

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

Your Questions Answered:

Narration



by Sonya Shafer

Narration is a can't-do-without method in your Charlotte Mason home school.

You can use it for many school subjects in a variety of ways, tweak it to meet different needs, apply it in different situations, and effectively accommodate different levels of learning.

Narration is such a powerful and flexible tool that it often raises questions. So we've collected our best answers from years of blog posts, web pages, and conversations in this one book. We've organized them all together—plus added new material—to give you a handy, practical reference.

If you have questions about narration, you'll find helpful answers in

- the simple overview, 5 Steps to Successful Narration;
- the complete series on Narration Q & A, covering more than 65 questions;
- bonus questions and answers not previously posted on our blog;
- sample narrations and narration questions, alternative narration ideas, rubrics for evaluating written narrations;
- three popular posts from our archives with more narration tips:
 - Do Not Bury Your Nose in the Book,
 - Relating and Rambling,
 - Narration with Auditory and Speech Issues;
- and a brand new chapter, A Whole World of Thought.

Comments on the material in this book

“Excellent!”—Angela

“This is SO helpful!”—Catie

“What a treasure of information.”—Alicia

“Thanks so much for all the good info.”—Mallory

“Thank you so much for this series, today's questions and answer finally clicked as what I was looking for and trying to accomplish in narration.”—Amber

“I have to say how incredibly helpful this series on narration has been.”—Robyn

“These tips are just what I was looking for to make our narration time more robust. Thank you.”—Beloved

“Incredibly helpful as I teach my four children together, but stretch each as appropriate.”—Kat

“Thank you, SCM, for providing such wonderful encouragement and instruction.”—Becca

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Excerpts from Charlotte Mason's books are surrounded by quotation marks and accompanied by a reference to which book in the series they came from.

Vol. 1: Home Education

Vol. 2: Parents and Children

Vol. 3: School Education

Vol. 4: Ourselves

Vol. 5: Formation of Character

Vol. 6: A Philosophy of Education

Your Questions Answered: Narration

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Chapter 1

Let's Talk about Narration

In my pantry are some foods I think of as staples. They can be included in a variety of dishes and used in a variety of ways. Take potatoes, for instance. I can add them to a stew or pop them in with a roast. I can bake them, boil them, mash them, slice them, shred them, fry them. I can serve them as a side dish or as the main dish with toppings for garnish.

Potatoes are a wonderfully versatile staple in my meals.

In a similar way, narration is a wonderfully versatile staple in my home school.

If you use the Charlotte Mason Method, narration is a staple. We use it in a variety of school subjects to help our students cement in their minds what they have learned. It's one of those can't-do-without methods.

Narration can also be used in a variety of ways. It is a powerful learning tool that can be flexed and fitted to meet different needs in different situations at different levels.

In fact, I think that's one reason people have so many questions about narration. It might be easier to wrap our minds around it if it weren't quite so powerful and flexible.

Yes, narration can be simple—like making baked potatoes. I mean, how hard is it to put the potato in a hot oven and let it sit there for an hour?

But narration can also be much more multi-faceted and complex—like making *loaded twice-baked* potatoes. Same staple, but used in a different way to achieve a different outcome.

So let's talk about narration.

This book is a handy compilation of blog posts about narration that we have written over the years along with some added material. It's divided into three sections filled with helpful tips and practical how-to's.

The first section, Five Steps to Successful Narration, gives the big picture and shows you what a narration lesson looks like.

The second section, Narration Q & A, dives deeper into the specifics and answers questions submitted by homeschooling parents. You will also find some added Bonus Questions, narration samples, narration question samples, and more that we didn't have time or space to discuss in the blog posts. You will also see an index at the end of that section, listing all of the questions covered, so you can find the answers you need quickly and easily.

The third section gives More Narration Tips and advice from our archives about working with everyday situations and with special needs.

It is our hope that you will gain confidence and skill as we spend a little time talking about narration—that incredibly flexible staple in a Charlotte Mason home school!