

How to Teach Copywork:

Copywork can seem simplistic. Give your child a sentence or two and have them copy it. It can also seem like busy work, but the benefits are great! Copywork is a simple introduction to handwriting, spelling, and composition. Have children copy only the best authors, with the best writing, and ideas to fill their growing minds.

When to begin copywork:

Once a child learns how to write their letters comfortably, they are ready to start simple copywork. Start with very short sentences and have them copy it, always in their best handwriting. It is important that they give their best effort. If you find them struggling, give them less to copy. In the beginning, it's okay if they only do a few words per sitting as long as it is in their best handwriting. You can gradually increase the length of the model as they become more and more comfortable. However, it is important to take their age into consideration. As they gain age and experience with copywork the quantity and quality of their work should improve.

Why copywork:

Copying models of good writing teaches children what good writing looks and sounds like, thereby improving their own writing. Many of the world's greatest writers learned how to write through copywork. Benjamin Franklin would copy or outline essays and then try to recreate them on his own to see if he could write them better.

How to use this book:

Aesop's Fables copywork book includes the original unabridged story, in two volumes, to be read prior to each copywork lesson. No need to purchase the story book if you do not already own it. Read the passage, and in the child's best handwriting, copy the example sentence on the lines provided paying close attention to capitalization and punctuation. Every student does not have to complete each lesson in the book; or even an entire lesson in one day, depending on age and ability. Choose the original stories and copywork lessons that work best for your family, not all may be suitable*. Schedule chosen lessons over one or more years as desired.

For additional resources please visit www.ClassicalCharlotteMason.com

D'Nealian® Cursive

a b c d e f g h i j k l m

n o p q r s t u v w x y z

A B C D E F G H I J

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The Aesop for Children

Volume II

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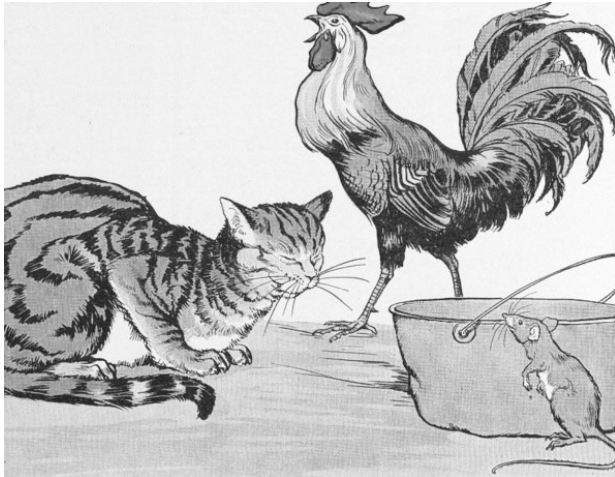
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Lesson 1: Read the story and complete the copywork that follows in your best handwriting.

THE CAT, THE COCK, AND THE YOUNG MOUSE

A very young Mouse, who had never seen anything of the world, almost came to grief the very first time he ventured out. And this is the story he told his mother about his adventures.

"I was strolling along very peaceably when, just as I turned the corner into the next yard, I saw two strange creatures. One of them had a very kind and gracious look, but the other was the most fearful monster you can imagine. You should have seen him.



"On top of his head and in front of his neck hung pieces of raw red meat. He walked about restlessly, tearing up the ground with his toes, and beating his arms savagely against his sides. The moment he caught sight of me he opened his pointed mouth as if to swallow me, and then he let out a piercing roar that frightened me almost to death."

Can you guess who it was that our young Mouse was trying to describe to his mother? It was nobody but the Barnyard Cock and the first one the little Mouse had ever seen.

"If it had not been for that terrible monster," the Mouse went on, "I should have made the acquaintance of the pretty creature, who looked so good and gentle. He had thick, velvety fur, a meek face, and a look that was very modest, though his eyes were bright and shining. As he looked at me he waved his fine long tail and smiled.

"I am sure he was just about to speak to me when the monster I have told you about let out a screaming yell, and I ran for my life."

"My son," said the Mother Mouse, "that gentle creature you saw was none other than the Cat. Under his kindly appearance, he bears a grudge against

