



**Grace in Homeschool EP 06**  
**10 Reasons You Can Homeschool**  
**Reason 6: Literature & Art**  
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**Amy:** We want to raise our children loving these true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and good things. Virtuous things. And it may feel tough that in our society and culture, we can't raise our children to ascribe to all these things. But we can; we'd have to act intentionally to ensure these things influence our children.

(Opening Intro Music)

**Amy:** Hi, friends, and welcome. I'm your host AmyElizSmith. I'm a homeschool mom of three and have homeschooled each from the start. While I have a Master's in Elementary Ed, I want to teach other mamas that you don't need a fancy degree to have the passion and knowledge to educate your children from home successfully.

I hope to encourage you to jump in and start your homeschool journey and provide my absolute best recommendations to help you begin your homeschool journey. Thanks for joining us for this crazy, messy, grace-filled homeschool ride.

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**Amy:** Hi. Welcome back, friends, to our "Top 10 Reasons Why You Can Homeschool." Today we will talk about sharing beautiful literature and arts with your child. Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true. Whatsoever, things are honest. Whatsoever things are just. Whatsoever things are pure. Whatsoever things are love. Whatsoever things are of good report. If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

We want to raise our children loving these true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and good things. Virtuous things. And it may feel tough that in our society and



**culture, we can't raise our children to ascribe to all these things. But we can; we'd have to act intentionally to ensure these things influence our children.**

**Children in homeschool can be exposed to composers and art. They can learn about botany and zoology and do hands-on activities. They can read good and powerful, beautiful literature. They can paint and learn all about God's truth from these wonderful things in God's world.**

**Charlotte Mason, one of her principles, number 20, is "We teach children that all truths are God's truths and that secular subjects are just as defined as religious ones. Children don't go back and forth between two worlds when they focus on God and then their school subjects. There is unity among both because both are of God and whatever children study or do, God is always with them."**

**When we study other subjects, we know they relate to our natural and spiritual worlds. So, please remember that. Remember that nothing is dissected, so to speak, from God's truths. And when we share with our children that God ordains all subjects because we learn in His natural world, wow. Can that be amazing? And it can be such a wonderful experience for parents and children alike. So we want the question not to be "What was covered in our child's day? Or our child's grade? Or our child's year or education?"**

**Instead, we want to know how much do they care. And that is another quote from Charlotte Mason. We want to expose them to these topics and so many different arts. They don't know what they don't know. So when we expose children to beautiful literature and music, and to the great pictures and great artists, for them to see different types of art, that is helping them to cultivate in their little brains what am I interested in? And that wisdom can be brought into the rest of their lives. During a child's free time, they can cultivate their interests. We like to do this in the afternoons. We save the mornings for formal studies. We, for our homeschool, get together for lunch, and then we have bible and singing and science and history time together.**



But the afternoons are there to cultivate their interests. So, My daughters love to paint or create. My youngest does cardboard projects or small parts play. My son had his hand at woodworking for a while and then soap carving. He is an avid coder like his dad, so he's taking a class for that, which is very neat.

My middle daughter is knitting right now. My two daughters together love to listen to books or dance and spend time together. We'll send them outside, and they'll create little worlds or have a hand at gardening or even collecting bugs in their little containers; those poor little bugs might end up dead in those same containers, but the children had fun naming and playing with them.

So this is very different than the monotony of textbook learning. I want to get through the lesson. I have to get through the lesson because even when we're doing those formal lessons, they're shorter lessons but also lessons based on truth.

We don't give them enough credit. They want real topics. They want a liberal arts education where they're learning about the Greeks, Romans, and Egyptian times, then going into the Middle Ages and the Renaissance and Reformation. Children want to learn about these things. And they will make connections from the knowledge of God, the knowledge of man, and the knowledge of the universe.

In her Volume Six, *Towards the Philosophy of Education*, she wrote "Their Lives," quoting William Wordsworth. So she talks about Wordsworth a couple of times in this volume. But this is a poem from *Musings near Aquapendente* by William Wordsworth:

"There lives no faculty within us, which the Soul can spare, and humblest earthly Weal demands, for dignity, not placed beyond her reach, Zealous co-operation of all means given or required, to raise us from the mire, and



liberate our hearts from low pursuits by gross Utilities enslaved we need more of ennobling impulse from the past. If for the future, aught of good must come."

And Charlotte continues to say, "There is no faculty within the soul, which can be spared in the great work of education, but then every faculty or rather, power works to the one end if we make the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, the object of our educational efforts, we find children ready and eager for this labor, and their accomplishment is surprising."

Wordsworth also says, "If rightly trained and bred, humanity is humble. We live in times critical for everybody, but eminently critical for teachers because it rests with them to decide whether personal or general good should be aimed at whether education shall be merely a means of getting on or a means of general progress towards high thinking and plain living, and therefore an instrument of the greatest national good.

Without knowledge, reason carries a man into the wilderness, and rebellion joins the company. Fundamental knowledge is the knowledge of God. And while we are ignorant of that principle, knowledge, science, nature, literature, and history." So here Charlotte is talking about the importance of combining all those subjects and never taking for granted what that will mean to each child and every child.

And this becomes her philosophy, I believe, of the science of relations that children will make connections for themselves of all the subjects you're teaching them. And we should never hold back from the great art, literature, and music of old and of today. So I hope that encourages you today; whether you're starting or aren't a homeschooler yet, I encourage you to expose your children to these beautiful things so Philippians 4:8 can ring true in your home.