

## Who was Charlotte Mason?

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 utilises 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 do I learn more?

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... <http://www.amblesideonline.org/>

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

Find how AO and CM-based learning may help children with special needs to learn... <http://www.amblesideonline.org/SpecialNeeds.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 mail-list...

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AmblesideOnline/>

A mail-list for parents who are utilising CM-inspired and AO-based learning for their children with learning challenges...

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AOwithLDKids/>



Are you seeking an easy to use, flexible, fun 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?

**AmblesideOnline**

<http://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 email 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.

Ambleside Online's free info includes:

- ~ A gentle introduction to learning with AO Year 0 (Kindergarten).
- ~ Booklists for each grade (Years 1 to 12) 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 Charlotte Mason book series online for free, as well as concise summaries and modern English paraphrases of her original series.



## What subjects can 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 1 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.

