

September - Summer

Morning

Time Plans

Cultivating Character



Carrie De Francisco

WWW.COFFEEWITHCARRIE.ORG

Simple Homeschooling



Welcome,



Pour yourself a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and take a little coffee break with me. Let's talk about Family Style Learning using simple Morning Time plans. Our family found the simplest way to homeschool was to learn as much as we could together as a family. We found the easiest way to do this was by setting time aside each morning to do our Bible, memory work, and humanities together. In our home, we called it family time; you may call it Morning Time, Circle Time, Table Time, Basket Time, or something similar.

Each morning, our family would gather at the table for breakfast and devotions. Then we would congregate on the couch and floor in our family room for our family-style lessons. I would read aloud to the kids while they drew something, built something, or created something with their hands. After discussing the book or chapter we read, we would work on memory work, read some poetry, learn a folk song or hymn, write in our journals, play a game (usually math-related), learn about an artist or composer, draw in our nature journals, discuss current or historical events, do some map work, maybe do a science experiment, and from time to time, read a little Shakespeare.

Did we cover all of these things each day? No way! After family devotions and read-aloud, we would do 2 or 3 of the things mentioned as a family before taking a break and moving on to independent work. In this resource, I have compiled for you our Morning Time Plans we did over the years. Each monthly plan suggests topics to read, discuss, memorize, learn, teach, observe, and do.

Use what you like and what appeals to your family. Skip the rest. Each month is "grab and go." Scripture, memory work, poetry, and art prints are printer ready.

Links are provided for art, science, and music studies. All you need to do is collect picture books and chapter books to read (I share some of my favorites), print what you need, and start. For more ideas on how to use Morning Time Plans, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #130, "Simple Homeschool Solutions: Let's Get Loopy!"](#)

May the Lord bless your homeschooling adventures for His glory,

—Carrie—
DE FRANCISCO



Family Devotions & Character Study

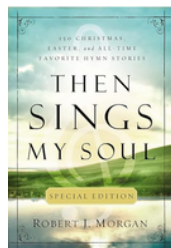
Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will focus on building godly character, developing good habits, and learning social manners. For each character trait, a Bible story and a Bible verse is given that demonstrates the monthly theme. In addition, an example in nature or in the animal kingdom is given that further demonstrates the monthly character theme. You may want to purchase the Character Cards from September & Co. During your family devotion time, do one of these four activities:

Week One: Read the suggested Bible story and discuss how the person demonstrated the monthly character trait. Then read the character trait definition given each month or use the Character Cards from September & Co. Brainstorm ways you can demonstrate a particular character trait or fruit of spirit each day or that month. It is helpful to role-play and practice being grateful, respectful, cheerful, etc. Use the theme verse, which correlates to a godly character trait and a fruit of the spirit, as your memory work and/or copy work.

Week Two: Read the suggested nature story and discuss how the animal demonstrates the monthly character trait. Review the character trait definition and discuss ways you can demonstrate that particular character trait or fruit of spirit.

Week Three: Discuss the monthly list of manners given. Practice using them each day. For fun, role play scenarios when bad manners are used instead of proper etiquette. For example, act out eating and talking with your mouth full instead of chewing quietly.

Week Four: Do the monthly hymn study. You will need the book by Robert Morgan, Then Sings My Soul.



Hymn Study

In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will do a hymn study each month instead of a composer study. Traditional church hymns are full of biblical truths, doctrine, and bible verses. While listening to, singing, and discussing lyrics of traditional hymns, your family will be learning about God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and godly character traits. For the hymn study, print the hymn lyrics, one for each child and place it in his/her Memory Work Binder. Each morning, start with family devotions and worship by singing the hymn together. At the beginning of Week Four, read the story of the hymnist from the corresponding chapter in the devotional, Then Sings My Soul, by Robert Morgan.

Read Aloud

This is the heart and soul of your family-style learning and morning time. It doesn't really matter which classic or which picture books you read; the idea is to spend at least 20 minutes a day reading aloud to your family. Each month, I suggest a few picture books and one chapter book novel to read that correlate to the monthly character theme. However, don't stress over finding the exact picture books. I often found I could go to the library at the beginning of the month with only a list of topics I wanted to cover, and I could find an abundance of picture books to check out. I personally made more work for myself trying to find the exact books recommended in teacher guides and packaged curriculum. Start with the suggested books in each month's Morning Time Plans and then check out or purchase any other treasures you find along the way.

Memory Work

Create a Memory Work Binder for each child. Each month, print the scripture memory verse, poem, hymn, and/or passage to be read and memorized. Print one of each for each child. Place the memory work pages inside a sheet protector. Then place each sheet into the Memory Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase [Transparent Menu Covers](#). When you read, recite, or memorize verses, poems, or passages, they are easy to find and use. You can also use dry-erase markers to highlight or underline keywords. For more ideas on how to incorporate memory work into your days, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #116, Memory Work: A Podcast To Remember](#).

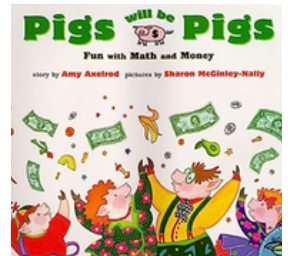
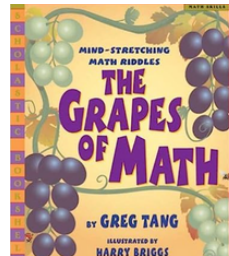
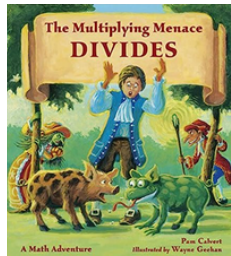
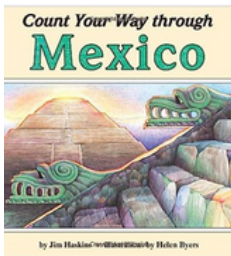
Poetry

My kids did not enjoy poetry so this was an area I had to be intentional about. I did this by including at least one poem and one poet in our Morning Time Plans each month. Because this was not an area of interest for my children, I made sure I kept poetry time light and enjoyable. Keep it simple. Read the poem with your family and simply enjoy it. It's really that easy! If you want, ask your children to close their eyes while you are reading the poem. Then after, they can narrate what they pictured in their minds, or they can draw an illustration that goes with the poem. Ask what they liked about the poem and what they didn't like. Focus on a new vocabulary word heard in the poem. If you have time, print the poem and place it in your child's Memory Work Binder. Each day or each week, recite the poem and memorize it line by line. For fun, read the poem with different accents. With older kids, you can analyze the rhyming pattern (if there is one). Teens can look for literary devices in the poem such as personification, alliteration, similes, and onomatopoeia. If your child loves to write, then try creating a few original poems about the same topic or using the same rhyming scheme. I honestly think poetry should be read and appreciated; it doesn't need to be over-analyzed. For more ideas on how to have fun with poetry, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time."](#)



Journal Writing & Writing Activities

Every year, our family did four things during our morning time: Bible, Read Aloud, Journal Writing, and Math. In this year's morning time plans, I have included daily writing prompts for each week as well as a monthly writing activity to introduce concepts such as grammar rules, parts of speech, literary devices, and vocabulary. At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new writing journal or notebook. This will be his/her writing journal for the year. Make sure you have one too! During morning time, read one of the suggested writing prompts. Everyone writes for five minutes about the topic given, including mom. If you have a younger student, he or she can draw their story, orally tell their ideas, or dictate their responses to you. After five minutes, everyone stops writing and shares what they wrote. Since this is a journaling and "brain dump" activity, there is no need to correct punctuation, spelling or grammar. If your child would like to continue working on his/her response, he/she can do so during their independent work or free time. Sometime during the month, do the extra writing activity together as a family. I suggest you do it the first week. If your family enjoys the activity or game, then you can repeat it each week for fun.



Math Read Alouds & Games

While math was usually what my children did during their independent work or one-on-one with me later in the day, I did incorporate math during our morning time through picture books and/or through games. Over the years, I collected quality math picture books to include in our home library. There are an abundance of picture books that teach simple and complex math concepts such as counting, shapes, computation, fractions, multiplication, division, probability, decimals, measurement, ratio and proportions, geometry, and even algebraic concepts. Each month, a list of math picture books is given to read aloud during your morning time. A quick and easy math game is also included. All of the recommended math picture books can found at your local library and on Amazon. The only supplies needed for the math games are a pair of dice, a deck of cards, a stack of paper, and/or a few pencils. For more ideas on how to include math picture books in your morning time, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #19 "Math Morning Time: Tame Those Math Tears and Fears."](#)



Art Study

Print in color the masterpiece for the month. In our morning time plans, we scheduled two weeks for our art and artist study. If you would like to learn about the artist and his/her work once a week during the entire month, then search the internet for 2-3 other masterpieces by the month's artist. The first week, start with the masterpiece given in the Morning Time Plans. Then each of the following weeks, focus on a different masterpiece by the same artist. Use the same procedure described in the Morning Time Plans on the Art Study pages. Since we purposefully chose famous artists, it will be easy to research the artist on the internet and to find quality picture books at your local library about each artist to dig deeper into his/her life and works. I highly recommend building your own home library of artist picture books. Check out some of our favorite artist picture book series: The Katie Books by James Mayhew, Anholt's Artists Books For Children by Laurence Anholt, Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists by Mike Venezia, and Smart About Art books. We also invested in as many art card and board games as we could find. It was a great way to review artists we have learned about and to introduce new artists not yet covered. For more information on how to do simple art studies, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #15: "Let's Talk Art Studies: What Are They and How To Start."

Nature Study

At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new drawing journal. This will be his/her nature journal for the year. This year, Nature Studies will focus on the Five Kingdoms: Protista, Monera, Fungi, Plants and Animals. Each week, nature study suggestions and science activities are given in the Monthly Morning Time Plans. Feel free to do some, all, or none of them. You can use the activities to supplement whatever you are already doing in science, or they can be your sole science "curriculum" for the year. In the Nature Study section of the Morning Time Plans, drawing, painting, and watercolor instructions, videos, and links are given. The primary objective of doing nature studies is to appreciate God's handiwork in creation, to improve observation skills, to inspire curiosity, and to get outside. Creating Instagram-worthy journal pages is not the goal. After spending time in nature and drawing something that piqued your child's interest, you can stop there. However, if you want to include more, give your child a verse, poem, or inspirational quote to copy next to his/her drawing. If your child is older, he/she can research the item drawn and write facts about it next to his/her drawing or they can spend time labeling the parts of their drawing. For writing, teens can write a few paragraphs about the item drawn. The goal is to observe and enjoy nature. For simple ways to incorporate Nature Studies in your week, listen to past Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast episode.



December Morning Time Plans



Character Trait
Cheerfulness

Carrie De Francisco
WWW.COFFEEWITHCARRIE.ORG

Simple Homeschooling



Bible Study

Throughout the month, read and discuss the story of Paul & Silas imprisoned (Acts 16:16-34). Focus on the memory verse: Philippians 4:4. Discuss how Paul and Silas were joyful even in challenging circumstances. Using suggested verses, older students can do a word study on "cheerfulness" & "joy." Younger students can use suggested verses for copywork.

Character Study

Discuss the definition of Cheerfulness and its corresponding Fruit of the Spirit and attribute of God: Joy. Practice being cheerful. Role play different situations.

Hymn Study

Listen and memorize the hymn, "Joy to the World." Learn more about the composer, Isaac Watts.

Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "The Laughing Song" by William Blake.

Writing

Respond to the journal writing prompts and share. For this month's writing activity, play POS Scavenger Hunt to learn the eight parts of speech.

Art Study

Study the "The Blue Horse" and other works by Franz Marc. Learn about the artist, Franz Marc.

Math Work

Calculate the most "expensive" words. Read math picture books about money. Play "Race to Washington" and other money games.

Nature Study

Review classification and the five main kingdoms. Focus on the Bacteria (or Monera) Kingdom.

Read Aloud

Read aloud a chapter book about being cheerful and having a joyful heart such as Pollyanna by Eleanor Emily Hodgman Porter. Read picture books about cheerfulness such as Have You Filled Your Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud, Anna Hibiscus Song by Lauren Tobia Atinuke, The Pout-Pout Fish by Deborah Diesen, and The Grumpy Monkey by Suzanne Lang.



SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

December
Cheerfulness

Daily

Read portions of Acts 16. Memorize Philippians 4:4.
Memorize a portion of the poem, "The Laughing Song" by Blake.
Listen to "Joy to the World" and learn it.
Read aloud from the chapter book, Pollyanna by Porter.
Read aloud one of the math or character trait picture books.
Respond to a journal writing prompt.

Week One

Discuss the definition of Cheerfulness and how the Bible character demonstrates this trait.
Do Week One of Art Study: "Blue Horse" by Franz Marc.
Do Week One of Nature Study: The Bacteria Kingdom
Read \$1.00 Word Riddle Book by Marilyn Burns.
Introduce and do the writing activity: Parts of Speech Scavenger Hunt

Week Two

Review the definition of cheerfulness and joy and learn how different animals demonstrate this trait.
Do Week Two of Art Study: "Yellow Cow" and Franz Marc
Do Week Two of Nature Study: Helpful Bacteria
Find the most expensive names, colors, and words.
Do the writing activity: Compose a Parts of Speech Poem.

Week Three

Learn and practice etiquette skills that show cheerfulness.
Do Week Three of Art Study: Monochromatic & Expressionism
Do Week Three of Nature Study: Harmful Bacteria
Play "Race to Washington" and "Race to Zero."
Copy and memorize the Parts of Speech Poem.

Week Four

Do Hymn Study. Discuss the lyrics. Read about the lyricists and the story behind the hymn. Finish memorizing it.
Do Week Four of Art Study: Create own "Blue Horse"
Play any money games such as Monopoly, Allowance, Payday, Life, etc.
Do a few Mad Libs to learn the 8 Parts of Speech.



— Carrie —
DE FRANCISCO

Memorize

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."
- Philippians 4:4

Read Acts 16

One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved." This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And instantly it left her. Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace.

"The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted to the city officials. "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice." A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

The next morning the city officials sent the police to tell the jailer, "Let those men go!" So the jailer told Paul, "The city officials have said you and Silas are free to leave. Go in peace."

Trait

Cheerfulness is being happy, expressing joy and being positive. Cheerfulness is an attitude. It takes practice to be cheerful. Cheerfulness is looking for the good things in life. A cheerful person doesn't just feel happy but also shares that joy with others, making them feel good, too.

Practicing Cheerfulness

Cheerfulness (or joy) is different than happiness. Cheerfulness is a choice and a mindset; happiness is a feeling. Cheerfulness or joy is an inner quality of looking for the good, even when you might also feel sad, mad, or disappointed. For instance, a child can feel sad that a game is canceled but still be cheerful by looking forward to a different, fun activity.

Practice these daily or weekly cheerful habits:

- Point out the positives. Practice looking for the good things that happen each day.
- Encourage giving. Discover the joy of making others happy through kind words and actions.
- Allow for all emotions. It's okay to feel sad or angry, but these feelings don't have to define your entire day. It's what you do with those feelings that matters.
- Practice an attitude of cheerfulness. It will spread to people around you. People who meet you become cheerful, too. Cheerfulness can be contagious!

Examples in Nature

While animals don't experience emotions exactly as humans do, some animals such as dogs display behaviors that suggest cheerfulness and joy. Dogs wag their tails vigorously, bounce with excitement, and engage in playful behaviors like fetching balls or zooming around ("zoomies") to show they are happy.



Jesse's Joyful Days

In a sunny backyard, Emma, a kind girl, loved playing with animals. Every day, she tossed a bright red ball for her dog, Jesse, a fluffy pup with a wagging tail that never stopped. His golden fur sparkled as he leaped with glee, spreading joy like confetti.

"Catch, Jesse!" Emma called, throwing the ball. Jesse yipped, chasing it with a happy bounce, his eyes shining like stars.

One morning, Jesse found a squeaky toy under a bush. He pranced to Emma, dropping it at her feet with a proud bark. "For me?" Emma laughed, picking it up. "You're so cheerful, Jesse!" She tossed it, and he zoomed after it, tail spinning like a propeller.

The next day, Emma brought out extra treats. Jesse spun in circles, yapping with delight, then dropped a chewed stick by her side. "Another gift!" Emma giggled. "You make every day brighter!" She scratched his ears, and he licked her hand, overflowing with joy.

Each day, Jesse shared his happiness: a floppy sock, a muddy leaf, even a bouncy ball he'd dug up. Emma kept them in a "Joy Jar," telling her dad, "Jesse's gifts show how much he loves fun!" Her dad nodded, smiling at Jesse's cheerful hops.

One rainy afternoon, Emma felt glum. Jesse sensed it and nudged her with a soggy tennis ball, barking softly. "Oh, Jesse, you always know how to cheer me up!" Emma said, tossing it. He dashed through the puddles, splashing joyfully, making her laugh.

Emma learned that Jesse's cheer was contagious. His playful gifts and wagging tail turned every moment



Etiquette is a set of polite behaviors that show cheerfulness and joy to others in social situations. Practice using the following manners this month.

MANNERS THAT SHOW CHEERFULNESS

Smile! Smile when meeting someone new. Greet a stranger with a smile in the grocery store. Smile at your sibling first thing in the morning.

Don't forget to laugh. Collect jokes to share with others. Laugh with others (not at others). Laugh at yourself. Try not to take yourself too seriously.

Look on the sunny side. When things are going well, be thankful. When things are not going well, take a few minutes to list the things that do bring you joy. Keep a positive perspective even when faced with challenges. Look for the silver lining, think about the lessons learned, and the benefits of things turning out differently.

Compliment others. Give a sincere compliment, like praising your sibling's outfit or a friend's laugh. These simple compliments can create positive connections, give you joy and spread cheerfulness.

Celebrate someone else's happiness, even if it means putting their joy before your own. For example, be happy for your friend if she gets the part you both auditioned for or be happy for your little brother when he finally beats you in a game.

Be humble with good news. When you share your success, do it with humility and graciousness. Avoid boasting or coming across as arrogant, which can alienate people.

Don't be a "Debby Downer." Take a time out. When you're feeling irritable, frustrated, or angry, the goal is to prevent your negative emotions from harming those around you.



Joy

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Galatians 5:22

Word Study for Teens

The joy of the Lord is our strength. The Lord expressed His joy after creation when He declared, "It is good." God's deep joy is restoring relationships with His people when someone accepts the gift of salvation. There is even much rejoicing in heaven when one is saved.

Proverbs 15:13 (NIV) "A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit."

Proverbs 17:22 (NLT) "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength."

Psalms 16:11 (ESV) "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Psalms 118:24 (KJV) "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

James 1:2-3 (NIV) "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

Psalms 30:5 (NIV) "Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."

John 15:11 (ESV) "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV) "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."



Joy To the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sound joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make
His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders of His love.

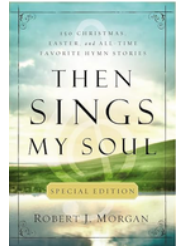


WATCH



LISTEN

Composed by Issac Watts



The Laughing Song

William Blake



WATCH

When the green woods laugh with the voice of joy,
And the dimpling stream runs laughing by;
When the air does laugh with our merry wit,
And the green hill laughs with the noise of it;

When the meadows laugh with lively green,
And the grasshopper laughs in the merry scene,
When Mary and Susan and Emily
With their sweet round mouths sing "Ha, ha he!"

When the painted birds laugh in the shade,
Where our table with cherries and nuts is spread:
Come live, and be merry, and join with me,
To sing the sweet chorus of "Ha, ha, he!"



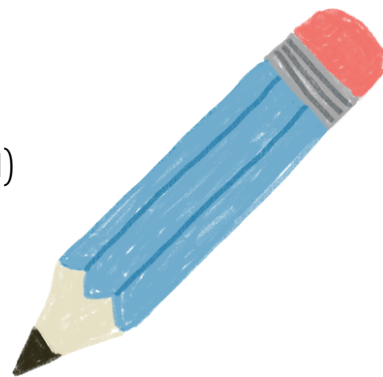
PARTS OF SPEECH

Use the following activities to learn and memorize the eight parts of speech.

Parts of Speech Scavenger Hunt

Find and bring back the following 8 objects:

1. Any clean **object** from the bathroom. (NOUN)
2. Bring back with you a **SHE**. (PRONOUN)
3. Something that can **move**. (VERB)
4. Something that moves **quietly**. (ADVERB)
5. An object that is **shiny**. (ADJECTIVE)
6. Something found **in** your backpack (PREPOSITION)
7. An object that is blue, thin, **AND** useful. (CONJUNCTION)
8. Then run back and yell "**Eureka**"! (INTERJECTION)



Parts of Speech Poem

Pick a topic (or noun) for your poem. Fill in the outline below to compose an original Parts of Speech Poem.

(an article + a noun)

(an adjective + a conjunction + an adjective)

(a verb + a conjunction + a verb)

(an adverb)

(a noun that is related to the noun on the first line)



The 8 Parts of Speech

Memorize the 8 Parts of Speech. The poem as copywork and as a way to remember the role of each parts of speech.

THE PARTS OF SPEECH

Every name is called a **NOUN**,
As field and fountain, street and town;



In place of noun the **PRONOUN** stands
As he and she can clap their hands;

The **ADJECTIVE** describes a thing,
As magic wand and shiny ring;



The **VERB** means action, something done -
To read, to write, to jump, to run;

How things are done, the **ADVERBS** tell,
As quickly, slowly, badly, well;



The **PREPOSITION** shows relation,
As in the street, or at the station;

CONJUNCTIONS join, in many ways,
Sentences, words, or phrase and phrase;



The **INTERJECTION** cries out, 'Hark!
I need an exclamation mark!'

Through poetry, we learn how each
of these make up **THE PARTS OF SPEECH.**



Journal Prompts

Read aloud a journal prompt. Set a timer. Free write (or brain dump) for 5 minutes. End with each person sharing what they wrote.

- What is your favorite color? List at least 7 things that have this color in them.
- Describe one of your friends. How did you become friends? What do you do together?
- If you could get any gift for Christmas, what would you want and why?
- Make a Christmas gift list. Who is on the list? What would you give each person?
- Think of 3 sets of rhyming words for the words pink, box, and pie. Then write a nonsense story or poem with them.
- The title of the story is "The Gingerbread Rebellion." Your gingerbread house comes to life, and the cookies stage a revolt.
- Describe your favorite place to visit or a recent field trip.
- List at least 15 things that make you laugh.
- What book are you reading right now? What is it about? Would you recommend it to a friend? Why or why not.
- Draw a picture of your pet (or a picture of a pet you would like to have). Describe your pet in words.
- What is your favorite holiday tradition?
- Explain how to make a cup of cocoa. Be specific.
- What do you like best about winter? Why? What do you like least? Explain.
- List 20+ synonyms for the word "merry."
- Explain how to play your favorite game. Make sure you include materials needed.
- Give at least 5 ways to finish this sentence: "He sang like a"
- The title to the story is "The Snow Globe Secret." You find an old snow globe in your attic that transports you to a magical winter village.
- Create an imaginary conversation between you and Frosty the Snowman (a talking snowman)
- Make a list of Onomatopoeia words such as buzz, pop, & sizzle.
- Pick one of your Onomatopoeia words. Write a poem with your word as the title.
- Write a Christmas letter to baby Jesus. What would you say?



Artist: Franz Marc

"Blue Horse"

1911, Munich

Oil Painting, Expressionism



Week One

- 1). Print in color the painting "Blue Horse."
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the print. What is it? Where is it? What do they like about it?

Week Two

- 1). Print in color the painting "Yellow Cow."
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the print. What is it? Where is it? What do they like about it?



Blue Horse



Artist: Franz Marc
1880-1916
Munich, Germany
Oil Painting, Cubism



Week Three

- 1). Learn about the artist, Franz Marc. Read The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse by Eric Carle
- 2). Franz Marc (1880-1916) was born in Munich, Germany. The son of a landscape painter, he decided to become an artist after a year of military service.
- 3). Franz Marc was a landscape painter, printmaker, and part of the Expressionism era. He was inspired by the work of Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Henri Matisse, and the Cubists. He enjoyed painting animals with bold, bright colors.
- 4). Look at Franz Marc's "The Large Blue Horses" and his other animal prints. Can you describe "cubism" in your own words? Do you like animals such as horses and cows painted in bright primary colors?



Week Four

For fun, create your own original "Blue Horse." Franz liked to express himself through color. Draw a horse or your favorite animal. How do you feel today? If you are happy, use warm colors to color your animal. If you are sad, use cool colors. If you are angry, use shades of red. Another fun activity is to paint a monochromatic painting of your animal. Pick one color. Mix the color with white to create softer shades. Then mix your chosen color with other colors to create different hues. Use these different versions of your chosen color to paint your animal.



Race To Washington

Practice place value, decimals, and money skills.

MATERIALS:

- Pair of dice
- Pennies (at least 20 for two players)
- Dimes (at least 20 for two players)
- \$1.00 bill
- Race to Washington Game Board (one for each player)



INSTRUCTIONS:

Set Up:

- Draw or print a game board with three columns: 0.01 (Pennies), 0.10 (Dimes), 1.00 (Dollar).
- Review regrouping: 10 pennies equals 1 dime and 10 dimes equals \$1.00.
- Only ten pennies are allowed in the penny column. If a player has 10 or more pennies in the 0.01 column, they must be exchanged for 1 dime. Move the dime to the 0.10 (Dimes) column.

Gameplay:

1. Player A rolls both dice and adds the numbers (e.g., roll 3 and 4 = 7).
2. Collect that many pennies (e.g., 7 pennies = 0.07) and place them in the 0.01 (Pennies) column.
3. Player B rolls both dice, finds the sum, and places that many pennies in 0.01 column.
4. Players take turns rolling the dice, finding the sum, and adding pennies to their game board.
5. The winner is the first player to collect 10 dimes in the 0.10 column. Exchange the 10 dimes (0.10) for the \$1.00 and place it in the 1.00 (Dollar) column.

Variations

- For a simpler and longer game, roll one die each turn.
- Play "Race to Zero." Be the first player to lose all your money (100 pennies, or \$1.00) by rolling dice to subtract pennies (0.01 each) from your total. On the player's first turn, he needs to exchange the \$1 for 10 dimes. After rolling the die, the player then needs to exchange 1 dime for 10 pennies in order to subtract the number of pennies required.



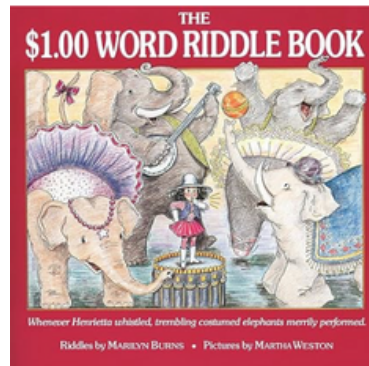
RACE TO WASHINGTON GAME

Roll a die. Add the numbers together. Place pennies into the 0.01 column.

Trade for a dime when you get ten pennies and place it in the 0.10 column. First player to 10 dimes or one \$1.00 wins!

1.00	0.10	0.01
		

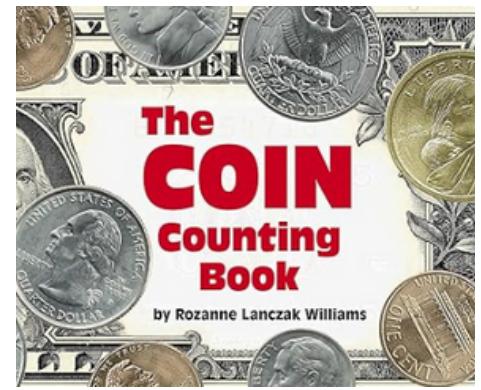
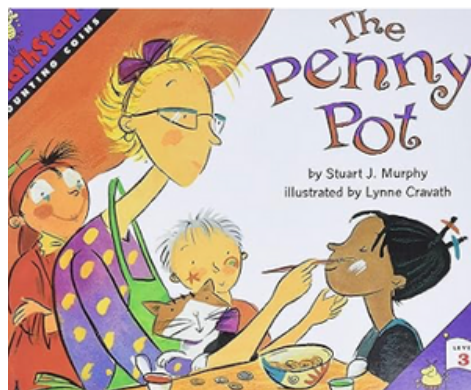
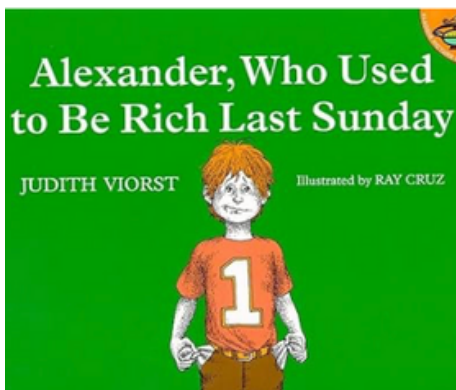
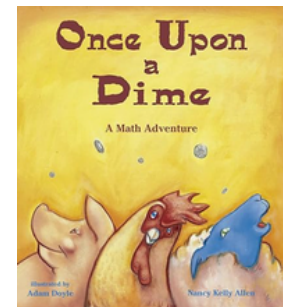
Math Picture Books



Gather these money picture books from your library or order them on Amazon. **Click on the book to order from Amazon.** Start with Marilyn Burn's book, The \$1.00 Word Riddle Book. There are hundreds of words that add up to exactly \$1.00. Read each riddle and do the math to collect \$1.00 words. If A = .01, B = .02, C = .03,... Z = .26, then calculate who has the most expensive name in your family. Open up a box of crayons. Find out which color is the most expensive crayon. Have fun. Figure out which ice cream flavor or which fruit is most expensive.

Here are a few great books to get you started:

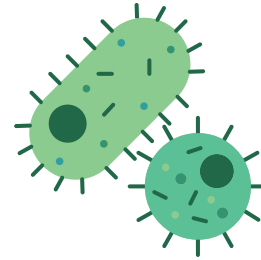
- The Coin Counting Book
- The Penny Pot
- Once Upon a Dime
- Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday



Bacteria Kingdom

WEEK ONE: Types and Shapes of Bacteria

Use three different colors of playdough or modeling clay to create the three kinds of bacteria.



- Coccus (spherical, like balls)
- Bacillus (rod-shaped)
- Spirillum (spiral or corkscrew-shaped)

WEEK TWO: Helpful Bacteria

Not all bacteria is harmful. There are many forms of bacteria that help humans stay healthy. They can be found in our guts, the soil, and even in our medicines. Some bacteria help create yogurt and cheese. Use the recipe given to make homemade yogurt.

WEEK THREE: Harmful Bacteria

It is important to wash your hands. Some bacteria can be very harmful to humans. They can cause diseases and sicknesses like Strep Throat, food poisoning, and Meningitis. Discover the most common places in your home bacteria lingers and how handwashing can prevent illness.

Order Bacteria
Experiment Kit



Homemade Yogurt

INGREDIENTS NEEDED:

- 4 cups whole or 2% milk (avoid ultra-pasteurized, as it may inhibit bacterial growth)
- 2 tablespoons plain yogurt with live active cultures (as a starter)
- Large saucepan
- Thermometer (preferably digital)
- Whisk or spoon
- Clean glass jars or containers with lids (sterilized)
- Towel for insulation

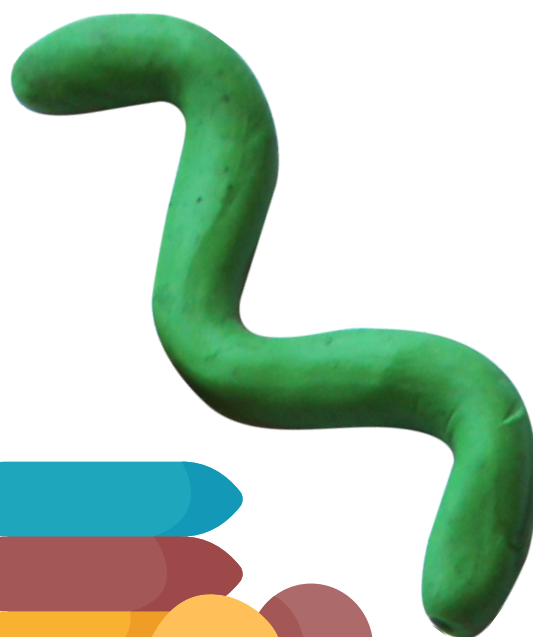
DIRECTIONS:

1. Pour 4 cups of milk into a saucepan and heat over medium heat stirring occasionally to prevent scorching.
2. Remove the saucepan from heat and let the milk cool. Stir occasionally to cool evenly.
3. Whisk in 2 tablespoons of plain yogurt to evenly distribute the bacteria.
4. Pour the milk mixture into clean, sterilized glass jars or containers. Wrap the jars or cooler with a towel to retain heat.
5. Let the mixture incubate for 6–12 hours. Longer incubation results in tangier, thicker yogurt. Check after 6 hours; the yogurt should be set and slightly tangy.



Nature Journaling

Draw clay models of bacteria, bacteria growth in Petri dishes and/or yogurt samples.





Don't forget to check out other *Coffee With Carrie* RESOURCES



WEBSITE:



www.coffeewithcarrie.org

PODCAST:



[Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast](#)

INSTAGRAM



[@coffeewithcarrieconsultant](#)

YOUTUBE:



[Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Help](#)

BOOKS



[Order
Just Breathe](#)



[Order
Homeschool
High School](#)



Invite Carrie to speak at
your next Mom's event
or local homeschool
conference.

[CONTACT](#)



Need help
homeschooling? Sit
down, relax, and book a
coffee date with Carrie.

[SCHEDULE](#)