

Charlotte Mason Education:

Charlotte Mason (1842-1923) was a teacher, author, and educational philosopher who governed her own teacher training college in Ambleside, England. She believed children deserve far more from education than training for a job, learning to pass exams, or getting into college. Mason said education is an atmosphere, a discipline, and a life; it is finding out who we are and how we fit into the world of human beings and into the universe God created.

Mason regarded children as persons capable of lively thought rather than blank slates to be filled with information. She honored their natural need for vital relationships with ideas and knowledge to feed their growing minds.

Mason's teaching principles are proven, sound, and accessible. Her methods carry us through each day with grace and delight, and help us prepare children for a life of rich relationships with everything around them: God, humanity, and the natural world. We believe a Charlotte Mason education is the best possible life for every child!

Connections and support:

AmblesideOnline.org

The heart and home of AO and a treasure trove of free resources, including detailed schedules and booklists, teacher training articles, Charlotte Mason's original books (plus a modern translation), practical support for a whole feast of subjects such as nature study, art and music appreciation, Plutarch, Shakespeare studies, and much more.

The AO Forum

Thousands of friends of AO from all over the world meet here for support, encouragement, and fun. Enter through AO's homepage and come ask questions, share ideas, and learn more about Charlotte Mason's methods. This supportive community hosts areas for teens, special educational needs, prayer, lively book groups, local meet-ups, and much more.

Archipelago (archipelago7.blogspot.com)

The AO Advisory's blog is filled with wit, wisdom, perspective, and sage advice from the creators of AO—six women who are veteran Charlotte Mason educators—plus occasional special guests.



"A WIDE AND GENEROUS EDUCATION FOR ALL"

"We, believing that the normal child has powers of mind which fit him to deal with all knowledge proper to him, give him a full and generous curriculum; taking care only that all knowledge offered him is vital, that is, that facts are not presented without their informing ideas.

Education is the Science of Relations; that is, that the child has natural relations with a vast number of things and thoughts: so we train him upon physical exercises, nature lore, handicrafts, science and art, and upon many living books."

- Charlotte Mason

Towards A Philosophy of Education



AmblesideOnline

AmblesideOnline:

“A wide and generous education for all”—this is the living idea that crossed a century and an ocean to light the spark that became AmblesideOnline (AO).

AO is a time-tested K-12 curriculum designed to dovetail with Charlotte Mason’s educational principles.

The AO curriculum was carefully crafted in the homeschools of families who have studiously practiced Mason’s principles since the 1990’s. As we watched our families flourish under her methods, our vision grew—like Mason, we wanted this wide and generous education to be made possible for all children, regardless of circumstances. There was just one problem: no CM curriculum was available. We prayed and set to work creating one.

AO was the first Mason curriculum to be offered online, and completely free. Twenty years later, AO has been time-tested in homes and classrooms, and has set the standard for CM education in the modern era. From a handful of families in the beginning, AO currently serves countless thousands of children in countries all around the globe. The sun never sets on AmblesideOnline!

AmblesideOnline at a glance:

AO is a true Charlotte Mason education for students of all ages. It nourishes the whole person with first-hand exposure to great and noble ideas through best-quality books in every subject, rich literature and poetry, meaningful handicrafts, beautiful art, many forms of music, and ample time immersed in nature.

The knowledge of God, as found in the Bible, is the primary knowledge and the most important. Chronological history comes alive through well-written books, source documents, biographies, and literature selections which illuminate the era. Language arts skills develop organically through narration (telling back a story) and copywork (transcribing a portion of quality literature), and dictation of familiar passages. Memorization is approached not as a tool for repeating facts, but to give children rich words to ponder for a lifetime.

AO eases the path to a Charlotte Mason education for families, co-ops, and cottage schools, by freeing parents and teachers to focus on the unique needs of each child. Through the AO website, we provide detailed schedules, time-tested methods, extensive teacher resources, helpful ideas for enriching the early childhood years, the AO Library, and much more—all for free.

AmblesideOnline families say ...

“When I sat down to plan out our year, I was so overwhelmed. Finding AmblesideOnline was a God-send! Much of the work had already been done for me by mothers who were educating their own children using the same methods I hoped to use. The booklists, the wisdom, and the support offered by AmblesideOnline have made my job so much easier! I can just concentrate on educating my children—and I’m receiving a rich education at the same time.”

“I had been trying to make my own Charlotte Mason curriculum, which was quite daunting. When I found AmblesideOnline, I was so excited! These wonderful ladies had done all the work for me! Now, all I have to do is follow the schedule, feeling confident that I’m providing a well-rounded education.”

“We just finished reading *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and I’m thinking, ‘Wow, we are reading Shakespeare. And he is actually understanding it.’ And my son was so passionate about the book *Paddle-to-the-Sea* that he talks about Paddle on a daily basis. We have found our curriculum.”

“We LIVE differently because of CM and AO. We knew something was working when we realized that our 4 year old son loved listening to my husband reading the unabridged *Robinson Crusoe* out loud every night to our daughter. My firstborn is about to graduate... it’s wonderful. She loves to learn. She knows how to learn. She has a relationship with many things. So you see what can happen when you spend ten years with AO!!”