

# HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

*Libraries of Hope Newsletter*

“EDUCATION IS THE  
MOST POWERFUL  
WEAPON WHICH YOU  
CAN USE TO CHANGE  
THE WORLD.”

--NELSON MANDELA

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

--Spring has sprung here in Virginia, but it looks like winter is playing an April Fool's joke on many of you.

Are you ready to move into our next 'learning pasture'? Although there is no need to leave the pasture you are in from Month 7 because there will be a lot of overlap on the American side over the next couple of months. If you want to continue sharing pioneer stories or studying Native Americans or keep learning about the movers and shakers of the 19th century, that would be great. Especially if you have younger children. The topics of slavery and Civil War can be pretty heavy for them.

In Month 8 we turn our attention to the amazing life of Abraham Lincoln. There is so much to learn from him—not the least of which is the power of books and self-education. Because of his role in ending slavery, we connect him to a study of African-Americans which connects us back to our world history topic of Africa. And if you want to travel way back, this is the month to take a look at Ancient Egypt, which has its own biblical story of slavery.

On one level, slavery is, of course, cruel and inhumane. Our children need to see and understand that part. But if you keep digging into the stories, you will find some of the most powerful and inspiring stories of patience, forgiveness, endurance, rising above adversity, kindness, family and faith. And perhaps most importantly, why freedom matters.

Like the Persian proverb suggests: the stars shine brightest in the blackest night. There are a lot of shining stars in the stories of African-Americans.

In our Nature Study, we get to study the wonderful world of animals. There are enough stories of animals to last you clear through the summer!

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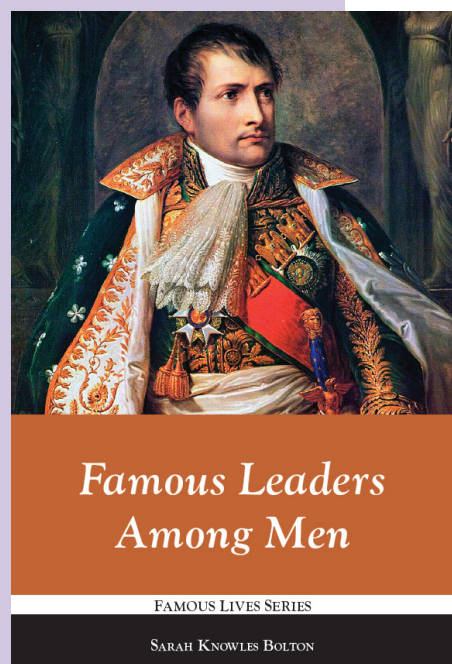
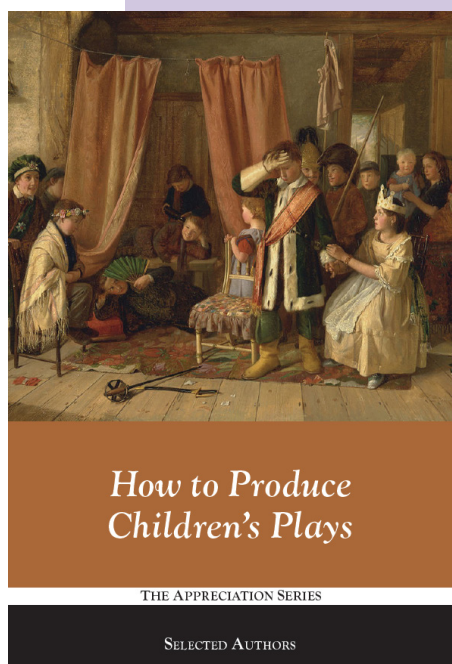
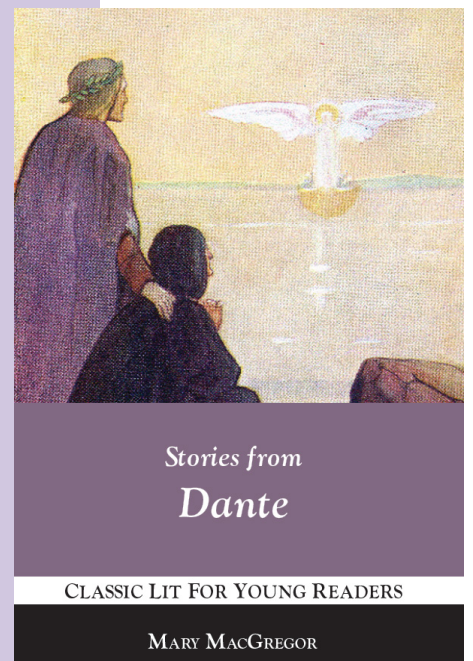
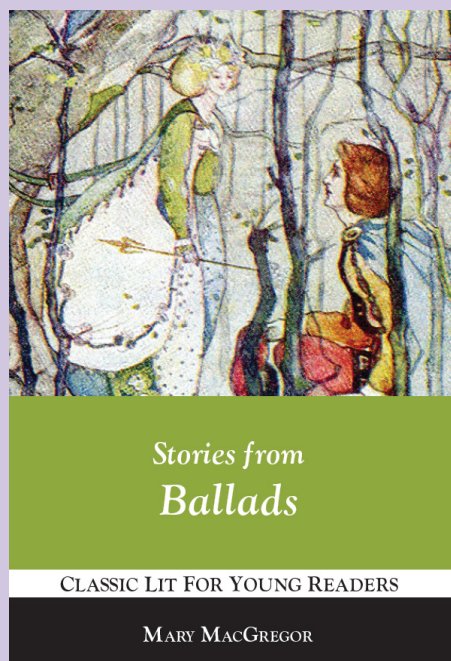
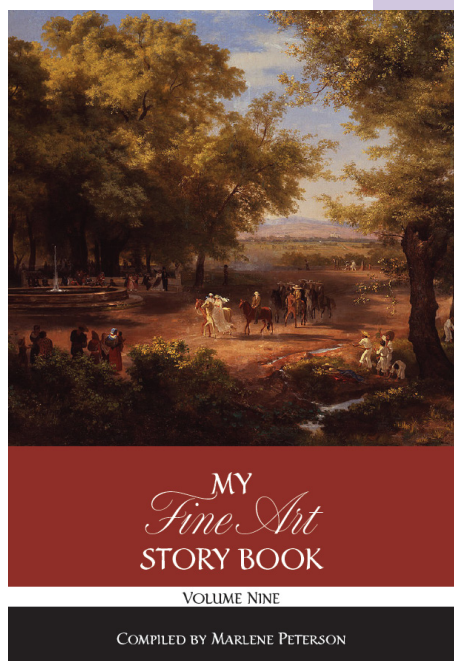
(Announcements cont.) And finally our Mother's University topic is History. We just studied the Imagination. When you think about it, where can you 'see' history except in your imagination? If we want to learn its lessons, we need to 'see' it play out, which the imagination does for us. Stories feed the imagination. No wonder Kipling said, "If history is taught in the form of stories, it will never be forgotten." Are you seeing how all of our Mother's University topics are building on each other?

Do share where your explorations take you this month! I always love to see the variety of people met and places visited.

### --NEW MONTH 8 BOOKS:

Classic Lit for Young Readers: *Stories from Ballads* by Mary MacGregor: "Listen, children for you will wish to hear where I found the tales which I have told you in this little book. It is long, oh! so long ago, that they were sung up hill and down dale by wandering singers who soon became known all over the country as minstrels, or oftimes, because they would carry with them a harp, as harpers."

*Stories from Dante Told to the Children* by Mary MacGregor: "In 'The Divine Comedy,' then, about which this little book tells, you may expect to find much that is sad, much that is terrible. Yet you may be certain that before the







Art credit: In the Classroom by Jean-Paul Louis Martin des Amoignes

(Announcements cont.) end of the tale you will find in it gladness and joy.”

Appreciation Series is all about the importance of dramatic performances in our lives. Come learn how to put on simple neighborhood plays and festivals.

Famous Lives: Famous Leaders Among Men includes stories of Napoleon Bonaparte, Horatio Nelson, John Bunyan, Charles Kingsley, Henry Ward Beecher--and others!

My Fine Art Story Book continues to take a look at architecture, picking up where the last book left off. Also there is a section on Civil War art and the artists who painted the scenes.

--**Dr. Pablo has opened up pre-registration** in the Well-Educated Heart Academy Mighty Networks community. Please take the time to let these instructors know your interest in the classes they are offering. Formal registration will open in June. There will be no payment required until June.

Current classes that are being offered include Algebra 1, Geometry, Physics, Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, The Story of Freedom, The Principles of Freedom in our current world, Spanish I (with possibly a humanitarian trip at the end), a literature course centered on living more Christ-like lives, a Leadership skills class, and an Innovations class for your budding inventors.

We may be able to add a class on writing skills that includes a study of grammar.

These classes are for Middle and High Schoolers as well as all interested parents. Please share the word with anyone who may be interested. They are open to all!

If you want a positive academic experience where your students can interact and get to know other students under the care of mentors who have a passion for what they teach and love the students; classes free from the artificial pressures of grades and standardized testing; a positive and nurturing learning environment where your child is free to learn what he/she is ready and wants to learn, and classes that are free from the political agendas that are infiltrating learning environments everywhere, then I implore and urge you to support these teachers who are well grounded in the WEH philosophy.

Payments can be as low as \$50 a month per class--less than many of you pay for a single music lesson! It is recommended you sign up for only 1 or 2 classes at a time. This is not meant to replace what you are doing in your home learning environment, but rather to complement it.

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(Announcements cont.) We are blessed to have the caliber of talent and skill in these instructors who are serving our WEH community. We will grow and expand according to the interest shown. Your pre-registration allows us to measure how much you want classes like these.

Information meetings are archived in the community and more are coming. <https://wehacademy.org/...>

These classes are open to everyone so please share the word!

**--I am thrilled to announce our** special guest speaker for our April 5 Simple Joy virtual lunch in our Mighty Networks Mothers of Influence community: Paul Hakizimana.

April is our month to talk about history and history is really a story of people. Having grown up in a war-torn country in Africa, Paul shares stories that will inspire you to find beauty in your own life, and even in the face of destruction.

In this short video, he introduces his story. <https://youtu.be/Vfa4FQEGZkc>

Every one is invited to join that community. The prerequisite is to complete the free Catch the Vision Intro course at [librariesofhope.com](http://librariesofhope.com). So if you have been working away at it, you still have some time to complete it and come join us.



“Let the children be free; encourage them; let them run outside when it is raining; let them remove their shoes when they find a puddle of water; and, when the grass of the meadows is damp with dew, let them run on it and trample it with their bare feet; let them rest peacefully when a tree invites them to sleep beneath its shade; let them shout and laugh when the sun wakes them in the morning as it wakes every living creature that divides its day between waking and sleeping.”

--Maria Montessori

Art credit: Children Playing by Arpad Cserepy





Art credit: The Music Lesson by Frederic Leighton

## MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--A friend just sent this article to me about our dystopian age and the battle we find ourselves in. The last few paragraphs especially struck a familiar chord.

"In our very time, growing cells of similar resistance in the form of parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators, patrons, and authors are passionately engaged in an eerily similar battle. So many of our precious core beliefs are under fire or have been exploded. Many otherwise responsible adults have given up. How we came to this point can be sorted out by future historians. But the costs of our social and educational dysfunction are apparent right now and will continue to rise for some time.

"Nonetheless, people are fighting back with a potent, if fragmented, array of weapons. Writers more eloquent than I have laid out the battle plan and its rationale. Each person who helps a child learn a poem by heart, master the multiplication table, or learn a beautiful cursive becomes a courageous soldier. The treasures of our heritage, from great literature to mastery of languages, music, art, theater, and dance become our fortresses. Anyone who takes the time to impart the positive, uplifting values of an inspired life helps shatter the darkness of a dystopian view that suggests all is lost or meaningless.

"Truth never fails. Vacuums will be filled by something. The fight is on. And truth, ultimately, is more powerful than lies."

Here is the whole article: <https://professorcarol.com/2023/03/16/our-dystopian-age/...>

--Many of you are unaware of what just happened. [This video](#) was made by the founder of Internet Archive a few days prior to the court's ruling in the lawsuit brought against them.

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Art credit: Hope by Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones

(Marlene's Musings cont.) Internet Archive lost.

What that means to you is all those wonderful books I've been leading you to that are out of print but still under copyright protection--the books you have been borrowing in IA--will no longer be available for you to read.

That includes the Landmark books, the Messner biographies, the Childhood of Famous Americans, My Book House, the Signature bios--so many others.

Most public libraries no longer carry these books. Used copies are few and far between and are prohibitive in cost.

If you haven't noticed, we are in the middle of a huge cultural revolution in our own country right now. Books are being rewritten. Certain books are being purged from our library shelves. Be mindful of what is happening.

I haven't been able to find out when this takes affect.

Thankfully a lot of people do care about this and Internet Archive has not given up the fight.

And thankfully this ruling does not affect the pre-1923 books which the Forgotten Classics have been taken from. We still will have those or where would you turn to teach your children history and find stories of faith, freedom and family?

I have a Joni Mitchell song going through my head... "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you got til it's gone."

I always hold on to hope. But I'm kinda crying right now at the thought of all that will be lost to us if a way can't be found to access these books.

Learn more at [blog.archive.org](http://blog.archive.org).

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Here are some ways you can help:

- Join the [Battle for Libraries](#)
- [Donate](#)
- If you don't yet have one, create an [IA account](#)
- Read the books that are available on IA! If they don't have enough users, they may not be able to keep the public domain portion running in the long run either.





Art credit: The Children's Playground by Harry Payne

(Marlene's Musings cont.) --Do you feel like your kids don't care about anything?

Let me bring your attention to this Gordon Neufeld presentation. Trust me that it will be well worth your time to watch it. Our children need attachments and they need to care deeply. But we cannot command caring. When we focus on the 'forms' first, i.e., behaviors, reading skills, writing skills, etc., we actually kill the 'spirit' that is the driving force behind everything.

He talks all about the vital role of the heart; of love and caring and feelings. We cultivate it through 'emotional playgrounds' where children are free and safe to feel. And what are those emotional playgrounds? Music, Storytelling, Drawing, Play. While he didn't say it, the perfect classroom is Mother Nature herself.

Nurture relationships where attachment forms, cultivate feelings in emotional playgrounds--culture is another word for emotional playground--and Nature will take care of the rest.

This is the Pattern for Learning in WEH. I didn't make this up. :) <https://youtu.be/nV41wv2lvw>

**"THE FUNCTION OF EDUCATION IS TO TEACH ONE TO THINK  
INTENSIVELY AND TO THINK CRITICALLY. INTELLIGENCE PLUS  
CHARACTER--THAT IS THE GOAL OF TRUE EDUCATION."**

--Martin Luther King, Jr.