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A Twaddle-Free Education: An Introduction To Charlotte Mason's Timeless Educational Ideas

A TWADDLE-FREE EDUCATION



AN INTRODUCTION TO CHARLOTTE MASON'S TIMELESS EDUCATIONAL IDEAS

DEBORAH TAYLOR-HOUGH



Synopsis

Are you disappointed with dumbed-down reading material ("twaddle") written for children? Do you wish for your children to feast their hearts and minds on noble ideas, fine art, and great literature? Are you hoping your children gain an appreciation of nature and a deep understanding of natural sciences? Most importantly, do you want your children to develop a lifetime love of learning? If you answered "yes," you may discover a Charlotte Mason-inspired twaddle-free education is just what you've been looking for. ABOUT THE AUTHOR: In the mid-1990's, Deborah Taylor-Hough set up one of the first Charlotte Mason homeschooling websites and edited The Charlotte Mason Monthly ezine. Debi currently edits The Charlotte Mason eMagazine and blogs at CharlotteMasonHome.com

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Customer Reviews

Since I'm new to Charlotte Mason, I found this book helpful if not exactly professional. Taylor-Hough succeeds in providing a general overview of Mason's philosophy, such as the importance of nature and high-quality literature and art. While the book does provide specific, practical guidance (e.g., lists for suggested reading materials and indoor winter activities), I was not impressed by the

production. Chapter 18 presents a Q&A with the author but repeats verbatim some of the material from the beginning chapters. The lists in Chapter 11 switch randomly from bullets to numbers. And the author uses the words "twaddle" and "twaddly" overmuch. At moments, she seems insecure, trying to convince readers she is an "insider." I think she should be more confident: yes, she allows occasional entertainment that may seem silly and less educational. So what? For the vast majority of the time, it seems, she respectfully challenges her children to use their gifts and surrounds them with what is beautiful and deep. As an English teacher and "old soul," I resonate with the author's appreciation for books that are not dumbed down. In a society where publishing companies often churn out inane children's books with no plot or beauty "simply to provide material for emergent readers" it's refreshing to find children's books that are well illustrated, well crafted works of literature. Our kids do need to learn to read (and the "Level 1" or "Level 2" labels help), but they also need to develop a love of reading. And it's confusing when kindergarten teachers ask about the beginning, middle, and end of the story when there is no story!--when the book consists of nonsensical CVC words that label pictures.

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