

# HEART MATTERS

NON SCHOLÆ SED VITÆ

*Libraries of Hope Newsletter*

“A WORLD OF INFINITE BEAUTY AND DISCOVERY WAITS JUST BEYOND THE POINT WHERE WE USUALLY STOP PAYING ATTENTION... LET YOURSELF FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR LIFE BY PAYING ATTENTION.”

--JOHN MUIR LAWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

--I hope March isn't blowing in like a lion where you are! Spring has sprung here in Virginia.

It's time to move on to Month 7 topics. Now that a new nation has been established, it is growing and expanding westward. There are so many things you can study in Month 7, you may want to spread it out over the next 3 months! Especially if you have littles who may not be quite ready for hard topics like Slavery and the Civil War.

There are pioneer stories, Little House on the Prairie stories, Cowboy stories, stories of Native Americans and all the wonderful innovators of the 19th century. Where there is freedom, there is always incredible progress.

With the idea of expansion in mind, we look at the rise and massive expansion of Islam around the world. They, too, look to Father Abraham through his son Ishmael, which you may have studied in Month 6. We'll start our study in the land of Arabia where Mohammed lived. The Crusades provide a look at what happened when Christian and Muslim worlds clashed. There were some unexpected surprises for me when I started studying these things.

Our Nature topic is Birds--just in time for Springtime.

And finally, in our Mother's University, we will look at the importance of the Imagination.

I'm not sure who said it, but speaking of expansion, remember: "A mind once stretched can never return to its original dimensions."

Happy exploring!

(Announcements cont.) --I haven't talked about it for awhile, but last Fall I announced the creation of a WEH Academy for high school students. Things came together rather quickly and we were able to offer a few classes taught by a very popular teacher from American Heritage, Dr. Pablo Riboldi. He has been teaching classes on Euclid's Geometry, Physics and Biology.

I have had a lot of great feedback. The classes are challenging, but for the students who are there because they want to be there, they have loved them.

And that is the spirit behind this academy--I want to connect teachers who have a passion to teach a certain subject with students who want to learn what that teacher has to offer. This isn't about fulfilling high school credits or jumping through hoops. These classes are for the joy of learning.

Plus I am seeing it is getting harder for parents to find courses that aren't loaded with political agendas for their students.

There have been lessons learned in this pilot program, one of which will result in a change of platform moving forward.

Dr. Riboldi held a parent information meeting where he explained what will be happening in the 2023-24 school year. You can watch it [here](#).

--We are so blessed to welcome Mr. Ruel Haymond as a new teacher to our Academy. He has been a popular teacher at American Heritage and will be offering classes in History, Government--even Spanish--and there may even be some opportunity for humanitarian trips.

His brother, Mr. Andy, will also be offering a class in Leadership Skills to our community.

These wonderful mentors understand that the learning happening in your homes is of primary importance. These



Art credit: Students from the Pestalozzian Academy by Francisco de Goya

(*Announcements cont.*) classes are offered as a way to give your older students a chance to interact with other mentors who are passionate about the subjects they teach and so they can go deeper in their understanding of complex subjects. These classes are offered to foster a love of learning, so there are no grades. We want students who want to be there.

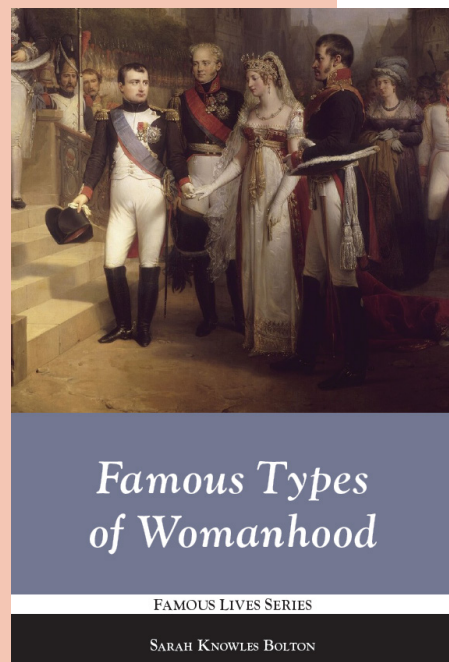
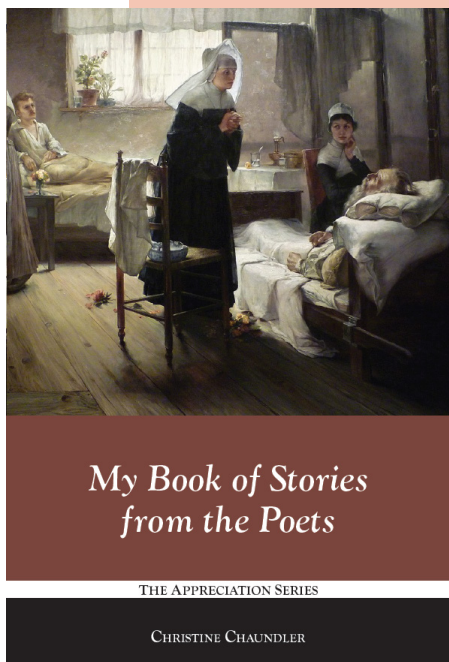
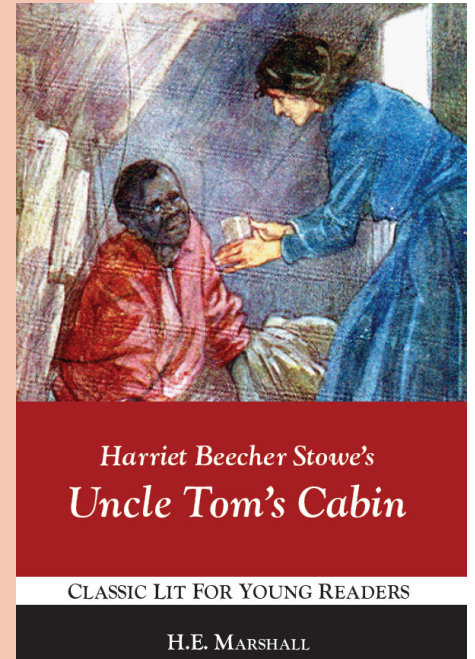
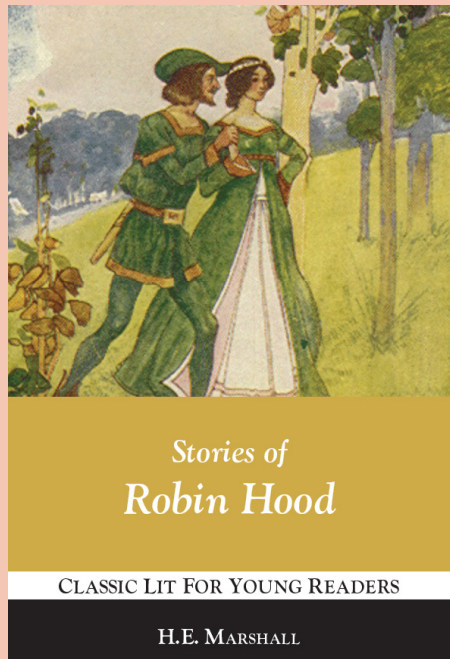
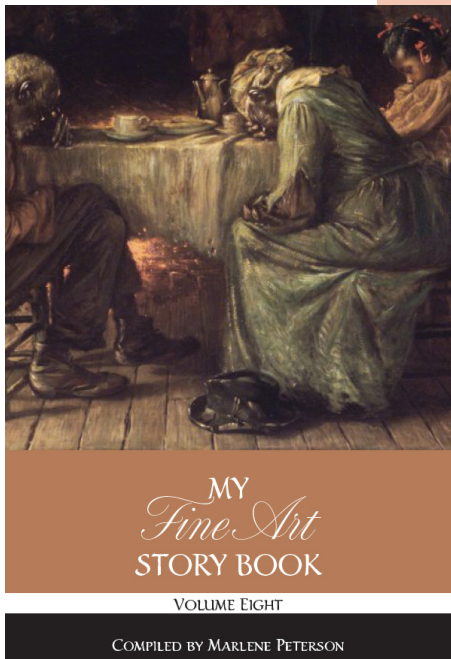
Our teachers truly care about their students. If you are looking for options that still promote and value faith, freedom and family and are free of the political agendas infiltrating much of our education system, then I hope you will take the time to learn more about our Well-Educated Heart Academy.

We can only grow as fast as the interest is shown that you want classes like these. So do let your voices be heard!

### -NEW BOOKS FOR MONTH 8:

Classic Lit for Young Readers offers a re-telling of Uncle Tom's Cabin and Robin Hood. Both stories are told by the gifted storyteller, H. E. Marshall.

My Fine Art Story Book will now give you an introduction to the art of architecture, starting with the architecture of Ancient Egypt and other ancient civilizations. There will also be art of African Americans, to go along with our



(Announcements cont.) month 8 topic.

This month's Appreciation Series volume is *My Book of Stories from the Poets* by Christine Chaundler. This will expand your appreciation of fine poetry. In her Preface, she writes:

“Many of these poems are so long and so difficult to understand that young people do not care to read them, but all the same the stories they tell are very beautiful and interesting, so that it seems a pity that you should miss hearing them altogether. That is one reason why this book has been published: so that you may read in simple language the tales which form the theme of some of the finest poems ever written in English; and also, later on, when you are old enough to understand and appreciate poetry, you will perhaps want to read these stories in their original form, and then you will be glad that first of all you have read them as they are presented here, for when you know what they are about you will be far more able to enjoy the language in which they are written.”

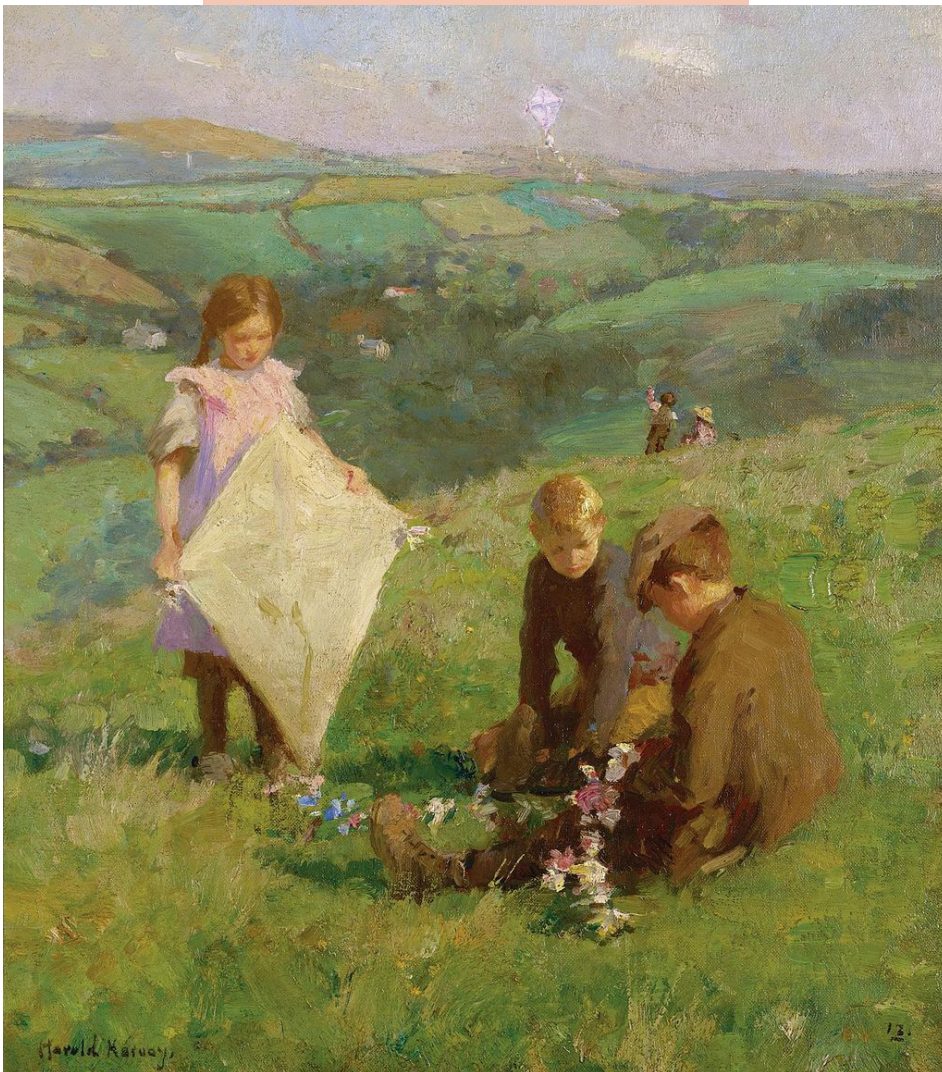
Sarah Bolton's *Famous Lives* takes a look at the lives of more distinguished women, including: Queen Louise of Prussia, Susanna Wesley, Jenny Lind and Dorothea Dix.



“We are like the tenants of an ancient house filled with priceless art and musical instruments and manuscripts, who would be the wisest people in the world if they would get up from their chairs and open the closets and trunks. What we lack is not the means, but the will, and perhaps the teachers who can show us what we have and why it is grand and worthy of our cherishing.”

--Anthony Esolen

Art credit: Poem of the Soul by Louis Janmot



“INTERESTINGLY, SIMPLE  
AND ORDINARY  
EXPERIENCES OFTEN  
PROVIDE THE MOST  
IMPORTANT LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES WE  
EVER HAVE.”

--David Bednar

Art credit: Pioneers of Aerial Navigation  
by Harold Harvey

## MARLENE'S MUSINGS

--I've been thinking a lot about what Sir Ken Robinson said. He said we have come to think that information = intelligence and the more information we can pour into our kids' brains, the more intelligent they will become.

He said that is simply not true.

When you think about it, most curriculums are information delivery systems. Our schools have become information delivery systems. They never ask if a child wants to know; they simply dump it on him.

If you view the rotation schedule as an information delivery system, it will feel like a speeding train passing through the countryside where you end up seeing nothing. You will always feel rushed.

But if you view it as an opportunity to stop by each country and do a little sightseeing--maybe visit a museum on one of your tour stops, take in a symphony orchestra, sit down and have lunch in a little cafe with the locals--and you come back and visit every year, over time you are going to love that country. You'll learn a little here and a little there. Maybe you'll hear about some secret destination that not many know about and will make it a point to visit on your next visit. Or maybe you'll hear about some fascinating life and you'll make it a point to sit down and spend an afternoon getting to know him or her better.

The beauty of it is you get to return over and over again. You get to use all of your senses to enjoy the beauty of the scenery. You have time to hear the locals tell their stories. You get to know the soul of the people. Some tour guide isn't trying to cram every detail in your head because this is your one time through. You get to plan your own itinerary, driven by your interests.

*(continued on next page)*

(Marlene's Musings cont.) No speeding train experience here.

And guess what? You'll find you have made friends all over this wonderful world of ours.

--**It was brought to my attention** that some of you have gotten the impression that I am suggesting that the Forgotten Classics Family Library provides you with all the reading you need to do.

That's not what I have in mind at all! For one thing, this is very nutrient-rich learning. Not very many kids are ready for a strict diet like that.

That's why [Biblioguides](#) is such an important and central part of the new [Libraries of Hope](#) site. It replaces the long lists of books I had in the previous one. They are all incorporated into Biblioguides, but with a much easier searchable capability. Plus there are a lot of other books to choose from. Biblioguides offers you a library of wholesome books. It expands your options in a wonderful way.

Maybe look at the Forgotten Classics as a main meat entree. But you certainly want some appetizers and salads and bread and side dishes and of course dessert. Biblioguides completes the meal.

Forgotten Classics may introduce some things to learn about; Biblioguides gives you the way to go deeper.

Your little ones aren't going to curl up and thumb through the Forgotten Classics. But put a stack of picture books that BG has recommended, and you are feeding their hearts.

You may be introduced to an event in the FC, but a Landmark can bring it to life in a wonderful way.

If you haven't watched the [live LOH tour](#) I did last week, I hope you'll find time. I spent quite a bit of time in BG at the end. This is a resource you don't want to miss out on.



Art credit: Paysage Avec Train by Pierre Bonnard



Art credit: Dekkers Dune by Anton Mauve

(Marlene's Musings cont.) --Someone asked a really good question. Why is month 6 a study of the Middle East and Arabia is separate in Month 7 as a separate study.

Well, actually, nothing is a 'separate' study. The world is very interconnected. The rotation just provides a way of studying the whole world in developmentally appropriate ways.

In month 6, I focused on countries that had a direct impact on Israel. Ancient Babylon and Persia and the Assyrians--modern day Iraq, Iran--are all tied into the Study of the Holy Land.

While Arabia and many other countries are also part of the Middle East, I made it a separate study in Month 7 because it gives us the opportunity to introduce the rise of Islam and its spread and influence. These people are descendants of Esau and also claim Abraham as their father, so of course there is a tie-in to the Holy Land. A study of the Crusades brings in the conflict between Jew, Christian and Muslim--which brought some surprise discoveries for me.

You can spread study of the whole Middle East over a couple of months if you want.

**“WE MAY LEARN THAT WHILE ‘IT IS THE GLORY OF GOD TO CONCEAL A THING,’ HE IS NOT ONLY WILLING WE SHOULD SEARCH OUT THESE HIDDEN WONDERS, BUT WILL HIMSELF BE GLAD IN OUR NEW-FOUND DELIGHT IN THEM.”**

--Julia Bullard