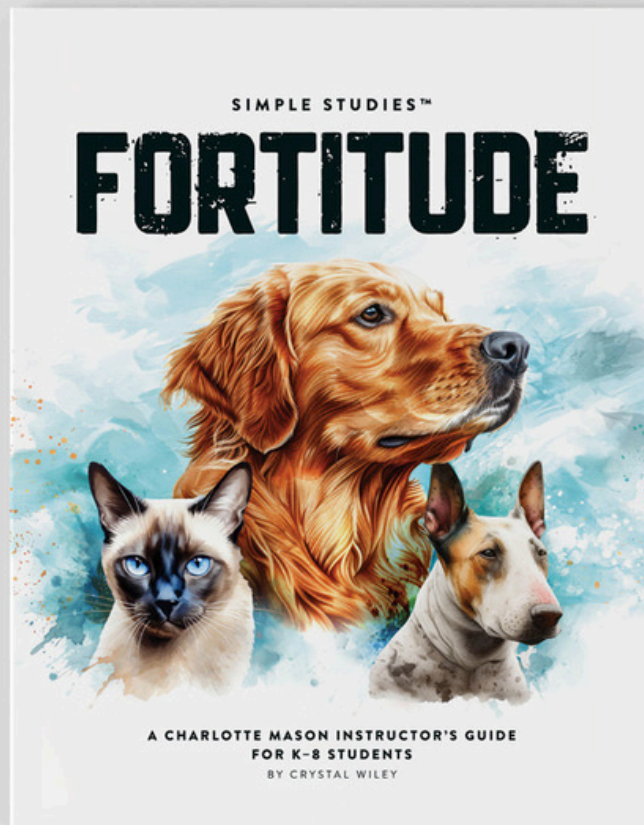


SIMPLE STUDIES

SAMPLE



S I M P L E S T U D I E S

SAMPLE

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SIMPLE STUDIES™

FORTITUDE



**A CHARLOTTE MASON INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE
FOR K-8 STUDENTS**

BY CRYSTAL WILEY

Suggested Schedule

I generally offer a suggested weekly schedule in all my *Simple Studies*.

However, considering there are eleven straightforward lessons in this short handbook (each generally taking less than the 15-20 minutes Charlotte Mason recommends for a lesson duration), you can decide when you would like to incorporate these lessons into your student's schedule. Our family enjoys *Simple Studies* most weekdays during our Morning Circle time.

Generally speaking, we aim to read through two or more lessons per week, but *The Incredible Journey* could easily be read through in one or two weeks if you prefer.

There is no way to "fall behind" in these lessons. They are meant to be completed when you want, at your own pace, on your own terms.



Materials Needed for Entire Study

- ❑ *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford
- ❑ **The Incredible Journey Coloring Pages** (*print off copies for each young student*)
- ❑ **Nature Journal** (*each student*)
- ❑ **Personal Narration Notebook or Journal** (*older students*)
- ❑ **Quality Coloring Pencils** (*Recommended: Prismacolor*)
- ❑ **Watercolor paints** (*Recommended: [These Watercolors](#)*) (*optional*)
- ❑ **“Animal” Images for Nature Journaling** (*attached, optional*)
- ❑ **Picture Booklist** (*attached*)
- ❑ **Computer or device to access video and resource links** (*optional*)
- ❑ **Dictionary** (*optional*)
- ❑ **World Atlas or Maps** (*attached*) (*optional*)



Picture Booklist by Lesson

There are a plethora of wonderful picture books about Canada, fortitude, bravery and survival. This is by no means an exhaustive list, and I encourage every instructor to seek out additional living books as you see fit.

I encourage instructors to do their due diligence in previewing picture books you offer your students. I am not the author of any books listed and therefore am not responsible for each author's viewpoint or the language used.

Finally, while I researched books for hours trying to adhere to the living book recommendations, several books do not fit into this category and were chosen for their childlike, whimsical prose and overall message. I tried to offer more than one suggestion should you be unable to secure them all at your local library.

HELPFUL TIP: I recommend gathering all the picture books you intend to use throughout this study from the library before beginning lessons.

Lesson 1:

- ❑ *Marven of the Great North Woods* by Kathryn Lasky
- ❑ *Canada - The Land (Lands, Peoples, & Cultures)* by Bobbie Kalman
- ❑ *The Big Book of Canada (Updated Edition): Exploring the Provinces and Territories* by Christopher Moore
- ❑ *Weird But True Canada: 300 Outrageous Facts About the True North* by Chelsea Lin
- ❑ *The Kids Book of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada* by Diane Silvey
- ❑ *Wow Canada!: Exploring This Land from Coast to Coast to Coast* by Vivien Bowers
- ❑ *Canadian Wildlife: For Curious Little Learners* by Little Monoi
- ❑ *Wilderness Survival Guide for Kids* by Rick Bayne

Lesson 1

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *The Incredible Journey*
- *The Incredible Journey Coloring Pages* and/or Nature Journal
- Narration Notebook (*older students*)
- Colored Pencils and/or Watercolor paints
- Real-Life “Animal” Images (Siamese Cat) (*attached*)
- Atlas or map of North America (*attached*) (*optional*)
- Your Chosen Picture Books for this chapter (*optional*)
- Dictionary / Computer for links (*optional*)

Read aloud the poem by Walt Whitman at the beginning of the book. The full poem is attached for optional printing and use with older students’ dictation.

Read Chapter 1 and ask for an oral or written narration. While you read, let younger students (Pre-K to K) paint or color one of the attached *Coloring Pages*. Some students may not be able to narrate entire chapters. Feel free to stop after short parts of the chapter and ask for students to “tell back” what they heard. Beginning in first or second grade, students are encouraged to keep their own nature journal, creating drawings based on visual aids or their imagination. Parents can then ask students to share more about their drawings and assist them in adding a few descriptive words or labels to their illustrations.

Older Students: Have students draw a Siamese cat using the attached visual aid or another real-life image of a Siamese cat. Have students (ages 10+) find “responsibility” in their dictionary or [here](#) and add it to their personal narration journal. Have older students write what this word means in their own words and tell about a time when they were asked to be responsible.

Optional: Have students locate Ontario, Canada using the attached map and draw a rough sketch of North America into their journals.

Dictation: Starting around age ten, Charlotte Mason recommended dictation exercises. Students study a sentence from the chapter, then write it from memory as the instructor reads it aloud.

Chapter 1 Dictation: “This journey took place in a part of Canada which lies in the northwestern part of the great sprawling province of Ontario.”

Picture Books for Lesson 1: See *Picture Booklist*

Lesson 5

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *The Incredible Journey*
- *Illustrated Coloring Pages* (attached for Pre-K- K students)
- Nature Journal and/or Narration Notebook (older students)
- Colored Pencils and/or Watercolor paints
- Real-Life “Animal” Images (Weasel +/-or Rabbit) (attached)
- Your Chosen Picture Books for this chapter (optional)
- Dictionary / Computer for links (optional)

Ask the students what they recall from the last chapter.

Read together *The Incredible Journey*, chapter 5, and ask for an oral or written narration. Let younger students paint or color one of the pages of *The Incredible Journey Coloring Pages* or choose one of the attached animal images to draw in their nature journal.

Ask students: How do the animals communicate with people they meet? What can we learn about understanding others without using words?

Older Students: Have students find “endurance” in a dictionary or [here](#) and add it to their personal narration journal. Have older students write what this word means in their own words and tell of a time when they felt they endured either a tough day, sporting activity, or any hardship in life. Have students draw a weasel or rabbit with their winter coat in their journal.

Optional: Have students watch either of these two 4-minute videos: [Animals with Winter Coats](#) and [Why Do We Shiver?](#)

Dictation: “The young dog saw the onrushing wave several moments before it reached them, and frantically tried to swim into a position upstream of the cat, instinctively trying to protect him; but he was too late, and the great curling crested wave surfed over, submerging them in a whirling chaos of debris.”

Picture Books for Lesson 5: See *Picture Booklist*

Final Project Option (Middle School Students – Form 3)

Write a Journal from the Perspective of One of the Animals

Project Overview:

Students will write a series of journal entries from the perspective of one of the animals—Bodger (the Bull Terrier), Luath (the Labrador Retriever), or Tao (the Siamese cat). Each entry should correspond to key moments in the journey, reflecting on what the animal might be thinking, feeling, and experiencing at that time. This project aims to deepen our student’s connection to the characters, foster empathy, and encourage critical thinking about motivations and actions when tasked with choosing fortitude or giving up.

Students should first choose which animal they want to write as:

- **Bodger:** The elderly, wise, and determined Bull Terrier.
- **Luath:** The strong, young, and loyal Labrador Retriever who leads the group.
- **Tao:** The clever and agile Siamese cat, resourceful in navigating challenges.

Encourage students to consider the unique traits of each animal and how that might influence their perspective on the events.

Key Moments for Journal Entries: Students should write **5-7 journal entries** from the animal’s perspective. Each entry should cover a key moment in the story. For example:

- **Starting the Journey:** What emotions does the animal feel when leaving their home? Are they confident, scared, or unsure?
- **Crossing the River:** How does the animal experience this challenge? What do they think about the others in the group?



Animals for Nature Journaling



SIAMESE CAT



LYNX

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COLORING PAGES

NAME

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SAMPLE



COLORING PAGES

NAME





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A CHARLOTTE MASON INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE
FOR K-8 STUDENTS

BY CRYSTAL WILEY

TESTIMONIALS

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I have been searching for a few years for the right addition to our morning time. I needed something that has poetry, reading, Biblical principles and nature oriented lessons. I would find something but become overwhelmed by the amount of "fluff" and extra content. These studies are so feasible and attainable and have added a wonderful component to our Charlotte Mason homeschool! My only problem is choosing which one to do next!!!! Love them all!!! - Katie Woodruff

OUR KIDS RECENTLY FINISHED YOUR JUNGLE STUDY AND REALLY ENJOYED IT. :) — GENEVIEVE D.

We've used your guides from the beginning, gosh, so many years ago. I love how you take the cream off the top of so many different curriculum and put it together in a way that's custom fit for your family. - Miette Allison

I LOVE YOUR STUDIES. I HAVE AN 8 AND 5 YEAR OLD AND WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING THROUGH THE FOREST ANIMALS GUIDE. IT'S SO FUN. - LYDIA JENKINS

I like all of these guides because they're simple but interesting and give just enough further resources (links, booklists, ideas) to be fun without being overwhelming, an important factor for us! - @thesunrisemama

TRULY LOVE YOUR PRODUCTS; THEY ARE A GREAT FIT FOR OUR FAMILY. I LOVE HOW THE LESSONS ARE SO FLEXIBLE. THEY CAN BE SHORT (JUST READING AND COLORING) OR WE CAN GO DOWN A RABBIT HOLE FOR THE AFTERNOON. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR CREATING THEM! — KÀRIN MANCINI

TESTIMONIALS

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We did the Simple Studies Burgess Birds and it was our favorite homeschool study we've ever done! We have kids in 8th grade down to kindergarten and all my children enjoyed doing this study together. It's amazing to see each bird that they drew in their nature journal. I printed "how to draw" pages for my youngest sons so it gave them step by step instructions on how to draw each bird. They loved that. My young ones also loved the coloring pages! We were sad when the book came to an end. I would highly recommend this study and you can make it work with a variety of ages.

– Claire Jones

US HISTORY IS FINALLY STARTING TO BE INTERESTING FOR MY 7 YEAR OLD. THANK YOU FOR CREATING AN INTERESTING, AFFORDABLE WAY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN TO LEARN ABOUT US HISTORY! – SARAH W.

My daughters and I started with Among the Meadow People and I truly appreciate your simple studies. They are enjoying them and sharing facts with family. They loved how God created the robin with a pocket of oil for when it rains. Thank you for serving the homeschool community with your time and talent. – Nicole M

JUST FINISHED COURAGE. WE LOVED IT! IT WAS OUR FIRST STUDY AND NOW I WANT TO BUY THEM ALL!! -MAGGIE MILLER

I'm officially obsessed with your studies. They've been a life-giving presence in our homeschool this year & I'm so grateful to have found them. – Hannah Connor

I AM SO PLEASED WITH WHAT I FOUND! I AM PLANNING ON INCORPORATING 3 OF THE SIMPLE STUDIES IN OUR YEAR. THEY ARE SO CUTE!! AND ARE GREAT FOR MY BROOD-- 8, 6, 3.5 AND 14 MONTHS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. – MARIA DOUGLASS

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER PRODUCTS!

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