

Rabbit Trails® through Literature



NOVEL STUDY



Copyright © 2026 by Rabbit Trails Homeschool

All rights reserved. This book may be reproduced for family members living in one household. It may not be reproduced or transmitted in any other form or by any other means without written permission from the author.

Find Rabbit Trails on the web here:

Website: rabbittrailshomeschool.com

Facebook: [Rabbit Trails Homeschool](https://www.facebook.com/RabbitTrailsHomeschool)

Instagram: [@_rabbittrailshomeschool](https://www.instagram.com/_rabbittrailshomeschool)

Pinterest: [Rabbit Trails Homeschool](https://www.pinterest.com/RabbitTrailsHomeschool)

YouTube: [Rabbit Trails Homeschool](https://www.youtube.com/RabbitTrailsHomeschool)

HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

I'm so excited that you've chosen Rabbit Trails Through Literature to use in your homeschool! This curriculum is a Charlotte Mason inspired, relaxed curriculum for elementary grades. What this means is that it's not designed to have lots of busy work. It's designed to provide quality literature to your children, light grammar lessons, opportunities for copy work, creative writing assignments, and other means to learn fun and essential language arts material.

Rabbit Trails through Literature was created with homeschooling adventures in mind. Not only will we be covering Language Arts, but Rabbit Trails will take you even deeper into learning about our main novel, *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*, using books to lead the way. This curriculum is meant to be used on *your* child's level. It's not meant to have boxes checked off each day, but to do what works for your unique family. When it comes to copy work and writing, there are suggestions given, but take what you need and leave the rest. If your child isn't at the level of the suggestions, then create what works for them. Same thing if they're capable of beyond what is recommended. Make this curriculum your own!

Rabbit Trails through Literature Novel Studies can be used as a supplement to your language arts, or as a full language arts curriculum. New concepts are taught in each lesson, and opportunities for writing and research, as well as poetry, are available in all of the More Ideas sections. Each lesson also includes copywork to practice spelling and handwriting. If you would like a full spelling curriculum, we offer [My Spelling Journal](#) to focus on age appropriate spelling words and phonics.

I encourage you to enjoy reading as many of the books listed in this curriculum as you can! Quality literature is the framework of this curriculum. The main novel is a beautiful starting point, directing us to many different topics. However, don't become overwhelmed with purchasing these books if you don't have the means. Many can be found at libraries, on used book websites, etc. The books listed in the Rabbit Trails and Library Lists are just suggestions. Use what books you have on hand or find at your own library on the topic! If you do choose to buy all of the books, you can access them all in my shop. You can also access all of the links, YouTube videos, and more in the Resource Page in the back of this curriculum.

NOTEBOOK STYLE CURRICULUM

As you may have noticed, this curriculum does not include any kind of workbook for your children to work in. This was designed to all be done in a notebook. You may choose a standard, wide ruled notebook, or you can choose to use our pre-made Companion Journals. Feel free to use whatever method works best for you and your child.

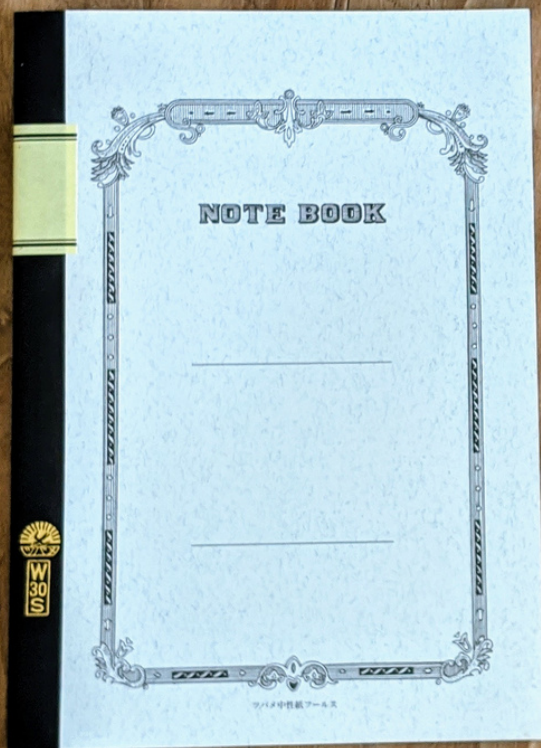
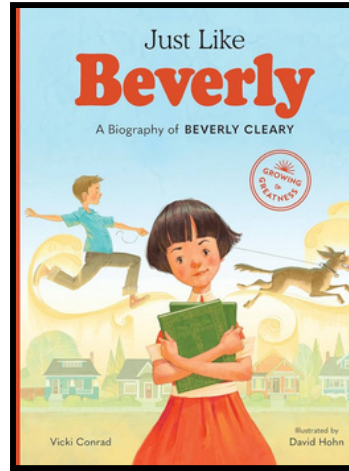
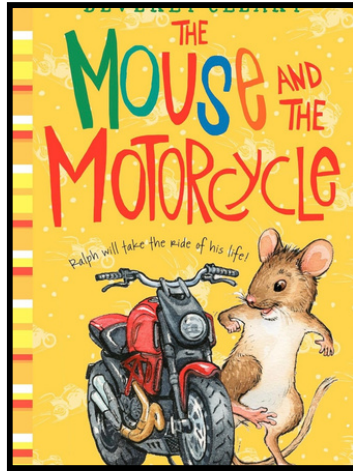


TABLE OF CONTENTS



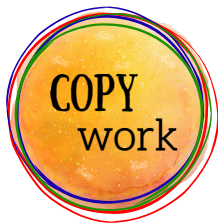
Beverly Cleary Overview
Chapters 1: Onomatopoeia
Chapters 2-3: Writing Numbers
Chapters 4-5: Simile
Chapters 6: Interjections
Chapters 7-8: Prepositional Phrases
Chapters 9: Adverbs (ly)
Chapters 10-11: Alliteration
Chapters 12: Conjunctions
Chapters 13: Protagonist





Now it's time to begin our journey with one of Beverly Cleary's novels. Start by reading chapter one in *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. Take a moment and ask your child what "sound" words they heard in the

chapter. If they struggle, simply read the last few paragraphs about Keith playing with his cars again. Emphasize the sound words as you come to them. A sound word is called an onomatopoeia. That's a fun word to say, isn't it? An onomatopoeia is a literary device that symbolizes a specific sound of an animal, object, or action that makes noise in the story. Examples of an onomatopoeia are: crash, boom, scratch, bark, and splash. This type of device brings fun to our reading experience by allowing us to actually hear what is happening. Be on the lookout for onomatopoeias as you travel down the Rabbit Trail!



Vroom vroom. Bang! Crash! The sports car hit the sedan and rolled over off the highway stripe.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. -Matthew 11:28

In this chapter Mr. Gridley was very tired and stressed from a very long trip across the United States. They finally decided they needed to rest. The truth is that we all need rest. God knew we would need rest and set aside one day a week for rest when He created the world. But God also knew we needed more than a physical rest, we also need spiritual rest. It is easy to become stressed and overwhelmed with the busyness of the world. Matthew 12:8 tells us that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. The goal of Sabbath is to rest and commune with God. When we commune with God, our soul is restored and filled with peace. We are able to surrender our burdens to the One who can sustain us and find true rest in Christ Jesus. This week, set aside time to rest, fellowship with family, and spend time with God.



Let's have some fun with this lesson by creating a sound word poster! Using a list of sound words from this lesson's reading and lesson, choose one onomatopoeia. Then illustrate a poster describing the word. For example, draw a child jumping in a puddle with water splashing up. Then write the word SPLASH in a creative way to identify the onomatopoeia.

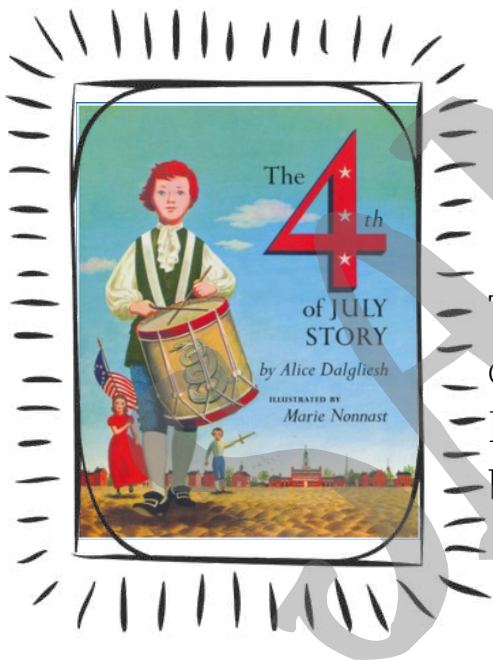
Supplies needed:

- Paper or cardstock
- Pencil
- Crayons
- Markers





Enjoy the beautiful picture book *The Incredible Hotel* by Kate Davies.

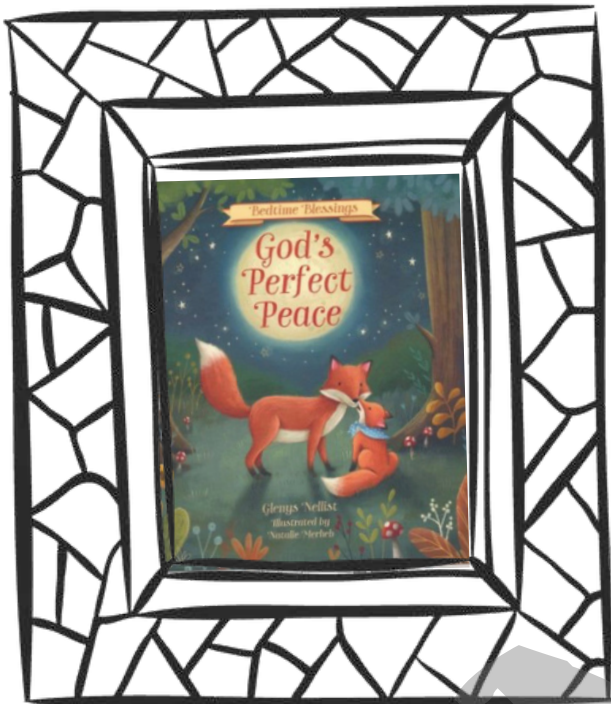


The Gridley's were on a trip to celebrate Independence Day.
Read *The 4th of July Story* by Alice Dalgliesh.

This vacation trip took place during summer. Learn more about this season by watching *What is Summer* on Twinkl Educational Publishing's YouTube Channel.

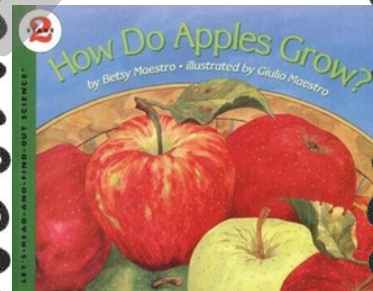


Read God's Perfect Peace by
Gleny's Nellist to learn more
about finding peace when we
rest in God.



Keith enjoyed a snack at the hotel. Let's
learn more about this snack by reading
How Do Apples Grow?

By Betsy
Maestro.



The Gidley Family is from Ohio. Learn
more about this state reading B is for
Buckeye An Ohio Alphabet
by Marcia Schonberg.



- Enjoy reading The Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key.
- Several states have been mentioned in this first chapter, including Ohio and Nevada. Mark each state on the map from our previous lesson. Use a different color to show which states are from the story and which ones she lived in.
- Keith brought along his favorite toys for the very long vacation trip. If you were going on a long vacation, what toys would you bring along? Draw a suitcase and fill it in with necessary items plus your toys of choice.
- The Hotel in this story has a croquet on the back lawn. Have you ever played? Grab a kit from the store or find items around the house to make your own croquet and have fun trying a new game!
- Head over to Classroom Poems' website to enjoy onomatopoeia poetry. Encourage your kids to write a poem of their own!
- As you work your way through the book, create a glossary of words that are new to you. Look them up in a dictionary and discuss the meaning. Examples from this week's reading are: vacancy and rumpled.