ‘We get to do real science today! At the pond! Let’s find a water snake. Hey, that’s a tadpole, and that’s algae over there! It grows from lots of sun.’ That’s how it went as Tate introduced his cousin Curtis (who had a day off from school) to science class, outside!” Tate (6) is studying Core C and Science D in his third Sonlight year of study.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sonlight’s award-winning series of “real” books makes history come alive.

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

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

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

Learning happens naturally, easily.

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

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

Your kids won’t want the school day to end - and you won’t, either!

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

It happens to all of us.

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

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

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

Imagine having FUN teaching your kids!

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

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

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

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

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



The plaintive cry of Sonlight children when school is out.

You'll experience other unexpected benefits as well.

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

Case in point, Tammy:

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

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

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

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

What makes a HUGE difference in those difficult teen years?

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

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

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

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

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

A great investment for your family!

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

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

Becky wrote,

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

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

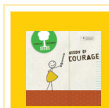
Sonlight is a worthy investment - even in difficult economic times. Invest not only in your children's education, but in top-notch "recreation" ... for you, the parents, too. You will want to read many Sonlight books for your own pleasure and education. Really.

Deb F commented:

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

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

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



Seeds Family Worship CDs
— music to live by
p. 94

"We've been using Sonlight for two years now and all I can say is my kids have an insatiable desire for learning. They never ask to quit reading. One time I decided I would try to out-read them. It lasted for 2 1/2 hours. They were still attentive, but my mouth was dry!"

- Anne K, Aug. 2012



"With a brand new baby at home, Sonlight has made homeschooling so easy," writes Janet V of Orlando, FL. "My oldest son Jacob could go to the Instructor's Guide and pick out the books and tell me what pages to read. It was so nice to continue homeschooling while nurturing our newest son. I am so thankful that the Sonlight curriculum is so easy to use and my boys love 'doing school.'" Jacob (5) and Noah (4) are sharing Core C in their third year of Sonlight. Here, they meet their beautiful baby brother for the first time.



You know you're a homeschooler when
... you own more books than movies.



"Sonlight has helped make eager learners of our children. They are becoming quite the God-loving, intelligent, critical thinkers," writes Laurie H of Lockport, IL. "The Instructor's Guides are very user-friendly and take the time out of lesson planning, so we have more time to enjoy the actual learning. The books and Read-Alouds are among our favorites and Bible time at breakfast is how we start our day. I truly wish Sonlight was the way I'd been taught!" After reading about the life cycles of frogs and tadpoles in the Kindergarten Multi-Subject Package, 6-year-old Joey joyfully heads off to catch some!

27 Reasons NOT to Buy Sonlight

Let's just get this out in the open: Sonlight® curriculum may not be a good fit for you. If it's not, what better time to discover that than now – while you're just reading our catalog?

Here at Sonlight, we've heard from many, many customers in the past 20 years. Most feedback is very positive, but we appreciate the constructive and sometimes painful feedback as well. It helps us understand what we can do better and how we can help families make informed choices about our curriculum.

The following 27 reasons why you may not want to purchase Sonlight come from former customers who found our curriculum to be a poor fit for their families.

If only a few of the following reasons apply to you, know that many families happily modify Sonlight to fit their needs. You can ask questions about your family's situation and get helpful, realistic feedback from Sonlight customers at sonlight.com/choosing-forum.

And if you buy Sonlight, start using it and then decide it's not for you, you can still return it for a full refund. (Learn more about our "Love to Learn, Love to Teach" Guarantee on p. 24 or at sonlight.com/love.) To minimize the possibility that you'll be disappointed, please consider the main reasons people say they DON'T want to buy Sonlight curriculum:

1 They don't want a lot of reading.

When you use Sonlight, you and your children will read. A lot. Sonlight is thoroughly grounded in literature and reading.

If you don't like to read; if you won't enjoy reading out loud to your young children; if your older children find no pleasure in reading, you may need

to either find audio versions of Sonlight books or use a program other than Sonlight.

On an encouraging note: Many parents have used Sonlight in hopes that the great books will "hook" their reluctant readers. I can happily report that in the vast majority of cases this strategy has worked!

2 They want a curriculum that revolves around hands-on activities.

Several programs on the market advertise their strong activity orientation. While Sonlight has more options for hands-on activities in the elementary grades than most of our competitors, we have chosen a different primary emphasis.

We recognize that hands-on learning greatly helps many children, and we give parents specific tools to incorporate hands-on learning in many areas. Core P4/5 brims over with developmentally-appropriate hands-on activities that are simple to prepare and that truly help your children grow. Cores A through E (for ages 5-12) come with weekly suggestions of many activities to correlate with your learning.

Sonlight's Science programs are loaded with activities and experiments. We also emphasize hands-on activities in early elementary Math programs. Such activities are particularly helpful for kinesthetic learners; they help families with different types of learners all enjoy Sonlight together.

But on the other hand, we don't schedule time-consuming activities that put the emphasis on parent preparation. We've found these activities often don't have a strong enough educational payoff to make them worthwhile. When my wife was homeschooling, she'd come across suggestions to do things like make raccoon-skin caps, create playground-sized maps of the world, cook Pilgrim-era Thanksgiving meals and so on.

While these kinds of activities may, no doubt, be loads of fun, it is our opinion that their educational value is not worth the hours parents must spend doing preparatory work. So if you want to do them, we bless you in your desire. But we have not incorporated them into our fundamental educational program.

We find that as parents read dynamic and engaging books to their children, they fill their minds with strong mental images and challenging ideas. Then children decide on their own, what activities they want to do. And they prepare for those activities on their own with minimal guidance from us. (Ever seen what kids will do with a cardboard box? Or a stick? They create ideas without Mom or Dad preparing something for them!)

Our own children and countless Sonlighters over the past 20 years have borne witness to these ideas. We have seen positive effects in many families when parents focus on reading great books

with their kids and do few if any parent-directed hands-on activities.

So even though we do include lots of hands-on activities that tie directly into what you're learning, these activities are never the main thrust of our curriculum. They're more of an optional, child-directed, supplemental tool.

We realize, however, that your situation could be different from ours. Perhaps you've found your children need intense, parent-driven, hands-on activities in order to master the material you're teaching; or maybe you yourself feel energized by such activities.

In either case, you may want to do one of two things. 1) Come visit forums.sonlight.com and find loads of activities your fellow teachers suggest for Sonlight programs. (There are many moms who love to prepare hands-on activities and use Sonlight curriculum with joy and good success!) Or, 2) purchase one of the activities-based programs on the market.

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

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

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

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

4 They believe Sonlight is too expensive.

Sonlight® Core packages cost between \$285 and \$765. Multi-Subject Packages with all the main subjects for one child for one year cost between \$285 and \$889. Let me acknowledge up front that these costs are beyond the means of many families. Sonlight absolutely may be beyond your financial capacity. And if it is, we don't want to see you place your family in jeopardy by buying from us.

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



"Sonlight helped foster a love of reading in my former reluctant reader," writes Tanya P of Scottsburg, VA. "I can't begin to describe the joy I felt when I peeped into Mason's room after hearing him talking and found him reading to his 'children.' We love reading a quality Sonlight book together. Read-Aloud time is a time we look forward to and don't want to miss for any reason. Our family loves Sonlight with a passion!" Mason (8) is sharing Core D with his brother Hunter (11) in their fourth year of homeschooling and third year of Sonlight.

Sonlight is not right for everyone. Find out why.

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

And that's been our attitude toward Sonlight.

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

But if you want to enjoy a delightful program that has been coordinated, scheduled and laid out for you; if you want curriculum full of the finest literature available; if you want the assurance that comes from a one-year, money-back, "Love to Learn, Love to Teach" Guarantee, complete with all the support provided by its award-winning publisher and amazingly inquisitive customers; if you want to enjoy those special extras that Sonlight Core customers have been delighted to receive through the years; if you want to buy from a company known for bend-over-backward customer service, a commitment to the highest ethics, and one that dedicates a high percentage of its profits to charitable causes you can believe in, you may decide it's worth it to go for Sonlight curriculum.

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

- Making it possible for children at different grade levels – as much as three or four years or more apart – to study the same subjects together. (See "How to Choose Your Curriculum," p. 22.)
- Allowing you to re-use curriculum with your younger children when age differences are too great to combine all your children with one Core each year. When the younger ones are ready for each Core you've already used with the older kids, you can pull it off the shelf, order a few extra resources and get started! There are very few consumable items in Core packages.

Sonlight also offers additional value by ...

- Providing education and entertainment. (Families often say their children re-read their Sonlight books again and again for fun after they finish each Core.)
- Providing opportunities for significant family times together: times that no one – not even a never-read-a-book-in-my-life husband – will want to miss.

You get all these "extras" from Sonlight for an investment that ranges from only \$7.47 to \$24.42 per week of school. Compare this with your other curriculum options and you may realize what a good deal Sonlight really is.

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

Once you do the full calculation, you may decide – as we have – that Sonlight is a better deal than you thought. Don't forget about Sonlight's interest-free payment plan options (see p. 156).

For a deeper discussion of Sonlight's cost, take a look at sonlight.com/pinching-pennies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parents who object to Sonlight curriculum on this ground may:

- 1) believe it is wrong to mention or teach about beliefs or practices that are different from their own;
- 2) want to begin introducing these ideas much later than families who love Sonlight tend to;
- 3) lack the time or confidence to process difficult or controversial ideas with their children.

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

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

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

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

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

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

With Sonlight, your children will do a fair amount of work on their own. Math and Handwriting, for example, require independent work. But in Sonlight's areas of unique strength – History and Literature – the program will not work if parents hand it to their elementary or middle school children to do on their own.

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



"Sonlight's relaxed schedule allowed Bobby to take three weeks off for a mission trip to Slovenia," writes Rebecca J of Chiefland, FL. "We'd just finished reading about Brother Andrew, so it was a great opportunity to reach out to the same people group. Thanks for choosing Read-Alouds that are so amazing!" Bobby (14) is using Core 200 in his fifth Sonlight year.

Continued 27 Reasons NOT to Buy Sonlight

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

Why?

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

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

Second, we provide a broad range of thought-provoking experiences for you to share with your children. But how do you ensure you talk about

worthwhile things? In our opinion (borne out in practice): by enjoying numerous and varied opportunities to identify with and discuss believable characters in literature and history. These are exactly the kinds of experiences customers tell us they get when they read the books Sonlight provides.

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

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

In a standard American history/social studies curriculum, students begin with study of "my community," then move outward to "my state," "my country" and so on. They devote 10 of 12 years – more than 80% of their homeschool time – to study of the history and culture of a nation that has existed for less than 10% of recorded history and encompasses fewer than 5% of all the people in the world!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We believe that academics ought to be based on and intentionally related to Scripture. Bible reading, themes, memory verses and Scripture study are an integral part of each Sonlight Core program. In the upper levels, the included Bible study (including Apologetics and Church history) can be quite rigorous as we help students find sure footing in their faith. As we have discovered, however, this is not enough for many people. They want their materials more frequently connected directly to Scripture references. They like to see a reference or quote from Scripture on nearly every page.

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

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

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

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



"The exuberant phrase, 'Mom, this is what we read about!' is frequent evidence of our kids' joy in learning," writes Julia H of Saint Johnsbury, VA. "Sonlight has melded together our family's love for reading with a selection of captivating and instructional books. Our children love to cuddle up on the couch for Read-Aloud time, as we explore the past and delight in the present. As a parent, it's delightful to have our kids connect everyday experiences with what they learn in school. In this photo, my son Danny, who is particularly interested in the life sciences, is thrilling over one of God's fascinating creatures: a frog." Danny (5) is using Core C in his third year of Sonlight.



Sonlight is not right for everyone. Find out why.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please know: Sarita does not choose maudlin, sappy, romantic, nostalgic or sentimental books. Rather, she looks for emotions that fit more with words like poignant, heartwarming, powerful, deep and thought-provoking. (Read her 7-point criteria for "Sonlight All-Star books" on p. 141.)

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

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

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

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

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

Or ...

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

We are convinced that homeschooling is much more time-efficient than traditional education, and homeschoolers don't need to spend near as much time in formal educational activities as students in classroom settings. But we also believe that we homeschooling parents have a responsibility before God to help our children acquire wisdom, knowledge and a foundation for future success as much as possible while they are under our care.

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

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

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

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

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

... Or they will do the Read-Alouds (some of them, anyway) at night, thinking of them as bedtime stories, or they will read the books during the summer, when the kids are bored.

Some parents, however, just can't shake the feeling that they are failures if they don't do every last item mentioned in the Instructor's Guide (and do

it in the same order and at the same pace that the Guide seems to suggest).

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

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



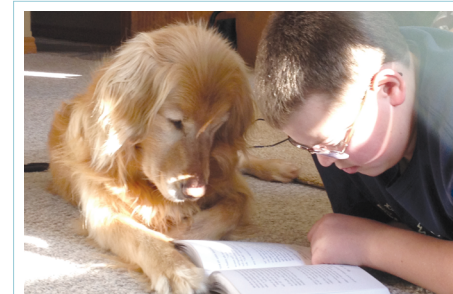
If these reasons cause you no great concern, or if you are willing to work around any difficulties you see (look to an advisor, sonlight.com/SCA or the Choosing Forums, sonlight.com/choosing-forum for help with this) ... then welcome to Sonlight. We look forward to serving you.

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

– by John Holzmann, father of the original four Sonlight students and co-founder of Sonlight Curriculum.



**FAST SHIPPING
FREE!**
sonlight.com/shipping



"Our boys love to read the many Sonlight stories that bring history, people and places all over the world to life for them," writes Sonja H of River Falls, WI. "Reading has become their favorite activity and we are so glad they've developed a real love for books early in life – largely due to exposure to such wonderful literature through Sonlight's curriculum over the past five years." Here, Jon (13) enjoys a riveting read from Core 100 Literature, alongside his curious canine companion, Cameron.

27 Reasons Families Love Sonlight

Homeschool parents tell us that Sonlight® curriculum helps them joyfully learn alongside their children instead of simply handing them materials and expecting their children to educate themselves. They say the entire process becomes a joy for parents and children.

Sound intriguing? Here are 27 reasons customers tell us they're convinced Sonlight is a captivating, user-friendly, God-honoring curriculum.

Might these become your reasons for using Sonlight, too?

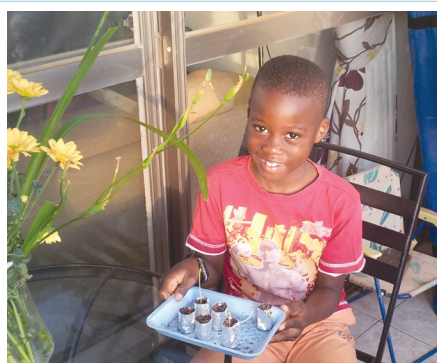
With Sonlight you receive:

1 Great books that form the foundation of a great education.

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

2 Literature-based learning that makes history “come alive.”

Sonlight's story-centered approach transforms “schoolwork” into “edge-of-your-seat” living history. Your children will remember more of what they learn because they won't merely study it in dry textbooks; they will experience it through living books.



“I'm not sure which part of Sonlight makes my son more alive: History or the Science experiments,” writes Pendo G of Uganda. “We live in Uganda, and when we invite one child from the neighborhood to join our class, we get the whole village! One boy agreed to an offer I jokingly made for our family to adopt him. But first, his face turned serious. He had an important condition to request: ‘Will I get to do Science with Tai?’ I answered in the affirmative, and with that, he happily said ‘Okay!’” Talema (9), is studying Core D+E in his third Sonlight year. Here, his experiment suggests that plants don't like to feel crowded.

3 The benefit of experts who research and gather all the best tools for you.

Our curriculum development team strategically chooses the best books and products and we send them straight to you, ready for a year of learning. Sonlight does the searching so you can spend that busy “hunting for books” time with your family instead.

4 More time to interact with your children.

Sonlight minimizes the prep work and maximizes the time you have for discussions with your children about issues that matter to you (many of which you wouldn't have even thought to bring up). With our Instructor's Guides – designed for homeschoolers – you'll find you engage in heart-felt, thoughtful discussions on a regular basis.

5 A learning (and teaching) experience that you enjoy as much as your children do.

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

6 A biblical base that provides a solid intellectual and spiritual foundation for your kids.

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

7 Curriculum that helps children gain a balanced perspective on controversial issues.

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

8 Curriculum that fosters a broad and godly view of the world.

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

9 A liberal arts and hard sciences emphasis that prepares children to be cultural leaders.

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

10 Curriculum that directs your children toward worthy life goals.

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

11 Curriculum that trains students to engage different points of view with gracious humility.

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

12 A friendly community of homeschoolers to help and encourage you.

The Sonlighters Club Forums (forums.sonlight.com) offer warm community, great advice and the chance to meet kindred spirits. Occasionally, these parents get together locally to meet and share in person. You can also find community at facebook.com/sonlight and sonlight.com/blog.

13 A tremendous value.

Even if you never enjoy the incredible discounts – huge savings on Multi-Subject and Core Packages, plus 10% off nearly everything else you buy from Sonlight for an entire year (not to mention the free shipping, one-year trial and college scholarship opportunities that are yours when you purchase a Core or Multi-Subject Package) – Sonlight curriculum is still an excellent value.

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

14 The option to teach two or more children with one program.

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



Find out if they might be your reasons, too.

15 Assignments that readily meet all your children's academic needs.

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

16 Maximized educational value through strategic attention to children's developmental needs.

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

17 One-stop shopping convenience.

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

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

18 Homeschool support, from personal consultations to videos and articles.

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

19 Four- and five-day schedules you can easily follow or modify as you go.

Your entire week's schedule is outlined for you. You can see it at a glance and choose whether to nibble on a bit of each subject each day or focus on one subject at a time.

20 Access to a company that actually listens to you!

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

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

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

Sonlight® Core Instructor's Guides schedule every Core subject (History, Geography, Bible, Reading and Language Arts) as an integrated learning experience. You can easily add our separate Science Packages with complete Instructor's Guides as well.

22 Time (because we eliminate unnecessary busy work).

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

23 An unparalleled one-year trial.

No other homeschool curriculum offers such a generous, comprehensive guarantee: Take a full year to use up to 18 weeks of your Sonlight® Multi-Subject Package or Core package. If it doesn't surpass all your expectations and desires, please return it (used books and all) for a full refund. (Full details on p. 156 or at sonlight.com/love.)

24 FREE shipping (for all Core purchasers in the lower 48 states).

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

25 A 10% discount on all additional materials for a year when you purchase a Core or Multi-Subject Package.

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

26 Payment plan options that help make Sonlight budget-friendly.

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

27 The opportunity to encourage Kingdom efforts around the world when you buy from Sonlight.

We count it as a privilege to support international missions, church planting, literacy, education and disaster relief efforts that touch the lives and

hearts of people around the world – especially in the neediest parts of the planet, such as the "10/40 Window." We also enable motivated customers to participate directly in these efforts along with us.

Thanks for reading a few of the reasons families love Sonlight. If these reasons appeal to you, I encourage you to give Sonlight a try. With that unbeatable one-year guarantee, you have nothing to lose and a whole world of learning to gain. (Find out more about Sonlight's guarantee on p. 156.)

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

God bless you as you choose which curriculum will help you mold and shape your children into lifelong learners.

To see customers share in their own words what they love about Sonlight, head to sonlight.com/quotes or scan the code to the right.



CURIOUS?

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



"Sonlight really brings Science to life,"

writes Tiffany H. of Garrison, TX. "The adventures and experiments make learning a great bonding experience for our family. Our five children and I all enjoy exploring outside with Sonlight Science A. It allows our family to have much more time together through learning and fun because the lesson plans and materials are there for us. We are thankful that we can learn in a natural style and all together." Using the *Children's Encyclopedia* [from Core A and Science A] for reference, Tiffany explores outside with Briley (7), Bryce (6), Kelsey (2), Kinley (2) and baby Blake.

Our Top Ten Goals: Do they match yours?

What are your goals for education? What do you hope to accomplish in your homeschool?

As John and Sarita Holzmann taught their four children and developed Sonlight® curriculum, they laid out clear goals to guide their steps. We'd like to share those goals with you here, so you can evaluate Sonlight in light of your own values and goals. If you haven't spelled out your own goals yet, perhaps this list will serve as inspiration. Sonlight seeks to help parents:

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

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

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

2 Create a learner's heart, an enthusiasm for discovery.

What good does it do to fill children's minds with information if they never acquire a heartfelt desire to learn and grow in wisdom?

We want our kids to grow up with the same attitude and conviction Solomon had: "Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her" (Proverbs 3:13-15).

When students want to learn, we believe they are equipped to improve their skills throughout life so they can press toward the goals God wants them to pursue.



"Sonlight helps us find God everywhere. I love the Scripture 'nuggets' packed in the IG," writes Amanda C of Bethel, AK. "Hannah especially enjoys all of the creative activities. I asked her what she thinks of Sonlight, and she said, 'I love it!'" In the family's second Sonlight year, Hannah (7) and Abigail (3) paint scenes from History B+C.

3 Encourage children to honor God's "Great Commission" by maintaining an international focus; to raise kids with a godly heart for the world.

God's plans are for all peoples. We seek to make that evident through the year-by-year organization of our studies, through the books we carry, and through the notes in your Instructor's Guides.

Rather than following the standard social studies approach – "teaching" early elementary children about familiar things ("our community") and then slowly working outward to unfamiliar things ("our state," "our country," "our world") – Sonlight curriculum turns the learning experience on its head.

We figure kids already have at least a working knowledge of their local communities. They know, more or less, what the police do and why the fire department exists. What they can't imagine is that anyone lives differently than they do. Most have no idea that there is a big world around them, filled with people who have completely different experiences from their own.

So we begin exposing students to world history right from the start – in *Core A: World Cultures*.

By Core D, when we begin on American history, children understand instinctively that American history is no ordinary, boring subject. Rather, they are studying a unique culture that contrasts with other world cultures and is fascinating in its own right. With this global perspective, students are better equipped to understand their potential role in God's global Kingdom work.

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. In order to emphasize this amazing legacy of God's people, we must provide children an historical and biographical view of the world.

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

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

We also want children to know the tremendous risks (from the human perspective) these people took to fulfill God's call on their lives. Some of them, by God's grace, confronted and overcame the greatest evils imaginable in cultures around the world.

We want children, through their reading, to see, know and understand the sacrifices that they themselves may be called upon to make if they are to fulfill God's purposes in their lives.

We want our students to understand that they are part of a movement and plan (God's plan) that is far bigger than they are – a movement and plan that has been carried forward through the centuries by "a great cloud" of faithful, self-sacrificing people who fulfilled their callings (see Hebrews 12:1).

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 their work and culture.

5 Train children to become winsome and effective ambassadors for Christ.

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

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

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

But, interestingly, 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 what is alien and then run away. It is their job to engage or interact with whatever is not "their own."

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

Using the biblical military analogy: Soldiers for Christ must learn not only to recognize who the enemy is; they must also learn 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.

Therefore, Sonlight is designed to ...

6 Teach students not only biblical content, but how to listen to others.

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



After all, who would you believe truly cared for you, and who would you pay attention to: someone who listens intently to what you have to say before giving a gracious and thoughtful reply? Or someone who – before you’ve even finished speaking – launches into a prepared monologue designed to “set you straight”?

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

Studies have shown, and we’ve seen it proven time and again: Children whose parents read to them regularly and at length are better at listening and understanding what they hear than are children whose parents only read to them a little.

Sonlight Read-Aloud classics entice you and your children to read together – often, and at great length. Neither you nor your children will want to stop! And so they learn to listen.

A second means by which we teach students to listen has a slightly different purpose and more difficult method. Yet we believe this additional step is vital if we are to raise up effective communicators.

The second step? To convey different sides to an argument.

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

Thus, most of us are far more comfortable to remain ignorant of other people’s claims than (first) to become familiar with what they have to say and (second) to find quality answers or, possibly, to admit they have a point we had never before considered.

Sonlight seeks to teach students never to bow to fear or ignorant laziness. Instead, we seek to:

7 Teach students, through experience, that God is faithful; they can listen to other perspectives without having their faith destroyed.

In other words, with the supportive help of their parents, we teach students the tools, techniques, knowledge and skills of godly intellectual engagement.

How do we do that? By introducing them to some of the alternative perspectives people hold on various matters. In the early elementary years, of course, we deal with relatively easy issues, but upper-level students move on to issues of deep moral and spiritual importance. For example:

- In the early grades, instead of merely giving a young-earth creationist perspective, we discuss the old-earth creationist perspective and use some books that present an evolutionary point of view as well. The Instructor’s Guides equip parents to guide their children in this.
- In Core E, when we come to the so-called

American Civil War, we present materials from both sides – from a Union perspective and from the perspective of Confederate sympathizers.

- In high school, rather than only learning church history from evangelical Protestants, we invite apologists for the three other main historic branches of Christianity – the “Church of the East,” the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church – to speak in defense of their respective communions.

I could go on with examples of issues where we present the “other” side. But I think you get the point.

We want students to be convinced, through experience, that they can find legitimate answers to questions that people coming from “the other side” may ask. Even when students don’t happen to know the answers, they need not run in fear.

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

And this is intimately tied to another goal:

8 Inspire students to fulfill the work of true scholars.

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

Through assignments, and by means of integral notes in the Instructor’s Guides, Sonlight seeks to draw students along in the scholarly process.

Some may question the value of quality scholarship. We believe it has a direct and valuable impact on a person’s ambassadorship. Those who have “done their homework” are in far better positions than those who haven’t to communicate effectively with people who hold different perspectives.

9 Prepare students to think deeply about, cry over and prepare themselves for action on significant social, personal and ethical issues.

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

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

10 Raise “culturally literate” students.

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

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

Sonlight seeks to raise world-changers: people who will make a difference ... for good. And so we place a premium upon cultural literacy.

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

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

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

Some of the “fruit,” customers say, has come largely from their children’s use of Sonlight:

One Sonlighter was recently the first in her family to graduate college. Another just started at Stanford. Another Sonlight grad is headed to the Navy to study nuclear engineering. Another student plans to be a medical missionary, while another has served as a page in her governor’s office and is already working to fight human trafficking.

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

Now you know our top goals. What are yours when it comes to educating your children? Do you think Sonlight might help you achieve them? If our goals are in alignment, we’d count it a privilege to come alongside you.



“Sonlight makes it so simple to give my kids the love of learning I’d always hoped for,” writes Becky C of Pinetops, NC. “In our first year homeschooling, I couldn’t be happier with their progress!” Here, Mandy (8) and Bryan (11) educate Mom on the length of a giraffe’s tongue (45 cm).

Why Sonlight Uses Certain Books ...

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

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

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

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

A Fundamental Truth

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

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



"Whoever thought to make Sonlight's [large shipping] box turn into a castle is a genius! Just the help a mom needs," writes Katie D of Milpitas, CA. "I was busy in the other room and peeked in on my daughters to see how their castle was coming along. What a joy to discover the fun they were having together! Sonlight has blessed our family by making homeschooling fun for my girls and me. The daily schedule is amazing." In their second Sonlight year, Michaela (6) and Madison (4) are studying Core A.

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

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

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

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

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

Now make your choice.

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

Similarly with literature – especially the literature Sonlight offers.

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

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

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

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

What About Historical Fiction?

Some people note that historical fiction distorts the truth. For example, it often includes "real"

historical figures, but places them in the midst of people who never existed. Sometimes authors have fictional characters do what the historical record clearly tells us a specific, known person did. They create imaginary dialog. And on and on it goes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Some Homeschoolers Won't Touch

true doctrine) that they will recognize a counterfeit immediately.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is the same with spiritual soldiers and ambassadors as well. We believe quality literature written from a sub-Christian or anti-Christian perspective can help provide the context for the kinds of mock debate and mock combat young people need to prepare themselves for spiritual warfare in the bigger, adult world to which they are being called. Such books can provide sparring partners against whom our children, backed by the coaching help of their parents, can engage in “round tables” and “war games” without having to face live opponents who are actively engaged in twisting their efforts to our children's destruction.

“The difference in the Sonlight books, to me, is like the difference between a house and a home, or a woman and a mother. I choose Sonlight!”

–Deanna P., Aug. 2012

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

Then, by high school, students should be prepared to engage in heavy-duty mock combat and ought to interact with books written by well-spoken, devout proponents of opposing viewpoints. Our kids need to face these authors' 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

– by John Holzmänn

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

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“Sonlight exposes students to a variety of new experiences and topics that spark excitement about potential career paths.”

writes Johanna G of Rochester, NY. “Sonlight Science provides high school-level courses and also college preparation. Rebecca's interest in science and nursing as a possible career were sparked by Sonlight's recommended *Apologia Biology*.” Here, cousins Rebecca (16) and Alexandria (14) dissect a cow's eye for a summer lab project. The two families have used Sonlight for 11 years and 9 years, respectively. Rebecca is studying Core 300 and *Apologia Chemistry*, while Alex is studying Core 200 and *Apologia Biology*.



“The Sonlight Cores were igniting a love for learning in my girls. So we decided to give Sonlight Science a try,” writes Edelwina L

of Southeast Asia. “When my older girls were smaller, we often overlooked science. But since [starting Sonlight Science], science is a subject that gets done. As soon as any of the children are reading comfortably, I find them independently poring over their engaging science books. The supply kits and the *Discover and Do* DVD (a favorite even of our 4-year-old) allow us regular lab work with little effort to get everything together. And my high schoolers have everything they need – from weekly schedules to chemicals to microscopes!” Here, Marco (4), Danielle (7), Miguel (9), Camilla (13) and Beatrice (15) study Science in the family's tenth year of Sonlight.






Curriculum Scope & Sequence

A strategic map from Preschool through High School

Does graduation day seem far away? Relax with this map to get from here to there. Sonlight gives you the tools you need to academically prepare your kids for excellence in high school and be-

yond. You'll help them get ready for college, trade school, the military, the workforce or family life. From preschool to high school, your Sonlight journey includes three sweeps through history and a solid foundation of Biblical knowledge. Watch your kids progress from learning to read and write

to composing well-crafted research papers and creative works. Journey from the very basics of science to college-level lab work. Take a look at the road ahead!

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

Want to see what your student's long-term educational plans might look like? Visit [sonlight.com/sample-paths](https://www.sonlight.com/sample-paths) to consider your potential options and see what other Sonlighters do.

What will you learn with Sonlight?

Sonlight Language Arts

A full Language Arts program is included in every Core.

Program	Coordinates with:	Focus	Subjects Covered
Language Arts P4/5	Core P4/5	A gentle introduction to the alphabet, rhymes and the “first thousand words.”	Phonics and vocabulary.
Cores A-C, you get the Language Arts program that matches the Readers Package you select.			
Language Arts K	Grade K Readers	Learn alphabet and letter sounds. Begin creative writing with a parent as scribe.	Phonics, spelling, vocabulary, creative expression, copywork and writing mechanics.
Language Arts 1	Grade 1 Readers	Read more advanced short words. Write short stories with a parent as scribe.	Phonics, spelling, vocabulary, copywork, creative expression and writing mechanics.
Language Arts 2	Grade 2 Readers	Learn to construct basic sentences and simple paragraphs.	Spelling, writing mechanics, copywork and creative expression.
Language Arts 3	Grade 3 Readers	Learn to write winning paragraphs step-by-step.	Spelling, writing mechanics, paragraph construction, copywork and creative expression.
Language Arts 4-5	Grade 4-5 Readers	Write sentences and short paragraphs relatively independently.	Spelling, writing mechanics, copywork, paragraph construction and creative expression.
Language Arts D	Core D	Explore various writing styles; learn about similes, metaphors and more.	Spelling, vocabulary, dictation, writing mechanics and creative expression.
Language Arts D+E	Core D+E	Explore various writing styles; practice advanced writing mechanics.	Spelling, grammar, dictation, vocabulary, writing mechanics and creative expression.
Language Arts E	Core E	Explore various writing styles; practice advanced writing mechanics.	Spelling, grammar, dictation, writing mechanics, research writing and creative expression.
Language Arts F	Core F	Take on more challenging writing assignments and explore writing styles.	Spelling, grammar, dictation, vocabulary, writing mechanics, research writing, creative expression and literary analysis.
Language Arts G	Core G	Advanced writing assignments and basic literary analysis.	Spelling, vocabulary, dictation, advanced writing mechanics, creative expression, literary analysis and editing.
Language Arts H	Core H	Increase writing skills; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Creative writing, essay composition, research and literary analysis.
Language Arts W	Core W	Advanced writing assignments and basic literary analysis. (Same basic material as Language Arts G.)	Spelling, vocabulary, advanced writing mechanics, creative expression, literary analysis and editing.
Language Arts 140	Literature 130 See p.76	Increase writing skills; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Critical thinking, essay composition, literary analysis and creative writing.
Language Arts 240	Literature 230 See p.80	Increase writing skills; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Essay composition, literary analysis, research papers and creative writing.
Language Arts 340	Literature 330 See p.84	Increase writing skills; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Creative writing, literary analysis, research writing and essay composition.
Language Arts 440	Literature 430 See p.88	Prepare for college-level writing; fully integrated with History & Literature.	Creative writing, literary analysis, essay composition and research papers.
Language Arts 540	Literature 530 See p.90	Tackle college-level assignments; fully integrated with Literature.	Creative writing, literary analysis and vocabulary with Latin and Greek roots.
British Literature 530	Language Arts 540	Prepare for the AP* English Literature exam with a yearlong survey of British Literature.	Key works of British Literature.

Sonlight Science

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

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

“When we were introduced to Sonlight, we immediately loved that it was comprehensive, focused on great literature and had lesson plans already mapped out for us.”
- Matt B. May 2012

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Policies & Procedures

To Order >

Website: www.sonlight.com
Email: orders@sonlight.com
Fax: 303.795.8668

Mail: 8042 South Grant Way,
Littleton, CO 80122

What Your Club Benefits Mean for You

(see chart on p. 25 to see how to qualify)



One-year “Love to Learn, Love to Teach” Guarantee:

Try Sonlight with confidence. Here are the details of Sonlight’s outrageous guarantee:

Take up to one year to actually use the first half of your eligible program(s). Then if you don’t love it ... if you aren’t convinced Sonlight makes homeschooling a pleasure for you and your kids, please return your program – the entire package, used books and all. We’ll give you a full refund of your purchase price.

Buy any Sonlight® Instructor’s Guide, Parent Guide, Student Guide, Core Package or Multi-Subject Package, and the “Love to Learn” Guarantee is yours. Or create your own complete program by combining any Core with any math and science programs (one each per Core), plus the coordinating Required Resources you need, on one order ... you’re still covered.

This unmatched one-year “Love to Learn, Love to Teach” guarantee includes the following provisions:

1. You have up to one year from date of purchase to complete everything that’s scheduled through Week 18 and you can still return it all for a full refund.
2. If you decide you don’t love Sonlight, you can return either the portion of your program that you don’t like, or your entire program. All materials not scheduled for use until after Week 18 must be in unused, resalable condition (as explained in the 6-Month Return Policy). If you want a refund for your entire program, we must receive all your materials– used and unused.
3. If you’d like to keep part of your package, we will accept one partial return of materials in any packages that qualify for the “Love to Learn” Guarantee (that way you can keep those items that work for you). Any items you keep following that one-time partial return are subject to the terms of our standard 6-Month Return Policy.
4. **A full or partial Core return** (even if purchased within a Sonlight Multi-Subject Package) **WILL VOID your Core membership in the Sonlighters Club.**
5. Refund of your purchase price **does not include reimbursement of your return shipping expenses.**

We’ve got your back with this guarantee. So try Sonlight and see if you love it! Chances are ... you will.



IG Repurchase Discount

To help you use Sonlight with multiple children, we give you a 50% discount on future editions of any Instructor’s Guide (IG) you purchase from Sonlight. In other words, when you’re ready to re-use a program with a younger child, you can update to the most current version of the IG at 50% of the current cost. The online cart system will automatically apply this discount when you order online.

Please note that we offer the repurchase discount with the understanding that the new Instructor’s Guide is for the purpose of replacing the previous edition(s) for the benefit of the *original purchaser* only. For more details see sonlight.com/repurchase.



Free Shipping

Core and Heirloom Members receive fast, trackable **FedEx shipping for free to the lower 48 states!** Core Members get this for all orders for a year, including the initial qualifying order. Heirloom Members receive this benefit for life!

IG Members receive free USPS shipping (typically Media Mail) on any order that includes an IG (to the lower 48 states).

For more ways to get free shipping, if you’re not a Club Member, or if you live outside the lower 48 states, please see our Shipping Policies on the next page.



10% Discount

Your 10% discount* lets you buy anything else you need throughout the year at your special Club discount.

- All Sonlighters get a 10% discount on orders over \$500 that include an IG.
- Core Members receive our biggest discount on their Core or Multi-Subject Package, plus a 10% discount on nearly everything else they buy for a full year.
- Heirloom Members receive our biggest discount on their Core or Multi-Subject Package, plus 10% discount on nearly everything else they buy for life!

We have already applied the 10% (or greater) discount on each Multi-Subject Package and Core package. All additional purchases made throughout the year will receive a 10% discount.

*Due to restrictions from some publishers, we are not allowed to discount Rosetta Stone, Teaching Textbooks, All About Spelling, *A Child’s History of the World* and a few other products.



Free Access to the Sonlight Forums

Support. Encouragement. Practical Help. Join an incredible online network of thousands of Sonlight parents who help each other solve real-life problems, rejoice with each other in triumphs, and pray for one another in challenges.

All Club Members get this benefit free. Head to forums.sonlight.com to claim your free access or to purchase access if you’re not a Club Member.



Beam eNewsletter Subscription

Find a collection of the best Forum threads and advice, plus a reflection from Sarita every two weeks in this helpful, easy-to-skim eNewsletter. It’s the easiest way to stay in the loop, even if you don’t visit the Forums often.



Eligible for College Scholarships

When you purchase and your students use five Sonlight Cores, they become eligible for the Sonlight College Scholarship program. Students preparing to enter college can apply for scholarships worth between \$4,000 and \$20,000. One category of scholarships puts the most emphasis on academic performance, and the other values creativity, acts of kindness, and other factors higher than academics. Learn how to apply at sonlight.com/scholarships.

Other Policies and Procedures

6-Month Return Policy

- Applies to anything not covered by the Love to Learn Guarantee, such as individual items or single subject packages (e.g., History, Bible, Reader, Read-Aloud, Language Arts, Math, Science, and similar packages).
- Items must be returned in unused, resalable condition (i.e., no label sticker, not marked in nor on, binding unbroken, cover and pages unbent, and not scuffed, defaced nor worn).
- You will receive a refund of your purchase price less a 10% handling fee for items returned in a resalable condition (does not include return shipping expenses).
- Materials returned after six months or received by us in non-resalable condition will not receive a refund nor will we return these materials to you.

Time Payments

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

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

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

Terms of Sale

- **Payment in U.S. funds must accompany your order.** Online orders can be paid by: VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express or e-check. Manual orders can be paid by: VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, paper check, wire transfer or money order in U.S. funds.
- **We guarantee prices through June 30. After that date, prices for packages and individual items are subject to change without notice.**
- **Orders usually ship within 3-5 BUSINESS DAYS** from the time we receive your order, except during July-September when orders may take 7-10 BUSINESS DAYS to leave our warehouse. **RUSH service** and 2-day or **Next-day** delivery are available. (See the chart at sonlight.com/shipping-policy.html for pricing or call 303-730-6292.)
- **We will charge you for items you purchase only at the time your goods are shipped.** If there are backorders, we charge no additional shipping fees, and we will not charge your credit card for backordered items until the backorders are shipped.
- **Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd., has no control over the availability of goods it does not publish.** Therefore, components of curriculum packages may change without notice. If changes have been made to a package you’ve ordered, we will ship the current package. We will make no substitutions on orders for individual titles.
- **If your shipment suffers shortages or damages, please report them to us within THREE MONTHS of receipt** to receive replacement(s).
- **International customers: Duties and Taxes.** You are responsible for all duties and taxes. Duties and taxes are not included in the shipping cost. If you refuse to pay duties and taxes and the package is returned to us you will not receive a refund for your shipping costs and will be charged a 10% package refusal fee.



Discover our guarantee, payment plans, shipping and more.

Cancellations and Changes

If you refuse delivery of an order you placed, you will incur a handling fee of 10% of your order total or the actual cost of return shipping, whichever is greater.

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

Returns

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

To expedite your return, go to sonlight.com/returns.

Note: Orders received with returns will be delayed. To receive better service please place a new order via our website, fax, email, or mail. Ensure items are eligible for return according to the 18-Week "Love to Learn" Guarantee or the 6-Month Return Policy as detailed above. Then:

1. Lay materials flat, not on their sides.
2. Pack CDs, Binders, and Science Supply Kits on top of books.
3. Use the return address label from your packing slip or clearly print your name and address on the outside of the box.
4. 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.
5. **International customers:** In addition to return instructions above, please write a clear description of the goods being returned on the box, i.e., "Textbooks-Educational Materials." State on the commercial invoice "US Goods Returned" and include HTS# 9801.00.10

Warranties

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

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



Want to hear from Sonlighters?
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forums.sonlight.com

Shipping Policies

All shipments:

Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd. insures items against damage or theft during transit when shipped via FedEx® or UPS® anywhere in the world. We do not insure Postal Service deliveries unless you specifically request and pay for the service.

Domestic orders

You can get **FREE** shipping if:

- You are a **Core or Heirloom Club Member** (see previous page). OR
- Your order is over **\$150**; receive **FREE** standard shipping via FedEx® Home Delivery® (to the lower 48 states). OR
- Your order is between **\$25 and \$149.99** and qualifies for **USPS Media Mail shipping** (to all 50 states and APO/FPO addresses; see sonlight.com/shipping#media-mail for details). Media Mail is uninsured; please allow up to 2-4 weeks for delivery.

Other domestic shipping options include:

- **FedEx shipping for orders under \$150** to the lower 48 states incurs a \$10 shipping charge (standard shipping via FedEx Home Delivery®; this is free for orders over \$150).
- **USPS Media Mail shipping for orders under \$25** to all 50 states and APO/FPO addresses incurs a \$5 shipping charge (this is free for orders over \$25). Your order must qualify for Media Mail (see sonlight.com/shipping#media-mail). Media Mail is uninsured; allow up to 2-4 weeks for delivery.
- **Expedited shipping is available** via FedEx® Overnight and 2-Day service. (See the chart at sonlight.com/shipping-policy.html for costs.) Expedited Saturday delivery incurs an additional \$15.00 fee.
- You can arrange and pay for a specific alternative service by contacting us via a comment on your order or calling (303) 730-6292.

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2013 Sonlight Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our 2013 Sonlight scholarship winners! Like so many Sonlight students, they have a heart for learning, exhibit exceptional character, are active in their communities, demonstrate leadership skills, are creative, cultivate spiritual depth and are well-prepared for the academic rigors of college.

What part does a Sonlight homeschool education play in the past successes and future goals of these students? All have completed at least five Sonlight Core programs (including high school-level Cores). Their exceptional talent, along with an eagerness to follow God's leading, make it a joy for Sonlight to invest in their continuing education.

Sonlight has awarded \$968,500 since we began the scholarship program, and will award \$92,000 over the next four years to these 13 winners. We look forward to seeing all God does in and through them as they take what they've learned – through Sonlight and their homeschool experience – into college and the world beyond.

\$20,000 Scholarship Winner (\$5,000 each year)



Adam Springer of **Huntsville, TX**, might well be considered a developing Renaissance man – scholar, speaker, debater, performer, outdoorsman, worship and Bible study leader, missionary and future engineer.

His resume reveals an individual accustomed to setting and attaining goals. Academically accomplished, he's a National Honor Society member, National Merit® Finalist and Scholar, scored 34 on the ACT, and will graduate high school with approximately 40 hours of college credit.

Equally effervescent in numerous theater productions, as well as a force-to-be-reckoned-with on both local and national speech and debate circuits, Adam has also given his time and talents in more than 1,300 hours of service to his community.

Adam has been studying with Sonlight since 2004 and says he's prepared to pursue the "one goal that is most important to me" – to make disciples of all nations, one relationship at a time.

First anticipated stop: Texas A&M, where he'll study civil engineering and join the Corps of Cadets, one of the top ROTC programs in the nation.

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



When her family moved half a world away from their Illinois home and everything she found familiar, **Sarah Duffer** of **Mongolia** had no idea what God had in store for her in a country where power outages are frequent, temperatures drop below

zero for nearly half the year and foreigners aren't always welcome.

During this life-changing journey, she turned loss to gain and discovered her calling, too.

Capable, helpful, trustworthy, thankful, compassionate, leader and individual of *integrity* – these by all accounts describe the young woman (and Sonlight student of nine Cores) who assists with kids' clubs, an AIDS orphanage and other community projects; lends a lovely soprano voice in the Mongolian worship services; gracefully manages the family household when called on; and is a tenacious team player on the volleyball court, soccer and baseball fields, too.

"Ever since I was a little girl," Sarah writes, "I've wanted to follow in my maternal grandma's footsteps by becoming a nurse." Even as she makes plans to attend Central Illinois College to fulfill her dream in the hometown she left nearly a decade ago, she considers how she'll be able to help those in need again one day soon.



A Sonlight student since 2006, **Rachael Reeves** of **Monticello, MS**, has involved herself in a spectrum of extracurricular activities: Southern Mississippi Youth Orchestra, The Quivering Pen, Institute for Cultural Communicators, USA Tri-

athlon Southeast Region junior team, Upward basketball coach, Forerunners cross country, Generation Joshua student action team, weekly volunteer at Hattiesburg Cancer Center and Lawrence County Nursing Home, and more.

After once teaming with her dad to build a canoe, Rachael concedes that the vessel soon sported scrapes and gouges from "less than expert piloting." She offers the analogy of the Master Builder who patiently shapes our lives (not unlike the persistent pushing and planing of rough boards) to endure life's storms.

An aspiring journalist, Rachael read *The Greatest Generation*, and afterward conducted interviews with local elders to preserve their stories. "I hope to give my generation a glimpse of the incredible accomplishments of the people we often brush off as simply 'old,'" she writes. Rachael plans to attend Mississippi College this fall.



Whether playing with a Rubik's Cube or predicting the reaction of hydrochloric acid with ammonia, **Sara Simpson** of **Russellville, AL**, delights in solving problems – particularly when she can create and implement solutions to benefit others.

An academic standout and National Merit® Finalist who scored 2230 on her SAT, Sara is headed for either Auburn University or Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she'll earn the chemi-

cal engineering degree that will enable her, among other things, to find cost-effective, efficient ways to provide clean drinking water to peoples with limited access.

Having studied Sonlight's globally inclusive curriculum since kindergarten (her favorite: *Core 200, History of the Christian Church*) and having also lived in East Asia for the past nine years, Sara has a heart for missions. Through prayer and practice, she seeks to follow the "still small voice," and most recently flew unaccompanied to a limited-access country, where she shared her faith in coffee shops, taught English in slum schools and encouraged local believers.

"With confidence, I rest ... and wait in anticipation ... No matter where He leads, I will proclaim His name," says Sara.



From a young age, **Ellie Williamson** of **Honduras** immersed herself in Sonlight books. God called Ellie out of introspection and gave her a powerful voice, which she wields with a passionate pen, composing poetry, short stories, devo-

tions, blogs and more. She'll continue making her literary mark this fall in Taylor University's Professional Writing Program, through which she has already published two book reviews and a devotion.

The daughter of pioneering missionaries in rural Honduras, Ellie wears many hats: she co-teaches a toddler class, leads girls' Bible study, has served as a camp counselor, speaks at churches (and on Honduran cable TV) and more. Fluent in Spanish, one of her favorite roles is translating for summer work groups and medical teams from the U.S.

A lover of music, Ellie seizes every opportunity to expand her musical repertoire, from taking voice lessons while on furlough, to composing music, to teaching herself to play piano and guitar so she can accompany her family in their ministry.

Her life's ambition? "I want my legacy to be a trail of footprints that lead straight to Him."

\$4,000 Scholarship Winners

Sonlight will additionally award these eight outstanding students a \$1,000 scholarship for each year of college, up to four years:

Lydia Cupery (Turkey); **Justine Maeurer** (Austin, TX); **Hannah Messerschmidt** (Holland, NY); **CJ Pine** (China); **Olivia Reel** (Tishomingo, OK); **Jessica Shaklee** (Stillwater, MN); **Nathaniel Sweigart** (Charlottesville, VA) and **Emily Vivanco** (Mexico).

Your student could be a winner next year!

Families who have purchased and used at least five Core programs since 2000 are eligible. Visit sonlight.com/scholarships to find out the requirements and details for next year's scholarship competition.

What's New at Sonlight

I count it a privilege to be part of your family's ongoing journey as you learn together. As we do every year, we again took a critical look at our program in light of your homeschooling needs. Accordingly, as we considered each update to our curriculum, we prayed for wisdom, knowing that you've entrusted your children's education to Sonlight. Based on your feedback and innovations offered by our team, I'm thrilled to share some "new and improved" curriculum changes with you here.

New for P4/5: 101 Favorite Stories From the Bible

Bible reading and memorization have always been a foundation of Sonlight studies. As parents, we can instill a lifelong love for God's Word by helping our kids hide Scripture in their heart from an early age. It's my desire to put in young hands the books they will treasure and return to, time and again. The Bible selections I've chosen for your children are no exception.

You may remember *101 Favorite Stories From the Bible* in past, when it was offered in our P3/4 program. I believe, as many of you have shared, that it's actually better suited for slightly older children. And though it's harder than you might guess to find a children's Bible that tells the stories accurately, respectfully and succinctly, this one does just that.

I think you'll find this Bible to be a spiritually and developmentally-appropriate resource, with pictures and stories that delight and invite dialogue with your children.

Core H and Core W updated

As you may recall, we made some major improvements to Cores A-G last year. This year, we implemented similar innovations across *Core H: World History, Year 2 of 2* and *Core W: One Year World History*. New questions and answers will aid your reading discussions and help gauge your children's comprehension. More notes will help you talk about tough topics. We've added behind-the-scenes rationale to reveal the "why" behind activities. Consolidated maps provide a quick reference and are easier to use. I believe you'll find these improvements let you teach with greater effectiveness and confidence. Cores H and W updates include:

✓ More intuitive Instructor's Guides

Everything you need to teach – schedule, notes, discussion questions, teaching tips, laminated color maps and more – all consolidated together in one place for each week (see p. 136).

✓ New books

I reread all the books in Cores H and W and evaluated whether they're still the best choices for the programs. As a result, I swapped out some and you'll see these marked "NEW" in the title listings. Like those they replaced, the new books are Sonlight "All-Stars" (see p. 141 for the criteria a book must meet to make the grade). I hope your family enjoys these as much as I did.

✓ Language Arts enhanced

In both Cores H and W, we've strengthened the Language Arts program. You'll find an Instructor's Guide with more specific parent instructions, and an overall better balance of creative writing, grammar and writing mechanics. Each week's Language Arts content is located right after the Core content in one easy-access place. I think it's our best Language Arts curriculum ever!

Two-volume *Landmark History* revision better accommodates Cores D and D+E

We've worked to make a great American history book even better! We spent this past year transforming the primary text used in Cores D and D+E. Many kudos to my husband, John, who worked untiringly with the family of former Librarian of Congress and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Daniel Boorstin to completely revise *The Landmark History of the American People* – a daunting task, to say the least! I'm very pleased with the result. I believe the revised text will be easier to use and will help you teach more effectively.

By way of background, we've long included this book in our curriculum. I like it because it reveals the unique spirit that is America – our "go-getter" attitude, the diverse backgrounds from which we come, the drive for westward expansion and more. While we appreciated the information and breadth of history, we've found the text, originally written for adults, to be a stretch for some students. In keeping with my desire to provide you with open-and-teach solutions and eliminate any learning obstacles, we revised the book to offer you a better experience.

The revised *Landmark History* comes as two separate volumes, with an age-appropriate level of writing. It includes many new, full-color illustrations and a host of maps, which provide context and aid understanding. Additionally, the updated Instructor's Guide includes helpful notes.

I'm excited to hear how the "new and improved" text enhances your teaching and invigorates your children's interest in and study of history!

Children's Encyclopedia of American History new for Cores D and D+E

While *Landmark History* covers some traditional American history (e.g., the Pilgrims), it focuses more on America's unique history (e.g., the invention of elevators). Along with the massive revision to *Landmark History*, we found a marvelous new title, the *Children's Encyclopedia of American History*, which provides a more traditional historical flow overall. This book replaces the four-volume *Story of the US*.

The *Children's Encyclopedia* offers a two-page spread for each historical event, more than 1,000 stunning photos, a running timeline and the text of some of our nation's most important documents (e.g., the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Gettysburg Address).

I think your children will enjoy this fascinat-

ing, visually enticing book that appeals to even the most reluctant readers.

(Note: If you used Core D last year and are continuing with Core E, you'll still be able to use the *Landmark History* and *Story of the US* texts you received last year with your Core D package.)

Customizable high school Cores offer flexibility for a robust transcript

I believe that as our children grow, we must increasingly equip them with the tools that allow them to independently chart their life's course. To that end, we chose to modify all our high school programs so that your students (with your help) can customize their coursework and build the experience that best fits their unique needs and goals.

Our recommended Cores work well for most families. Should you choose to create a unique Core experience, you'll find it easy to do. We broke down each high school Core into two separate "chunks": a History and Bible course, and a Literature and Language Arts course. To customize, simply select a History and Bible course *from any high school level* and combine it with a Literature and Language Arts course *from any other high school level*.

Whether you use the recommended Core or choose the "mix and match" approach to build your own Core, you'll get a Parent Guide and Student Guide for each course selected. *All Core benefits will still apply to your unique Core* (see p. 25).

This flexible approach to course selection will better allow your students to create a plan of study that is tailored to their interests. They can fulfill basic requirements in some subjects and "load up" in those areas for which they have a real passion. It will also help you more effectively fulfill your state's graduation requirements. And finally, your students can build the transcript that meets the entrance requirements of the college they want to attend, should they choose that path.

Core 400 completely revised and updated

We also made large-scale changes to our *Core 400: American Government* program. My daughter, Amy Lykosh, read a pile of titles and chose a new collection. We decided to keep Carson's *Basic American Government*, which I really like, and added additional titles to clarify the various branches of government. As I reviewed the material, my understanding of how our government works grew by leaps and bounds and I believe your students will have a similar experience. Here are some of the specifics:

✓ New 18-week American Government course, with 18-week Economics pairing

We previously scheduled American Government for an entire year. In an effort to sharpen the content and focus, we have updated the government portion and condensed the course into 18 weeks. Studying American Government for one semester, as required by a majority of school districts, allows your students



to complement and complete their year with Economics, also an 18-week course and college prep elective. Together, these two 18-week courses, along with the 36-week American Literature and Language Arts course, comprise Core 400.

Content-wise, the new one-semester American Government course offers a thorough, enjoyable tour of U.S. government, from the colonial days, before the United States was a nation, to current Beltway issues and practices. You'll discover the roots of our government through the *Basic American Government* spine. We supplement this with an additional overview text and have also added books on each of the government branches – all of which I believe will engage your students and cultivate informed dialogue.

✓ New Bible additions

Is the Bible still relevant today? I think we all know how it has influenced us individually, but to see the broad impact it has had is both insightful and compelling.

Our curriculum writer and Bible scholar, Robert Velarde, discovered two fresh texts that I believe will challenge your high schoolers. *Truth and Transformation* demonstrates the impact the Bible has had on society. While we are often aware of the Bible's power on a personal level, this text shows how an entire culture is positively affected by Christianity. The second, *God and Politics*, features more than a dozen contributors and offers an in-depth exploration of how we as Christians can integrate our faith with civil government. We have included extensive notes and questions for both books in the Instructor's Guide.

Take a thought-provoking ride through these Core 400 Bible newcomers with your high schoolers and see where your perspectives fit in the scheme of current thought.

✓ New literature focus

Core 400 American Literature remains a 36-week course, with an increased emphasis on learning to read literature with greater understanding. Using *How to Read a Book* as the primary text, students are exposed to a wide range of American literature classics. You'll find new notes to aid your instruction, with a roster of literary stars that boasts 13 new award-winning books and authors (including Pulitzer, Nobel, Hugo and Nebula winners)!

Put it all together, from the Constitution to Civil Rights, economic theory to actual trade practices, Christian faith to cultural application, and Core 400 is an invigorating adventure in learning you won't want to miss! You can find the complete Core 400 description on p. 86.

Computer programming courses your children will understand and enjoy

Do your children like to play computer games? Are they fascinated with the latest technology? Could there be a future programmer among them?

I'm excited to get the word out about a new

Sonlight partnership and product offering called Homeschool Programming. The KidCoder™ (for 4th-8th graders) and TeenCoder™ (for 9th-12th graders) courses are designed specifically for homeschoolers. What I like about these courses is that they build on each other, and the natural progression results in real-world skills. Windows Programming, for example, introduces younger students to Visual Basic, where they learn to write actual Windows programs. From there, students move to the next course, Game Programming, where they create their own Windows games from scratch. Talk about fun!

Similarly, older students have access to a two-semester series, Windows Programming/Game Programming, as well as a two-semester Java Programming/Android Programming series. As always, I want to offer you and your children educational options that open doors to the future. Homeschool Programming is no exception. Learning Java, a popular technology with many applications, for example, will help prepare high schoolers for the Advanced Placement (AP)* Computer Science A exam.

Hands-on professional programming that kids and teens easily understand and really enjoy, and that nontechnical parents can readily teach – what could be better? If you'd like to add computer-related technology to your children's studies this year, I think you'll find these new programming courses an excellent opportunity. To get started, visit sonlight.com/homeschool-programming.html.

Interactive, web-based BibleMesh brings Scripture to life

I love a great story, don't you? Of all the books I've shared with my children over the years, I most wanted them to know the epic narrative of the Bible – the Greatest Story Ever Told! Which is why I'm delighted to let you know about a challenging new Bible course for both high schoolers and adults.

BibleMesh is an interactive, web-based course that makes God's Word come alive. Imagine inviting the world's best Bible scholars into your home – internationally known and respected teachers like Tim Keller, Alistair Begg, Mark Dever, Ligon Duncan and Vaughan Roberts – for ongoing discussion. You'll explore evangelical theology driven by the story of the Bible. You'll make connections between the Old and New Testament that you've never seen before. Ultimately, you'll see Christ in Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation.

The course is designed to be self-paced, so you or your high schooler can easily follow the 36-week lesson plan laid out for learners and/or teachers. Students can track personal progress independently, with helpful interactive quizzing tools. Or, consider making this a family affair: Set the example, learn alongside your teens and quench your

spiritual thirst, too! The included Parent Guide will certainly spark meaningful discussions.

Cultivating your knowledge of the Word and giving your teens the tools to stand strong in their faith is a worthwhile investment and pursuit that can yield far-reaching, life-changing dividends. If you'd like to experience Scripture in a dynamic new way, start the journey at sonlight.com/biblemesh.

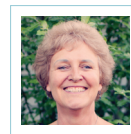
Coming soon: Core 500 ...

Finally, please look for an upcoming announcement about a new high school Core offering that is in the works. It's not available in the catalog yet because we haven't finished all of the notes and questions. Lord willing, it will be available sometime this summer.

I particularly want to give you a preview of the History and Bible component, which I'm calling World History and Worldview Studies. This new course will cover ancient history to the present, interweaving the philosophies and worldviews that have arisen throughout. My goal is to help your children better understand history and to provide the background that contributed to the rise of the particular philosophies that came into vogue during the various historical periods.

I've been involved in many new projects over the years, but this one truly fascinates me. I believe that you and your high schoolers will be equally intrigued by the ideologies that have significantly influenced our world in all areas – religion, science, literature, fine arts, education and more. I can't wait for you to see and experience the final product.

I pray that these improvements will help you love homeschooling even more this year.



Blessings to you and yours,

Sarita

Sarita

ONE-YEAR see p. 24
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