



How to Learn the Charlotte Mason Method

Art Middlekauff

CharlotteMasonPoetry.org



2003

Writing Your Philosophy of Education

Include long-range goals for your child and family.

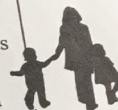
Prepare for successful home teaching by writing your personal philosophy of home education. List the reasons that sparked your decision to educate your children at home. Include long-range goals for your child and family.

Since you have already decided to home school, you have formed a beginning philosophy. Here are additional suggestions to get you started. From the following affirmations, choose those that fit your

ideal
who
resu

■ Philosophy ■

- ☐ I desire to base our academic education on the values found in God's Word.
- ☐ I desire to teach my young child as informally as possible using everyday life activities.
- ☐ As a parent, I believe that I know my child and can work more closely with his or her needs and interests than a teacher in a classroom would be able to do.



Is a Written Philosophy Necessary?

You may find it important to have your philosophy on hand to present to school officials or others who may challenge your decision. It is not only for others, however; it's also for you. When the skies are leaden gray and the children are bouncing off the walls, you may ask yourself, "Why am I doing this?" That's the time to re-read your philosophy of homeschooling. Let it encourage you to press through an occasional dreary day.

Home as School Not School at Home

In his book *Dumbing Us Down*, John Taylor Gatto, a veteran school teacher, says, "What I do that is right is simple to understand—I get out of kids' space and time and respect." He

"I give them space and time and

How to Learn the Charlotte Mason Method

- Assumption
- The Wrong Way
- The Right Way

The Wrong Way

- Testimonies

- Texts

- Techniques

1. Testimonies



2003



2003



2005



2007

Wisdom from the Past

It is such a temptation to us ordinary folks to emphasise some part at the expense of the rest and so turn a strength into a weakness. There is only one way to avoid this danger. That is constantly to read and re-read Miss Mason's books, constantly to remind ourselves of her first principles—for from now onwards Miss Mason's work is in our hands; we dare not leave un-made any effort to keep the truth.

2. Texts



Wisdom from the Past

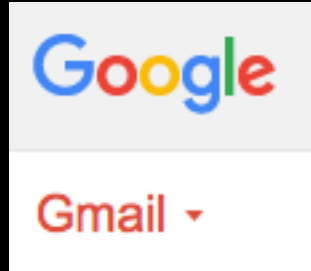
In answer to the objections of your colleague :

(1) “ *I subscribed for the material for one year so that I could see what value it had to offer to us. I may be wrong in my action, but I was unable to get any particular value from it.*”

A subscription for a year's programmes is of no value, as I have already indicated. There is no intrinsic merit in Miss Mason's method apart from the principles on which it is based.

(2) “ *I do feel that the emphasis* ...”

3. Techniques



The presenter compared Charlotte Mason's method of narration to modern documented techniques of "re-telling." The presenter, who was a teacher in a Charlotte Mason school, said that Miss Mason is unique in her strict insistence on narration after a single reading. All other modern "re-tell" techniques require the student to carefully study the passage several times (often in several ways) before finally re-telling it.

2008

Wisdom from the Past

If you regard the Charlotte Mason method as a bag of tricks of which you can select one or two for adoption, leaving the rest, you will have nothing but disappointment. It is the outcome of a philosophy of education, and you must take all or none. You cannot use her methods and books for teaching literature and developing Composition, and use other methods and other books for teaching, say, History and Geography.

The Right Way

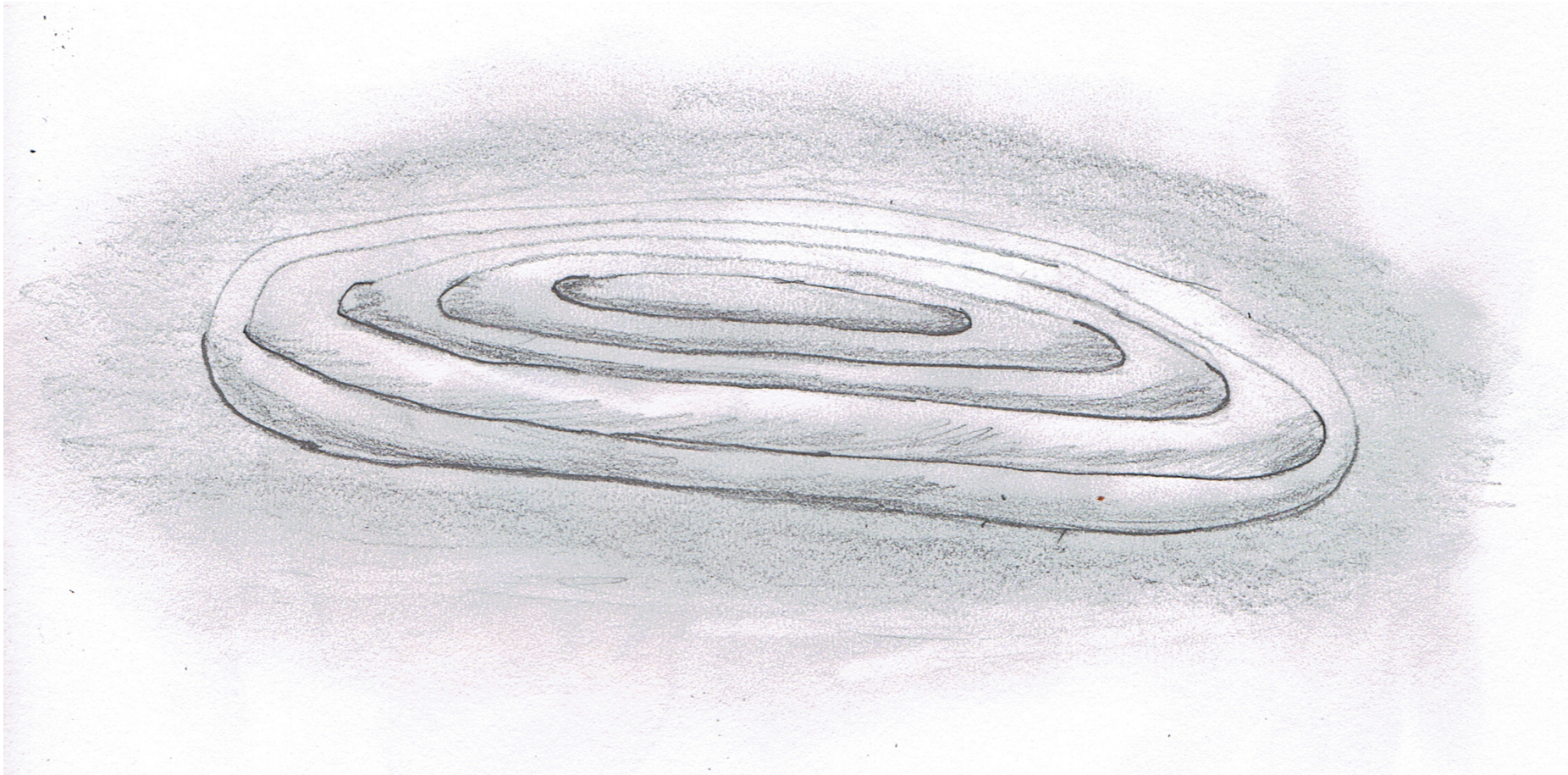
➡ Atmosphere

➡ Discipline

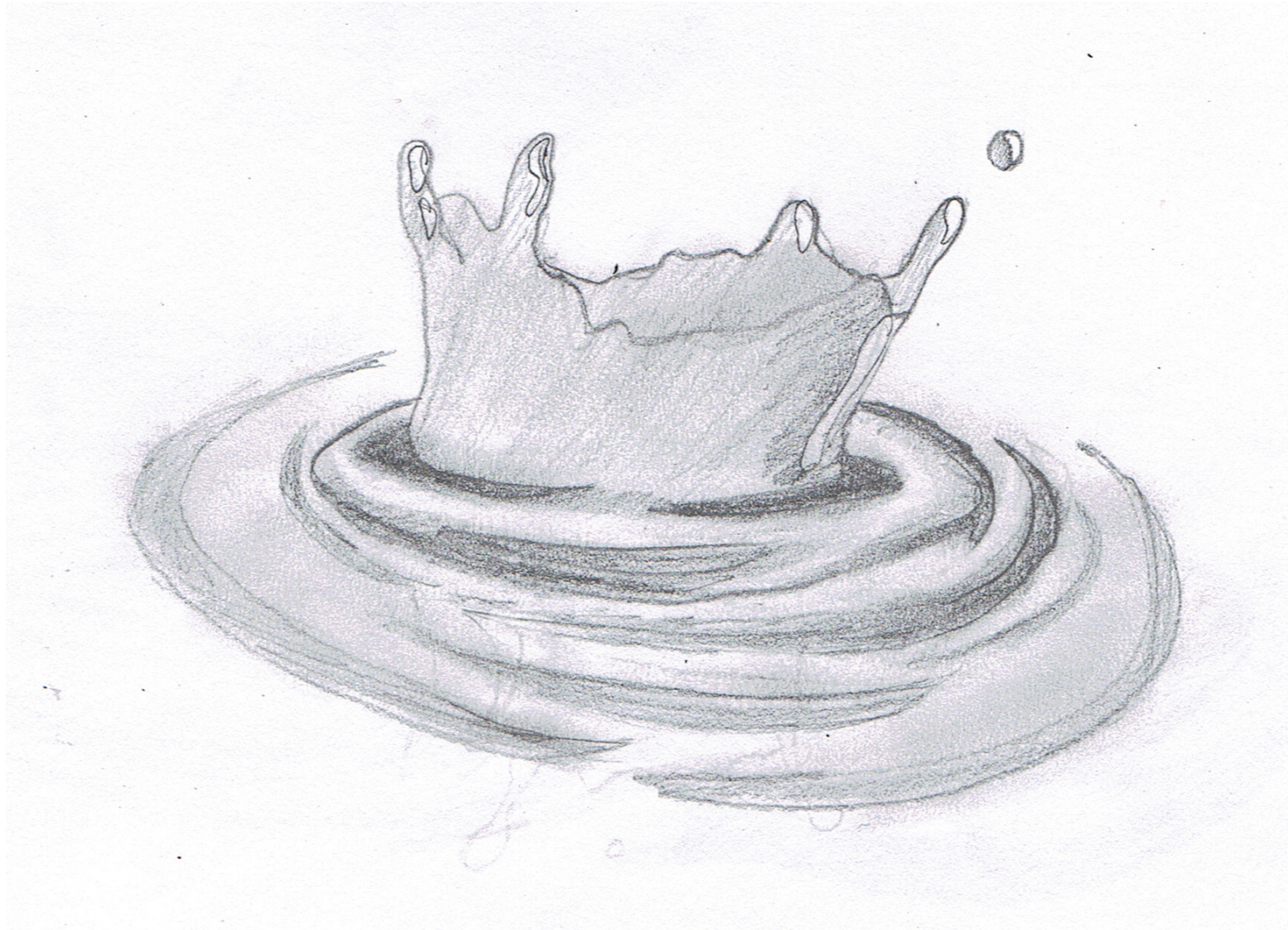
➡ Life

1. Life

For the dictionary appears to me to fall short of the truth in its definition of the term *idea*. An idea is more than an image or a picture; it is, so to speak, a spiritual germ endowed with vital force—with power, that is, to grow, and to produce after its kind. It is the very nature of an idea to grow: as the vegetable germ secretes that it lives by, so, fairly implant an *idea* in the child's mind, and it will secrete its own food, grow, and bear fruit in the form of a succession of kindred ideas. We know from our own ex-

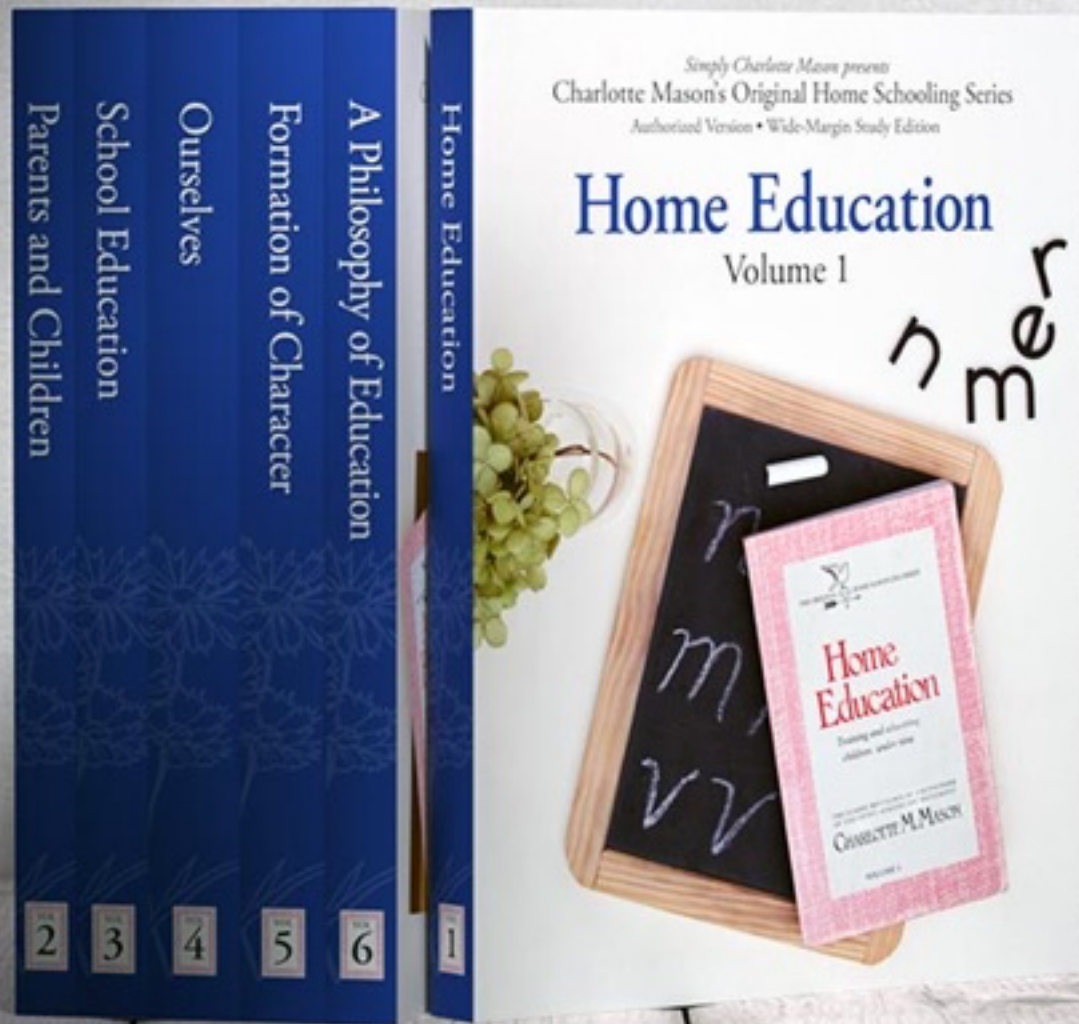


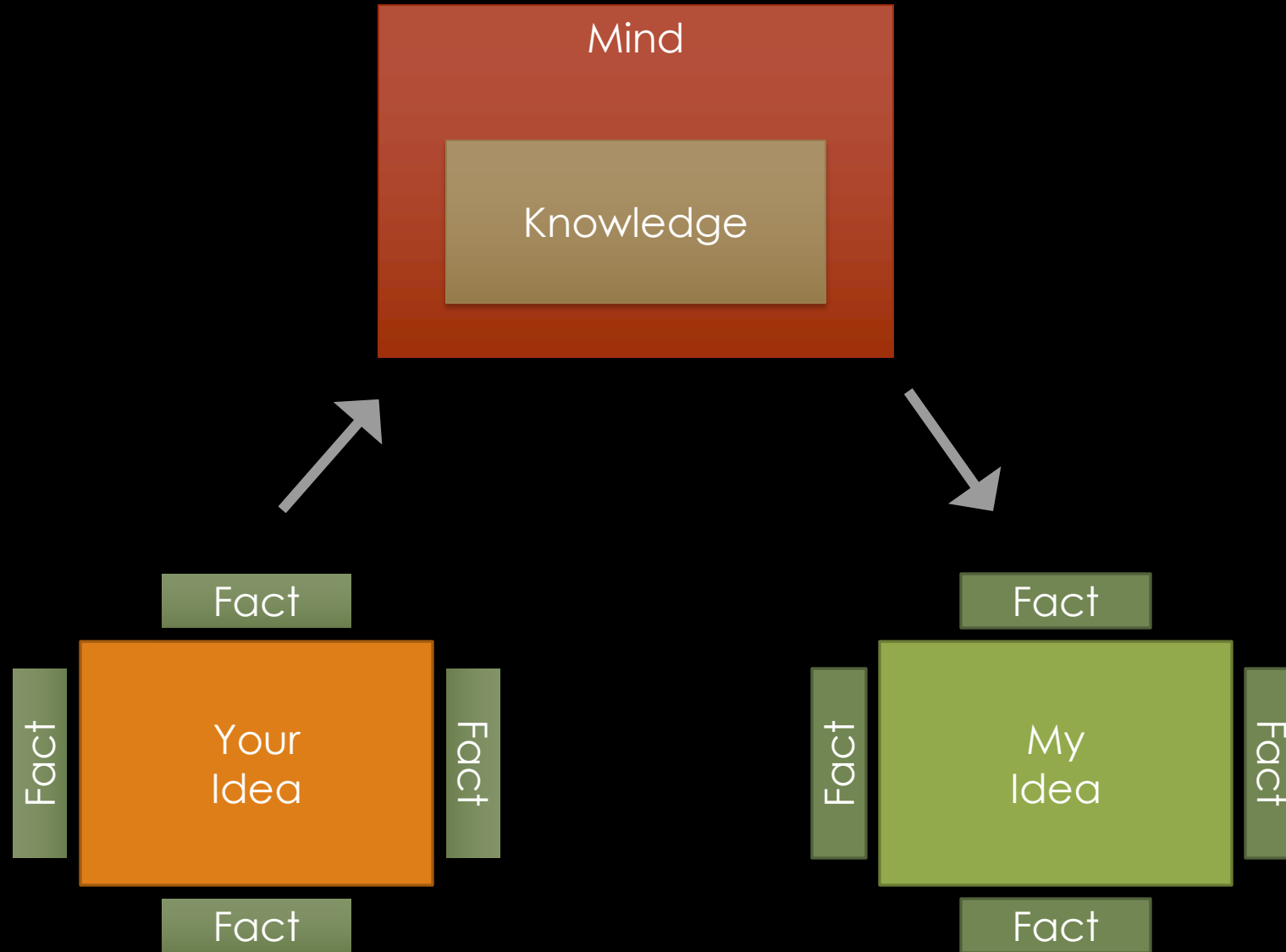
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Living
Ideas
Found
Here





n

$n + 1$

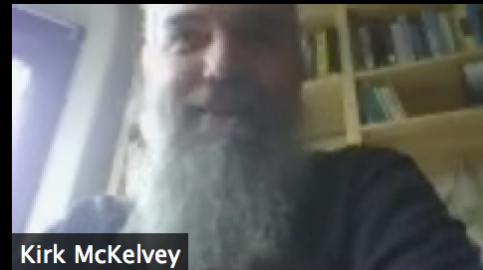
start with $n = 1$

2. Discipline

“Is not physiology hurrying up with the announcement that to every man it is permitted to mould and modify his own brain?

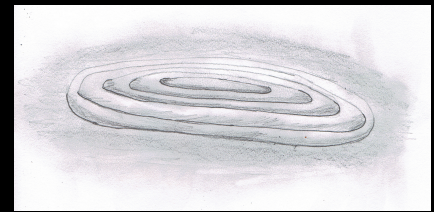
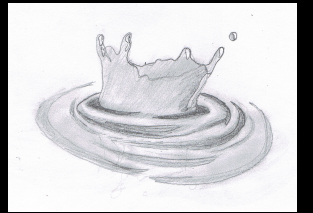
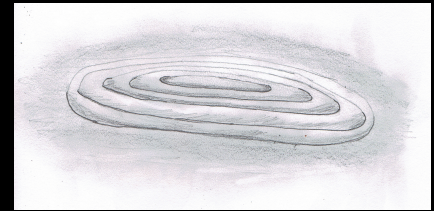
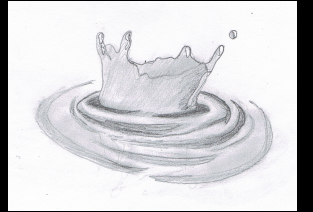
That, not heredity, and not environment, but education is the final and the formative power?”

The Idyll Challenge



“You tell a child that the Great Duke slept in so narrow a bed that he could not turn over, because, said he, ‘When you want to turn over it's time to get up.’

The boy does not wish to get up in the morning, but he does wish to be like the hero of Waterloo. You stimulate him to act upon this idea day after day for a month or so, until the habit is formed, and it is just as easy as not to get up in good time.”



How do you know when it's a habit?

When “it is just as easy as not” to do



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tick in. The mother devotes herself to the formation of one habit at a time, doing no more than keep watch over those already formed. If she be appalled by the thought of overmuch labour, let her limit the number of good habits she will lay herself out to form. The child who starts in life with, say, twenty good habits, begins with a certain capital which he will lay out to endless profit as the years go on. The mother who is distrustful of her own power of steady effort may well take comfort in two facts. In the first place, she herself acquires the habit of training her children in a given habit, so that by-and-by it becomes, not only no trouble, but a pleasure to her. In the second place, the

How to Learn the Charlotte Mason Method?

one set of habits at a time



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Eatwell Guide

Check the label on packaged foods

Each serving contains

Energy	Fat	Saturated	Sugars	Salt
1048kJ 250kcal	5g	1.3g	34g	0.9g
LOW	LOW	HIGH	MED	
12.5%	7%	6.5%	38%	15%

of an adult's reference intake
Typical values (as sold) per 100g: 897kJ/167kcal

Choose foods lower
in fat, salt and sugars

Use the Eatwell Guide to help you get a balance of healthier and more sustainable food. It shows how much of what you eat overall should come from each food group.



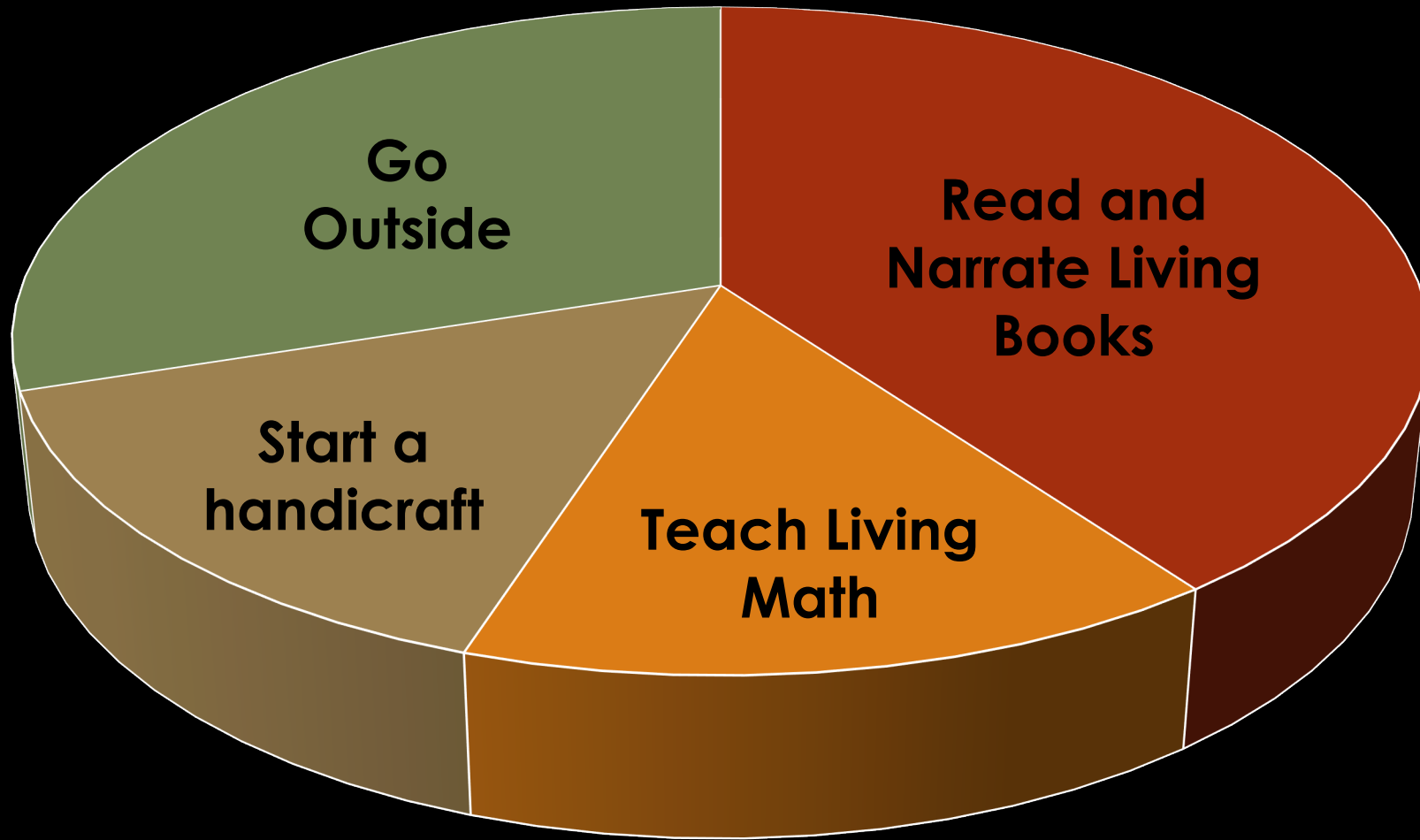
Source: Public Health England in association with the Welsh government, Food Standards Scotland and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

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The Feast

- ➔ Balanced
- ➔ Nutritious

Start With Four



Go Broad, Then Deep

Broad	Deep
Read and narrate the Bible	<i>Saviour of the World</i>
Sing hymns	Sol-fa
Songs	Gouin series
Picture study	Brushwork
Go for walks	Swedish drill
Turn off the screen	Gardening

The boy does not wish to get up in the morning,
but he does wish to be like the hero of Waterloo.
You stimulate him to act upon this idea

Who is *your* partner in habit
formation?

3. Atmosphere

tion is a life, nourished upon ideas ; and education is an atmosphere—that is, the child breathes the atmosphere emanating from his parents ; that of the ideas which rule their own lives.

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What ideas rule your
life?

Your children know

Do you want your children
to love learning?

Do you want your children
to turn off the screen?

Do you want your children
to sketch nature?

Do you want your children
to enjoy poetry?

Do you want your children
to know Jesus?

Love learning

Turn off the screen

Sketch nature

Enjoy poetry

Know Jesus

pressions of *things*. The father, who held that nothing was so stimulating to young pupils as for their elders to learn with them, also laboured at this



How can I really understand narration?



Do you want to study
How to take a walk?
Be a Scale How student,
And learn wild birds to stalk.
You'll also find a pleasure
In climbing in the sun
To find the height of mountains
And why a stream doth run.

Do you want to study
Why a bee it stings?
Be a Scale How student,
You'll learn a lot of things,
All about the insects,
Sponges, slugs and worms,
Caterpillars, scorpions,
And all that give you squirms.

Do you want to study
What sloyd and carton mean?
Be a Scale How student,
On models you'll get keen.
Just use your knife quite freely,
And cut your finger so,
Here is scope for genius
And words like hang! dash! blow!

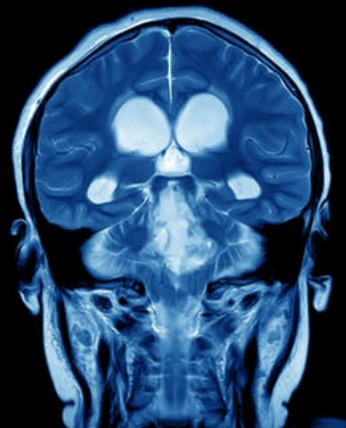
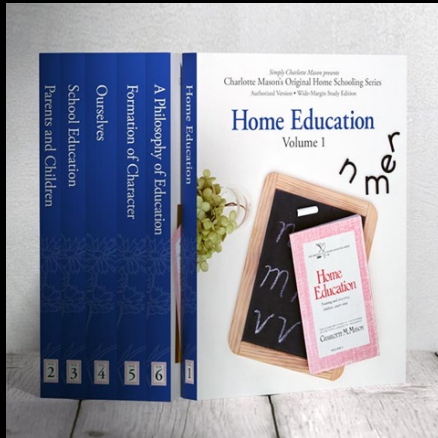
Do you want to study
How to doh, me, ray?
Be a Scale How student,
Learn “Nobis domine,”
How to beat one bar in,
And keep your part all right,
While your next door neighbour
Out of tune is singing quite.

Do you want to study
How to read aright?
Be a Scale How student,
Attend a comic sight.
Stroke your nose quite gently,
Make sounds like bay! boh! boo!
El-en-di-ten among them,
Don't smile whate'er you do.

Oh yes, it's real amazing
What knowledge you can store
At Scale How, where they teach you
To dust and sweep the floor,
Knit socks and weed the garden,
Clear tables, play a hymn,
Do all that you can think of,
Excepting how to swim!

How to Learn the Charlotte Mason Method

- Read and narrate the volumes in a group
- Turn ideas into habits with the help of a friend
 - Join the feast with your children



Is it worth it?

MY SAT ONLINE SCORE REPORT

SAT TEST JANUARY 23, 2016

Palmer Middlekauff

NOT AN OFFICIAL SCORE REPORT

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ESSAY IMAGE:

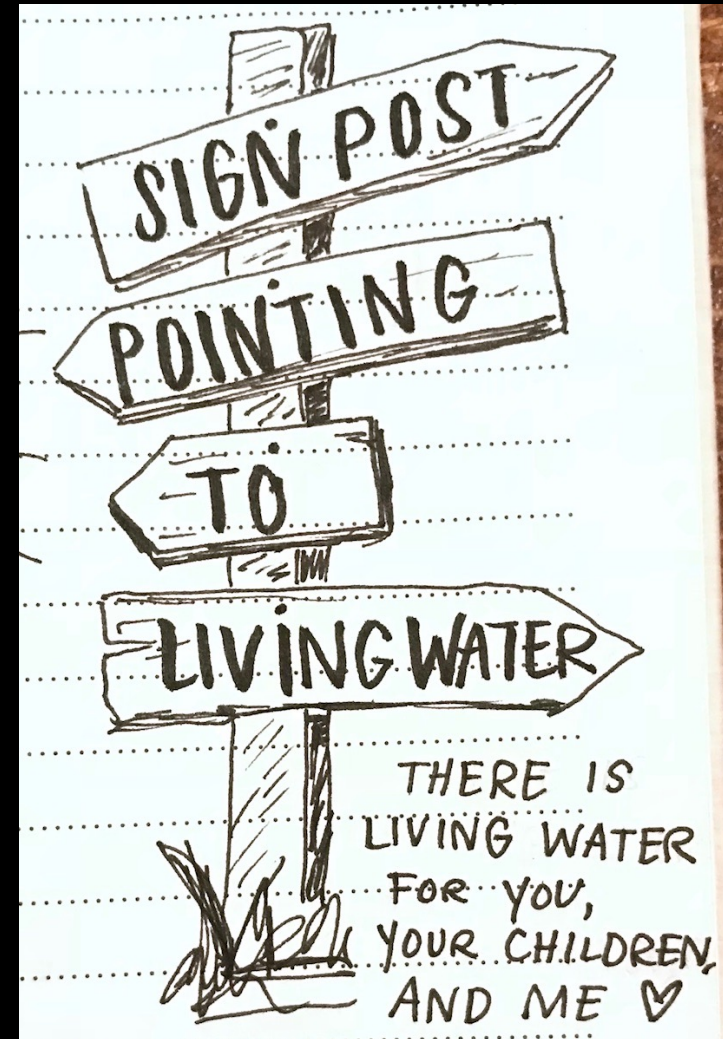
Begin your essay on this page. If you need more space, continue on the next page.

Before we make an important
seems wise to gather as much
possible concerning what action to
of this information comes to us,
of advice from others. How much

October 30, 2016

Dear Admissions Officer,

I strongly recommend Palmer Middlekauff for your program because of his scholastic ability and his ambition. As Palmer's father, home educator, and primary teacher, I have gotten to know him quite well over the years. Also, as Chairman of the Board of the [Charlotte Mason Institute](#), a nonprofit corporation promoting relational education, I have gotten to know many home educators and students. Many first-hand experiences have confirmed to me that Palmer has strong academic aptitude as well as a highly competitive orientation.





Thank You

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