

A CHARLOTTE MASON PLENARY

Picture Study



N.C. WYETH

A CHARLOTTE MASON PLENARY PRESENTS

A PICTURE STUDY OF
N.C. WYETH

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HOW TO USE THE CMP PICTURE STUDY GUIDE

Picture Study is an integral part of a Charlotte Mason education. Giving students a love and appreciation of art is something that will stay with them throughout their lives.

Follow Charlotte's method of Picture Study by choosing one artist to study per term. Your Picture Study includes 8 works from the artist to give you a variety from which to choose. Traditionally, six prints are studied per term. Select six prints and focus on one at a time for each two-week period.

First, provide students with a little background information about the artist at the start of the term.

Then, give the students one print to study for a few minutes and ask them to quietly memorize as many details from the painting as they can. Give them a few minutes to look at the painting and then turn the painting face down. Ask the students to "describe some things you remember from the painting." In the beginning this may be as simple as "I saw clouds in the sky and a building on the ground." Be patient, as the memory skills will improve with every lesson. Let the students try to recall as many details as possible from the painting, narrating back to you as much as they can remember.

After they are finished with the memory exercise, turn the painting right side up and look at it again. Here is where you can give them a little information about the painting. Relate the size, medium used, where the painting currently lives, etc. Continue to look over the painting together and discuss any artistic styles you'd like to point out or the student notices, and let the student share more about the painting if they'd like. Share any related background information to help bring attention to important aspects of the artwork.

Note that The Plenary provides background information and a range of discussion questions for each painting. Some paintings will have more info 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 for older students. Feel free to choose questions that resonate with you and your individual students.

The goal is to become familiar with the artist's style while the students are making personal connections with the art. 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.

Display the painting for the next two weeks until a new piece is introduced. Let the students become familiar with the work by displaying it in a common area where it will be seen daily. If space permits, display all six paintings for the length of the term.

At the end of the term, review all the prints together. Ask the students to compare and contrast the artist's work. Conclude the study by asking the student to choose a favorite (or favorites) and least favorite. Discuss. Have fun. These paintings are now familiar friends.

Additional information about this artist can also be found on the [PICTURE STUDY RESOURCES](#) page on the website at [CMPLINARY.COM](#). You will also find a more in-depth look at how to implement Picture Study in [Picture Study Throughout the Forms](#). It will give you examples of actual lessons in Charlotte's classrooms.

I hope you enjoy Picture Study with The Plenary!

Rachel Lebowitz
A CHARLOTTE MASON PLENARY



ARTHUR AND EXCALIBUR

N.C. WYETH

ARTHUR AND EXCALIBUR

1917

OIL ON CANVAS, 101 X 80.6 CM, 39 ¾ X 31 ¾ INCHES

PRIVATE COLLECTION

PAINTING INFORMATION

Arthur and Excalibur was one of ten illustrations for *The Boy's King Arthur* by Sidney Lanier. It was published by Charles Scribner's Sons in 1917. This particular illustration can be found opposite page 16 in the book. Another name for the painting is the caption found below it:

And when they came to the sword that the hand held, King Arthur took it up

The original copy of *The Boy's King Arthur* that Wyeth read is currently located at the Brandywine River Museum of Art in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. In the book, you can see all the notes and markings that Wyeth made as he read and decided which passages to illustrate.

In this painting, you see Arthur standing at the front of the boat with Merlin the magician sitting behind him. In the calm waters of the lake, a hand rises with Excalibur, the legendary sword of King Arthur.

PLENARY QUESTIONS

1. The water in the lake appears to be very calm, how do you think you would feel if you were there in the boat?
2. What time of day do you think it is in the painting?
3. Can you name the type of birds flying in the background (swans)?
4. Look closely at the elaborately carved boat Arthur and Merlin are in, what do you think of it? Why are they in such a fancy boat?
5. Does the painting seem like it might have been a real event? Or does it seem more magical? Why or why not?
6. Have you read *The Boy's King Arthur*? If so, does the painting do a good job of illustrating the scene in the book? If not, does the painting make you want to read it?

SPACE FOR YOUR OWN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND NOTES:

CMP RESOURCES FOR YOUR CHARLOTTE MASON HOMESCHOOL

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 PLENARY 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

LIVING BOOKS

America First: Updated Edition

by Lawton Evans and Rachel Lebowitz

CHARLOTTE MASON COURSES

Volume 6 Companion Course

CM 101 Course

Finding Your Way with Charlotte Mason's 20 Principles

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 Plenary website at:

CMPLINARY.COM

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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

PICTURE STUDY IS A JOY

Picture Study is one of the hallmarks of a Charlotte Mason education. Sharing the beauty of art with children is something we feel strongly about at A Charlotte Mason Plenary. Giving students a love and appreciation of art is something that will stay with them throughout their lives. It can breathe life and joy into your homeschool by exposing students to pictures worthy of remembrance; to give them a "picture of beauty to carry away in their minds."

Each Picture Study Guide includes:

- Instructions on how to teach picture study
- A brief biography of the artist
- Eight to ten (8-10) prints of the artist's work
- Detail information about each painting
- Study questions for students



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Charlotte Mason Expert
Helping You Homeschool Your Way

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