



CHRISTMAS

COPYWORK

FROM

LITERATURE

NICKITRUESDELL.COM

How to use copywork as a natural teacher

Copywork starts with a passage to copy. It can be anything you like! Choose a current Bible verse the child is memorizing, or an entire passage from scripture. Choose a hymn or a piece of poetry. Choose an interesting section from the science book. Choose a descriptive section from a piece of literature.

For younger children, start with one sentence per day. You can add more depending on the age of the child (and you will know what is just enough or too much). Older elementary students are capable of paragraphs and can transition to writing their work in cursive. When your kids learn to type, allow them to alternate handwriting and typing with their copywork.

As they write, let the instruction be minimal and natural.

- “See the capital *A* at the beginning of the sentence? We always begin a sentence with a capital letter.”
- “Notice that this sentence is asking a question, so there is a question mark at the end, instead of a period.”
- “Have you ever seen the word ‘thorough’ before? Take time to notice how it is spelled. What do you think it means?”

Middle and high school students can copy much more, depending on their course of study and topics. They will really begin to notice the differences in authors and styles, complex thoughts and ideas, and the new and interesting vocabulary.

As the students get older, let them choose pieces. Maybe they will start a book of famous speeches, quotes from great thinkers, poetry, or historic documents. Encourage them to keep a book of their work.

Use these Christmas quotes any way you like: simply copy them into a spiral notebook, encourage your children to make Christmas cards, and even illustrate with their own artwork!

For more on using copywork for language arts, see my blog post:
<https://nickitruedell.com/copywork-and-language-arts/>

Christmas Copywork from Classic Literature

Created by Nicki Truesdell

Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Brave New Family*

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

– Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time."

–Laura Ingalls Wilder

"Christmas! 'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart."

–Washington Irving

"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."

Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

"Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"

–Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveler, thousands of miles away, back to his own fire-side and his quiet home!"

–Charles Dickens, *The Pickwick Papers*

“At Christmas every body invites their friends about them, and people think little of even the worst weather. I was snowed up at a friend’s house once for a week. Nothing could be pleasanter.”

-Jane Austen, *Emma*

“If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.”

-J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

“There was once a velveteen rabbit, and in the beginning He was really splendid. He was fat and bunched, as a Rabbit should be; his coat was spotted brown and white, He had real thread whiskers, and his ears were lined with pink sateen. On Christmas morning, when He sat wedged in the top of the Boy’s stocking, with a sprig of holly between his paws, the effect was charming.”

-Margery Williams, *The Velveteen Rabbit*

Jo was the first to wake in the gray dawn of Christmas morning. No stockings hung at the fireplace, and for a moment she felt as much disappointed as she did long ago, when her little sock fell down because it was crammed so full of goodies. Then she remembered her mother's promise and, slipping her hand under her pillow, drew out a little crimson-covered book. She knew it very well, for it was that beautiful old story of the best life ever lived, and Jo felt that it was a true guidebook for any pilgrim going on a long journey. She woke Meg with a "Merry Christmas," and bade her see what was under her pillow. A green-covered book appeared, with the same picture inside, and a few words written by their mother, which made their one present very precious in their eyes. Presently Beth and Amy woke to rummage and find their little books also, one dove-colored, the other blue, and all sat looking at and talking about them, while the east grew rosy with the coming day.

-Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

“The magi, as you know, were wise men--wonderfully wise men--who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones,

possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. O all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.”

- O. Henry, *The Gift of the Magi*

“Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.”

Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

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