

Charlotte Mason was a British educator (1842-1923) who believed that education is more than passing exams, getting into the right college or job training. She said, "education is an atmosphere, a discipline, and a life." It is about finding out who we are and how we fit in the universe God created.



Her ideas were ahead of her time— while others thought children were empty slates to be filled with information, she believed they were people capable of independent, intelligent thought and that they needed vital ideas, rather than dry facts, to feed their growing minds. She thought children should do the work of dealing with ideas and knowledge rather than the teacher acting as a middle man, dispensing filtered knowledge.

The Charlotte Mason method utilizes narration instead of comprehension exercises; copywork for handwriting, spelling and grammar modeling; nature observation for early science; and literature, poetry, art and music to give children's minds beautiful ideas to feed on.

Books are chosen for the literary quality with which they were written, and even more, their ability to develop the whole person and inspire one's character. The curriculum is geared towards building character with the use of personal habits, quality books, teacher guidance, the work of the Holy Spirit and personal reflection.

Where can I learn more and get support?

Check out all the free resources at the AO website: booklists, reading schedules, nature study ideas, art and music appreciation suggestions, and links to other resources such as free, public domain literature... www.amblesideonline.org

Read the Frequently Asked Questions that have been answered by parents using AO...
www.amblesideonline.org/FAQ.shtml

Read Charlotte Mason's The Original Homeschooling Series online in her words or a modern, paraphrased version...
<http://www.amblesideonline.org/CM/toc.html>

Meet other parents around the world using AO in their homeschooling by joining the Ambleside Online forum. There you will find general Charlotte Mason methods discussions, Ambleside Online Curriculum discussions, an area for House of Education students to chat together, and special help areas for children who are LD/special needs or who are gifted...
<https://amblesideonline.org/forum/>

Kelly Originals ~ Psalm 121:1-2
British Columbia, Canada
Updated 9/12/2013 by Melisa Hills

Are you seeking an easy to use, flexible curriculum?

Do you want to use the highest quality literature?

Would your children enjoy interesting, varied topics?

Do you want to encourage your children to learn and grow — while respecting their individual needs?

Ambleside^{Online}

www.amblesideonline.org

Would you like to introduce your family to the beauty of the natural world, lovely music and works of art?

Are you hoping to find a free curriculum using inexpensive materials that's easy on the wallet?

Would you like the option of being in supportive contact with other parents?

...Why not look into AO for your family's home-based education!

What is Ambleside Online?

Ambleside Online is a free-to-use curriculum designed to be true to Charlotte Mason's high literary standards. Ambleside Online uses the highest quality books and costs no more than the cost of the texts.

The curriculum uses as many free online books as possible. There is no cost to use information, booklists, schedules and suggestions from the website in your homeschool.

Ambleside Online's information includes:

- ~ A gentle introduction to learning with AO Year 0
- ~ Booklists and schedules for each year covering history, geography, science, nature, literature, and poetry.
- ~ An artist and composer for each term's art and music appreciation.
- ~ Scheduled selections for hymns, folk-songs, Shakespeare's plays and Plutarch's Lives.
- ~ Nature Study suggestions and practical tips from other families on learning about the natural world.
- ~ Language Arts scope and sequence, the Charlotte Mason way.
- ~ Comprehensive FAQ to answer your questions about the CM method and Ambleside Online.
- ~ An online support group for those using all or part of the AO curriculum with their families.
- ~ The complete, annotated Charlotte Mason book series online for free, as well as concise summaries and modern English paraphrases of her original series.

What subjects will I teach?

Choose from any or all of the subjects and resource suggestions! Start with the basics and add new subjects slowly, as you decide what is best for your family. Here are just a few subjects:

Art Appreciation — Artworks studied span the Renaissance to Modern Times. Artists have included: Giotto di Bondone, Michelangelo Buonarroti, Pieter Breugel the Elder, Jan Vermeer, Winslow Homer, Mary Cassatt, John William Waterhouse.

Biographies — Read interesting books about the lives of famous people, such as: Galileo and the Magic Numbers by Sidney Rosen, The Little Duke by Charlotte Yonge.

Composer Study — During the day listen to music, naturally introducing great works from Medieval to Modern. Some Composers: Purcell, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Beethoven, Gershwin, Stravinsky.

Hymns & Folk Songs — Some of the traditional songs learned: Great Is Thy Faithfulness, I Love To Tell The Story, When I Survey The Wondrous Cross; Scarborough Fair, My Grandfather's Clock, Cockles and Mussels.

Poets and Poetry — Read one new poem a day from a different poet each term (three terms a year). Poets include: A.A. Milne, Christina Rossetti, Eugene Field, Hilda Conkling, Robert Frost, Rudyard Kipling, William Blake.

... Add your favourite Math and Foreign Language programs. Not sure what to use? There are suggestions for excellent curricula at the AO website.

What books are used?

Here is a small sample of some of the literary classics that Ambleside Online uses in Years I to 8:

Geography — Explore the world's geography in the footsteps of other explorers using books such as: The Tree in the Trail and Minn of the Mississippi by Holling C. Holling, Kon Tiki by Thor Heyerdahl.

History — Learn world history while reading from excellent texts such as: A Child's History of the World by Virgil Hillyer, An Island Story by H.E. Marshall, Augustus Caesar's World by Genevieve Foster, The Story of the Greeks by H. A. Guerber.

Nature Study — Some topics learned are: birds, flowers, insects, trees, reptiles, fish, amphibians, mammals, rocks, and weather. Books include: The Burgess Animal Book for Children by Thornton Burgess, Pagoo by Holling C. Holling, Madam How and Lady Why by Charles Kingsley.

Literature — Read great classics and modern works, including: Heidi by Johanna Spyri, Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson, Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens, Parables from Nature by Margaret Gatty, Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving, Robin Hood by Howard Pyle, Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe, Tales from Shakespeare by Charles and Mary Lamb, The Age of Fable by Thomas Bulfinch, The Heroes by Charles Kingsley, The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling, The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan, The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald, The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame.