

PLUTARCH

Picture Study



PERICLES

A CHARLOTTE MASON PLENARY

A CHARLOTTE MASON PLENARY PRESENTS

PLUTARCH
Picture Study
OF
PERICLES

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PLUTARCH AND PICTURE STUDY

CITIZENSHIP AND GREAT ART

The subjects of Plutarch and Picture Study are two integral parts of a Charlotte Mason education. Sharing the beauty of art with students is something I feel strongly about and it is one of the reasons I decided to integrate Picture Study with the subject of Plutarch. The artwork helps to tell a more complete story as students read. Through the artwork, students are able to connect to and visualize the events within the Plutarch text.

The fascinating world of ancient Greece and Rome comes alive through these great works of art. Many artists throughout history have painted famous scenes from Plutarch's *Lives* time and again.

HOW TO INCORPORATE PICTURE STUDY WITH PLUTARCH

Each Plutarch Guide has 10-12 lessons. Notice which of these lessons match up with a lesson in the accompanying Picture Study. Read a lesson in the Plutarch Guide, have the student narrate, then introduce the additional material in the accompanying Picture Study lesson.

Give the student a print to study and tell them some background information about the painting. Share any information to help bring attention to important aspects of the artwork or the story.

Note that The Plenary provides background information and a range of discussion questions for each painting. Some paintings will have more information than others, depending on the artist's intent and the amount of information readily available. The types of questions provided range from simple questions for younger students to more complex questions for older students. Feel free to choose background information and discussion questions that resonate with you and your individual students.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

The goal is to allow the student to make connections between the print and the text they have just read. Discuss how the artwork and the text are related. Does the artist do a good job of telling the story? What was the artist's intent when he created the artwork? Try not to give your own opinions on whether you like the artist or the paintings. Let the students decide if they like the work for themselves. You want the students to make their own connections.

In various *Parents' Review* articles regarding Picture Study, the PNEU teachers listed goals for the lessons. Some of those goals included:

- The idea that every artist shows us his or her conception of a subject through a painting
- The idea of a story is worked out in the composition of the picture
- Every artist has an idea which he or she wishes to be interpreted

What idea is the artist trying to convey? And how does he or she want us to interpret that idea? These are grand ideas that should easily facilitate Grand Discussion.

You will also find a more in-depth look at how to implement Picture Study at different ages in The Plenary article [Picture Study Throughout the Forms](#).

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

In some cases, more than one painting is included for a specific lesson. Many artists throughout history chose to illustrate the stories of ancient Greece and Rome. In this case, you are asking the student to compare and contrast the artwork pieces with each other and with the text. Which artist illustrated the story better? How do different artists highlight different aspects of the story? What are the ideas represented? And how are they represented differently by each artist?

After the lesson is completed, display the paintings until a new piece is introduced. Let the students become familiar with the work by displaying it in a common area where it can be seen daily. If space permits, display all the included paintings for the length of the term. The displayed artwork will be a visual representation of the story told within Plutarch's text.

MORE RESOURCES

Additional information about Plutarch's *Life of Pericles* can be found on the PERICLES RESOURCES PAGE of the website. There you will find additional artwork, photos, videos, and links to learn more about specific topics. All links are teen-friendly according to my family's standards. As standards vary among households, please preview to make sure they are suitable for your family.

Thank you and I hope you enjoy Plutarch and Picture Study with The Plenary!



Rachel Lebowitz

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HELPFUL LINKS FOR THIS PLUTARCH PICTURE STUDY

PERICLES RESOURCES PAGE: [CMPLENARY.COM/PLUTARCH-RESOURCES/PERICLES/](https://www.cmplenary.com/plutarch-resources/pericles/)

PICTURE STUDY THROUGHOUT THE FORMS: [CMPLENARY.COM/PICTURE-STUDY-THROUGHOUT-THE-FORMS/](https://www.cmplenary.com/picture-study-throughout-the-forms/)

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THE DEBATE OF SOCRATES AND ASPASIA

NICOLAS-ANDRÉ MONSIAU

PRINT #9: THE DEBATE OF SOCRATES AND ASPASIA

BY NICOLAS-ANDRÉ MONSIAU, C. 1801

OIL ON CANVAS, 65 X 81 CM, 25.5 X 32 INCHES

PUSHKIN STATE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, MOSCOW

PAINTING INFORMATION

This painting depicts Aspasia with Socrates and Pericles. The three figures lean into the conversation with great interest. Socrates is the seated, older man, while Pericles stands behind him.

Some art historians believe the man standing behind Socrates is actually Alcibiades, a pupil of Socrates, and not Pericles. Others believe it is Pericles because of the elongated helmet the figure is wearing.

Monsiau chose to depict Aspasia as an equal contributor to the culture of Ancient Greece through the mode of conversation and debate with its leaders and philosophers:

“Aspasia’s presence gestures to a larger appraisal of a woman’s place [in Ancient Greece] ... She could be speaking about any number of topics. Perhaps she is sounding out a new oration. Perhaps she is enumerating ... some Milesian figures of speech, which would account for her gesture of counting. The key takeaway is that it is Aspasia alone, of the three figures depicted, who instructs.”¹

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you know about Socrates?
2. Why would it be unusual for a woman to be debating men like Socrates and Pericles?
3. What do you think the artist is trying to say by painting this scene?
4. What does the painting suggest about Aspasia’s status in ancient Athens?

¹ Cory Geraths & Michele Kennerly (2016) *Painted Lady: Aspasia in Nineteenth-Century European Art*, Rhetoric Review

OTHER RESOURCES BY A CHARLOTTE MASON PLENARY

THE ANNOTATED CHARLOTTE MASON SERIES

Home Education—Volume 1
Parents and Children—Volume 2
School Education—Volume 3
Ourselves—Volume 4
Formation of Character—Volume 5
A Philosophy of Education—Volume 6
Original Unabridged Text by Charlotte Mason
Annotated by Rachel Lebowitz

THE ANNOTATED PLUTARCH SERIES

Plutarch's Life of Publicola: Annotated Edition
Plutarch's Life of Pericles: Annotated Edition
Plutarch's Life of Julius Caesar: Annotated Edition
Original Text by Plutarch
Annotated and Expanded by Rachel Lebowitz

CHARLOTTE MASON YOUR WAY FORM GUIDES

Preschool / Kindergarten (Ages 3-5)
Form 1 (Grades 1-3)
Form 2 (Grades 4-6)
Form 3 (Grades 7-8)
Form 4 (Grade 9)

CHARLOTTE MASON COURSES

Volume 6 Companion Course
Charlotte Mason 101 Course
Finding Your Way with Charlotte Mason's 20 Principles
Field Notes Fridays Nature Study Course

CONSULTATIONS

Special Needs Consultations by Amy Bodkin, EdS
CM Your Way Homeschool Consultations by Rachel Lebowitz

For a complete list of resources, or for more info about the Charlotte Mason method of education, please see the CMP website at:

CMPLINARY.COM

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PLUTARCH

Picture Study Packages

"We cannot measure the influence that one or another artist has upon the child's sense of beauty, upon his power of seeing, as in a picture, the common sights of life; he is enriched more than we know in having really looked at even a single picture."

- Charlotte Mason

MAKING CONNECTIONS THROUGH PICTURE STUDY

The fascinating world of ancient Greece and Rome comes alive through these great works of art. Many artists throughout history have painted famous scenes from Plutarch's Lives time and again.

The artwork helps to tell a more complete story as students read Plutarch's text. Through the artwork, students are able to connect to and visualize the events within Plutarch's Lives.

Each Plutarch Picture Study includes:

- Instructions on how to integrate Picture Study with Plutarch
- Eight to ten (8-10) prints to illustrate scenes within the text
- Detail information about each piece of artwork
- Study questions to help students connect the artwork to Plutarch's text



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Helping You Homeschool Your Way

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