

Charlotte Mason:

One of the early influences on the Heritage School philosophy was the *The Original Home Schooling* series by Charlotte Mason, a nineteenth century British educator and a modern advocate of her teachings, Susan Schaeffer Macaulay (in *For the Children's Sake*). Ms. Mason emphasized that true education involves the intimate knowledge of a subject gained through the interaction of minds through "living" books, nature study, and purposeful cultivation of good habits (attention, thinking, imagining, remembering, neatness and order, truthfulness, responsibility, courtesy, punctuality, and good temper). She advocated using literature that does not talk down to children and using the method of "narration," or retelling in one's own words what the student had heard in the reading of a passage of "living" literature. She promoted the interaction of the mind with the author without excessive teacher interference; the role of the educator, she asserts, is to lay a "feast" before the student and allow his/her mind to interact with that of the author. In the truest sense of the word, self-education is the only way for a child to truly lay hold and keep the information. Our teachers take great joy in reading to and with the student, exploring the story, savoring the words, and thinking with them about the well-written books they explore.