

Preview

Communication 101:
Essays and **Speeches**



1 Credit High School English Course



Meredith Curtis

Description



Week One Class

Discuss "The South Sea House"

Timed Essays

Talk about Descriptive Essays

Notes from Class

Timed Essay #2

1920 and Mass Media: Another Signpost on the Road to Destruction

by Cal Thomas

(I found this essay online: Mon, 4/27/2015 | Tribune Content Agency, LLC
calthomas.com/columns/1920-and-mass-media)

When future historians analyze the decline of America they need look no further than the trivialities increasingly occupying our time and concerns instead of substantive matters seriously threatening our existence.

The latest in a long list of examples is the two-hour ABC special last Friday devoted to former Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner and his coming out as a transgender person. Two hours! Neither ABC, nor any other media giant, has paid that much attention to international threats from Russia, China and the rapid rise of Islamic fanaticism, not to mention the Bill and Hillary Clinton financial empire.

What is wrong with us? This constant feeding of our lower nature and fixation on what not long ago was regarded as bizarre, even perverted, is contributing to a warped culture and the devaluing of the qualities necessary to stabilize society. It is as if a lid has been lifted from the sewer and all the waste is now flooding the streets, posing a threat to our national well-being.

In his forthcoming book "1920: The Year That Made the Decade Roar," Eric Burns writes that the mass media, birthed in that year by the spread of radio, is largely responsible for diverting our attention from things that matter to things that don't.

This passage from the introduction fixes the blame: "It began with radio, whose allies quickly became the newspapers with their tabloid value systems — and, in massing, the two media would form the most persuasive and pervasive of all American industries, as they went about making far too much of matters ever less consequential, the private lives of actors and singers, musicians and authors, comedians and athletes, heirs and heiresses, perpetrators and victims, millionaires and billionaires, and, later, disgraced public officials, pitchmen and anchormen, radio and TV talkers, sitcom stars, drama stars, game show hosts, chefs, bloggers, Internet jesters, and even carefully chosen nonentities, some of whom would headline their own sublimely unrealistic 'reality' shows."

Interest in the lower things is nothing new. As Burns wrote in an earlier book, "Infamous Scribblers," Colonial journalism spread rumors and falsehoods that today might bring libel suits. The difference is that those rags were largely limited to the areas in which they were published. Mass media changed all that.

From Burns' "1920" book: "Further (the mass media) would report murders, robberies, fires, automobile accidents — these and more aberrations as if they were common occurrences. The mass media would make so much of them all that eventually a tidal wave of irrelevance would wash over the United State, and by late in the twentieth century the entire American lifestyle, the entire code of behavior and range of ambitions, would be unrecognizable from what it had been in the nineteenth."

The result has been: "The country would have achieved the un-achievable — the dumbing-down of its audiences as they sank into vapidty with gleeful abandon, as delighted with their plight as if they were riding the newest attraction in an amusement park."

All of this, followed by today's social media, writes Burns, "would transform the most powerful country on earth in its military and manufacturing might to a third-world nation in its tastes and values. So it is today; so it gives every sign of remaining."

Need more evidence? FYI, a digital cable and satellite television network owned by A-and-E Networks, is producing a program called "Seven Year Switch" on which married couples change partners in order to "save" their marriages.

Focusing on our lower nature instead of higher things gets you more expressions of the former and less of the latter. Failed nations usually rot morally from within before they are conquered by invading armies, or collapse under the weight of their immoralities.

America is rapidly rotting from within and too many of us are fine with that. Blame it on 1920 if you like, but subsequent generations, including this one, have renewed the lease on the banal and bizarre to our national shame, if we were capable of shame in an age where anything goes.

(Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.)

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Questions to think about. You can jot notes down here if you want to.

What was the thesis statement in this essay/book review/editorial?

How did the author prove his/her thesis?

Do you think the author did a good job proving his/her thesis? Why or why not?

Now you will write an essay about the essay you read. The purpose of the essay is to show whether or not the author proves his thesis statement. So, you will need to give your thesis statement (e.g. "The author of this book did a good job proving his thesis because...."), share the author of the essay's thesis statement, and give examples of how he proved the thesis statement.

Essay Author's Thesis Statement:

My Thesis Statement:

Let your mom, or teacher read the timed essay you write and sign here: _____

For MOM or Teacher to check off:

Shared own thesis statement: _____

Shared author of essay's thesis statement: _____

Gave examples from the essay to prove thesis statement: _____

Each paragraph proved the thesis: _____

Week One Home

- Read *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
- Complete Grammar Review
- Read How to Write a Descriptive Essay
- Write A Descriptive Essay

Grammar Review

Capitalization (circle every letter in this sentence that needs to be capitalized)

the curtis family attends powerline community church in sanford florida.

Punctuation (add punctuation marks needed in the following sentence)

The elderly lady with her nurse companion went to the bank to close her husbands account

Parts of Speech: Verbs (underline the verb phrase twice in this sentence)

The girls are enjoying their homemade bread pudding.

Sentence Combining (combine these three sentences into one clear, concise sentence)

My aunt is a physical therapist.

My aunt encourages me to exercise every day.

My aunt likes to exercise with my mom every morning.

How to Write a Descriptive Essay

You can describe a person, place, or thing in a descriptive essay. Your words are the paint. Your essay is the canvas. But don't limit yourself to painting a picture with words. Use this essay to appeal to the emotions of your audience. Let your audience smell the ripe fruit sitting in the wooden bowl and taste the gooey sweetness of a chocolate bar.

Choose a Topic

Choose your topic. You might decide: "I will write a descriptive essay about my bedroom."

Write down words associated with your chosen topic. Here are some words and phrases that come to my mind. Garden wallpaper. Beach paintings. Sky blue. White wicker. White wicker chair. Ocean candle smell. Silk flowers. White wicker arch. Beach. Handmade bed frame.

Plan Your Essay

Think about your audience. Who are you writing this essay for?

Why will your topic interest them?

What can you share in your essay that will encourage, inspire, enlighten, or challenge them?

Come up with a thesis statement. Here is mine: "My bedroom is a beach garden created with love by my husband. "

My Thesis Statement: _____

The Language of Description

Use vivid language when you write a descriptor essay. Show and tell your reader. Let them experience what you see.

Use your five senses in thinking about the topic and in your essay.

What do you see?

What do you hear?

What do you smell?

What can you feel?

What do you taste?

Review the list you have come up with about your topic experienced through your five senses. Choose the most dominant details to use in your paper.

Come up with some words and phrases that describe your topic.

Introduction

Write a catchy introduction. "Everyone needs a sanctuary where the world can melt away and stillness can drown the chaos of the soul. My bedroom is an ocean refuge created with love by my very own personal lifeguard."

Body of Your Essay

Write the body of your paper, letting your reader experience something through your eyes.

If you are writing about a place, take your reader to the place with taste, touch, smell, and sound.

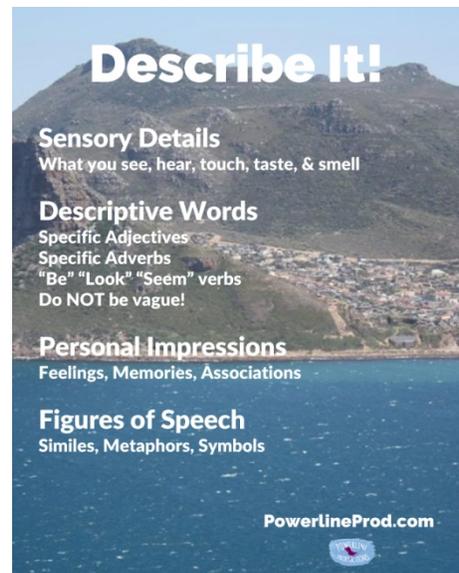
As you make point after point in your essay, bring those points alive with descriptive words, personal stories, memories, experiences, and feelings associated with the thing you are describing.

Similes and metaphors are great to use in a descriptive essay. Similes ("Your love is like a red rose") use the word "like" and Metaphors ("Your love is a red rose") compare without using the word "like".

Conclusion

Write a conclusion that summarizes the body of your paper and restates your thesis statement. Add a twist that leaves something pleasant in the mind of your readers.

"Do you need a refuge from the storms of life, too? Create your own personal hideaway to refresh your soul after a long day in a chaotic world."



Week Two Class

Discuss How to Give an Introductory Speech

Listen to Maggie Thatcher Speeches on YouTube.

You can search for these speeches or find them on the Communication 101: Essays & Speeches Sales Page on PowerlineProd.com.

- Maggie's Magic Moments: Margaret Thatcher Highlights
- Margaret Thatcher's First Speech at White House as PM
- Not For Turning Speech

Read Essays in Groups

Essay Title _____

Name of Writer _____

Thesis Statement _____

Does writer prove thesis statement? How? _____

Essay Title _____

Name of Writer _____

Thesis Statement _____

Does writer prove thesis statement? How? _____

Essay Title _____

Name of Writer _____

Thesis Statement _____

Does writer prove thesis statement? How? _____

Essay Title _____

Name of Writer _____

Thesis Statement _____

Does writer prove thesis statement? How? _____

Week Two Home

- Finish Reading *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
- Complete Book Review Sheet for *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
- Complete Grammar Review
- Read How to Give an Introductory Speech
- Prepare Your Introductory Speech

Grammar Review

Capitalization (circle every letter in this sentence that needs to be capitalized)

at powerline community church, the intercessors pray together every tuesday morning.

Punctuation (add punctuation marks needed in the following sentence)

that decision Im afraid will come back to hurt you in the years ahead

Parts of Speech: Pronouns (determine if the pronoun is a direct object, indirect object, or object of the preposition in the following sentences)

Stan took **us** home.

Tim gave **them** a tomato.

Sally sat near **him**.

Sentence Combining (combine these four sentences into one clear, concise sentence)

Kittens scampered in the living room.

The kittens played with string.

The kittens chased the string.

The kittens were distracted from the string by a laser light.

How to Give an Introductory Speech

This is just a long introduction.

At the beginning of your speech, state your name very clearly. "Hi! My name is Watson Hancock...."

Give details about your current life situation. "I live on a farm in Volusia County. I raise beef cattle along with my wife. We have twelve children and we homeschool. My wife, Bessie, and our children are involved in Fernando Baptist Church."

Name all your accomplishments. "I have been the Tractor Pull champion of the Florida State Fair for the last five years. I also graduated cumma sum laude with a degree in business from Stetson University."

Talk about your past, where you have come from. "I was born and raised in Valdosta, Georgia. I moved to Florida for college and have lived here ever since. My daddy was a hog farmer and my grandparents had an onion farm."

Discuss things you are passionate about. "I am passionate about guns. I think every America should own and be able to use a gun. It's a right in the Constitution. I like to help people learn to care for guns carefully and shoot skillfully."

Share some of your personal interests. "I like to play the harp to unwind. We also like play volleyball in the backyard after dinner."

Describe your goals in life. "I want to expand my ranching into sheep too, but I am searching for a special breed that is less wooly."

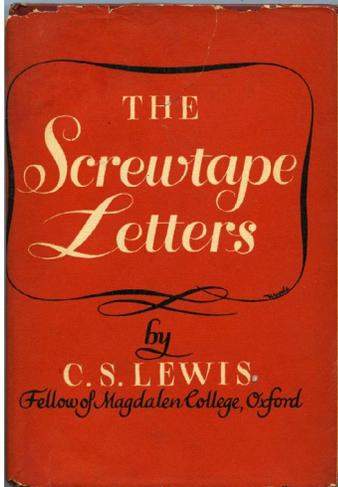
Give information that the group you are speaking to can relate to. "I think homeschooling is the best way to raise children who love Jesus and want to change the world."

Introductory Speech Preparation Worksheet

My Objective	
Intro	
Point #1	
Illustrations	
Point #2	
Illustrations	
Point #3	
Illustrations	
Conclusion	
Additional Notes	

The Screwtape Letters Book Review

By CS Lewis



Did you like this book? Why or why not? _____

Who are the main characters in this book? _____

Where and when does the story take place?

How are letters used in this book?

Briefly summarize the plot (story) of this book.

What did you learn about spiritual warfare?

Week Three Class

Discuss *Screwtape Letters*

Give Intro Speech

Turn in Rewritten Essay

Notes from Class

Week Three & Four Home

- Start Reading *The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain
- Read Sir Francis Bacon
- Complete Vocabulary Exercises (look up word and write definition. Then write a sentence using word)
- Read “Of Travel” and “My Visit to the Hiding Place”

Sir Francis Bacon's “Of Travel”

Sir Francis Bacon



Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam and Viscount St. Alban's, (1551-1626), sat in the House of Commons and was a favorite of Queen Elizabeth. He took an active role in the House of Commons in urging the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots. A great intellect, Bacon wrote many great works and served in public office. Unfortunately, he was charged with corruption in political office and admitted the charges were true. He spent time in the Tower of London, paid a hefty fine, and almost lost his titles. He spent the rest of his life devoted to studying and writing. His logical and reasonable arguments (inductive reasoning) changed the world and ushered in the Age of Reason. After experimenting with the antiseptic properties of snow, Bacon caught a chill and, later, died.

Of Travel Vocabulary Exercises

Look up the words below and write the definition next to each word. Then write a sentence using the word. Circle each of these words in the essay as you read in a bright color.

Discipline:

Omit:

Ambassadors:

Ecclesiastic:

Monasteries:

Antiquities:

Disputations:

Sequester:

Abridge:

Eminent:

Choleric:

“Of Travel”

By Sir Francis Bacon

TRAVEL, in the younger sort, is a part of education, in the elder, a part of experience. He that travelleth into a country, before he hath some entrance into the language, goeth to school, and not to travel. That young men travel under some tutor, or grave servant, I allow well; so that he be such a one that hath the language, and hath been in the country before; whereby he may be able to tell them what things are worthy to be seen, in the country where they go; what acquaintances they are to seek; what exercises, or discipline, the place yieldeth. For else, young men shall go hooded, and look abroad little.

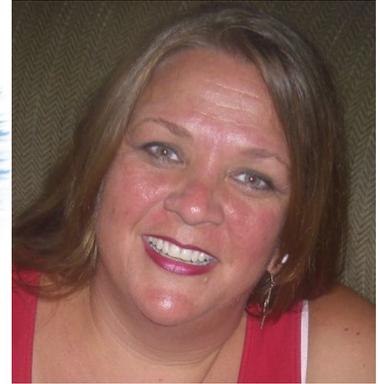
It is a strange thing, that in sea voyages, where there is nothing to be seen, but sky and sea, men should make diaries; but in land-travel, wherein so much is to be observed, for the most part they omit it; as if chance were fitter to be registered, than observation. Let diaries, therefore, be brought in use. The things to be seen and observed are: the courts of princes, especially when they give audience to ambassadors; the courts of justice, while they sit and hear causes; and so of consistories ecclesiastic; the churches and monasteries, with the monuments which are therein extant; the walls and fortifications of cities, and towns, and so the heavens and harbors; antiquities and ruins; libraries; colleges, disputations, and lectures, where any are; shipping and navies; houses and gardens of state and pleasure, near great cities; armories; arsenals; magazines; exchanges; burses; warehouses; exercises of horsemanship, fencing, training of soldiers, and the like; comedies, such whereunto the better sort of persons do resort; treasuries of jewels and robes; cabinets and rarities; and, to conclude, whatsoever is memorable, in the places where they go. After all which, the tutors, or servants, ought to make diligent inquiry. As for triumphs, masks, feasts, weddings, funerals, capital executions, and such shows, men need not to be put in mind of them; yet are they not to be neglected.

If you will have a young man to put his travel into a little room, and in short time to gather much, this you must do. First, as was said, he must have some entrance into the language before he goeth. Then he must have such a servant, or tutor, as knoweth the country, as was likewise said. Let him carry with him also, some card or book, describing the country where he travelleth; which will be a good key to his inquiry. Let him keep also a diary. Let him not stay long, in one city or town; more or less as the place deserveth, but not long; nay, when he stayeth in one city or town, let him change his lodging from one end and part of the town, to another; which is a great adamant of acquaintance. Let him sequester himself, from the company of his countrymen, and diet in such places, where there is good company of the nation where he travelleth. Let him, upon his removes from one place to another, procure recommendation to some person

MEREDITH CRUTIS

of quality, residing in the place whither he removeth; that he may use his favor, in those things he desireth to see or know. Thus he may abridge his travel, with much profit.

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Homeschooling High School to the Glory of God

If your homeschooling journey includes high school and you are looking classes or for some ideas on designing your own classes, then you are the person I am writing for. This series is for you and your family!

When my oldest daughter was 12, I began planning her high school curriculum using living books. There were so many things on my heart for her to learn, books I wanted her to read, and dreams I had for her high school education. I designed her entire high school curriculum. This curriculum has been adapted for my next two daughters and Laura's oldest sons. They have been the guinea pigs so that their younger siblings can have the best classes possible.

My classes have been, are, and will be adapted to every child to fit their own needs and designed to take advantage of opportunities that arise, such as coop classes, vacations, and seminars. This series is simply my philosophy of educating my high school children at home, along with classes we have used in our family over the years. Hopefully, you will be inspired to create your own classes! Or, you can adapt my classes however you would like to! After all, you are the teacher!

My goal for high school is to provide a general education that can be a springboard to any and every possible career and education path that exists for my children. That is a HUGE goal, so I may not reach it, but if I aim for nothing I'll hit nothing, so I am aiming for something BIG! With that in mind, I try to cultivate and develop gifts, talents, and goals. I don't expect my teenager to know what he/she is going to want to do for the rest of his/her life, so I try to prepare for ALL possibilities.

Here is our family's Real Men 101: Godly Manhood course. I hope you and your high school children will enjoy it as much as we have. May it be a blessing! Feel free to adapt this class any way you want to. After all, you are the teacher!

This is the just one of the classes in the Homeschooling to the Glory of God series. There are more classes and collections of classes available and coming soon.

Here is a list of individual classes that are available now!

- New Testament Survey
- Old Testament Survey
- Worldview Course: Understand the Times
- Great Commission
- Web Design 101
- Economics, Personal Finances, & Business
- British Literature
- American Literature & Research
- Who-Dun-It Murder Mystery Literature & Writing

COMMUNICATION 101: ESSAYS & SPEECHES

- Foundations of Western Literature
- Communication 101: Essays & Speeches
- Music 101: Make a Joyful Noise
- Real Men 101: Godly Manhood
- Real Men 102: Freedom, Courtship, Marriage, and Family
- Real Men 103: Leadership
- Real Men 104: Pass the Torch
- God's Girls 101: Grow in Christ
- God's Girls 102: Virtuous Womanhood
- God's Girls 103: Courtship, Marriage, and the Christian Family
- God's Girls 104: Motherhood
- God's Girls 105: Homemaking
- God's Girls 106: Friendship, Hospitality, & Celebrations
- God's Girls 107: How to Homeschool

Here is a list of How-To-Homeschool High School books in the series!

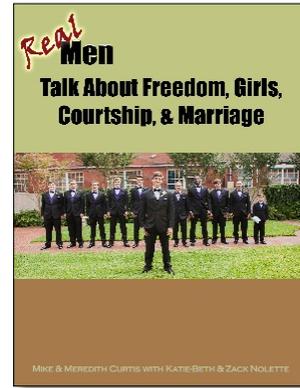
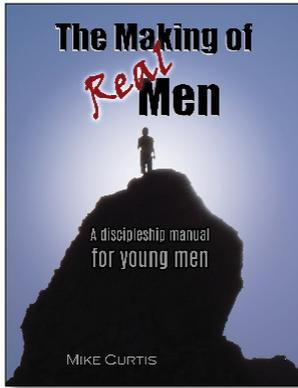
- *Unlocking the Mysteries of Credits, Classes, & Transcripts*
- *Teaching Literature in High School with Classes You Can Use*
- *Teaching Writing in High School with Classes You Can Use*

Happy Homeschooling! And remember to Homeschool to the Glory of God!

Meredith Ludwig Curtis

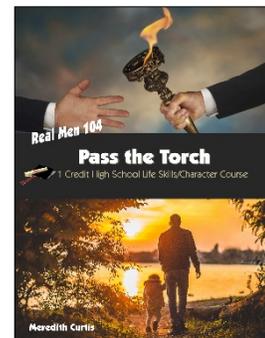
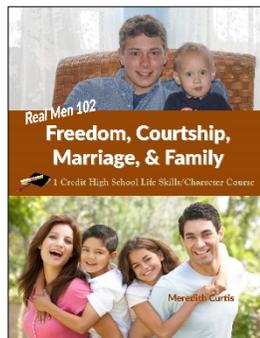
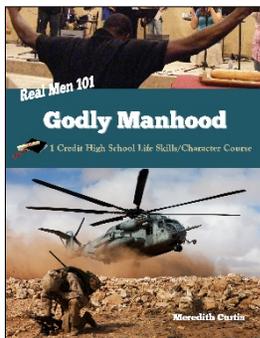
Real Men Discipleship Manuals

God calls fathers to impart life to their sons, passing the baton in the race of faith. These Bible studies were created for fathers (or mentors) to go through this material with their sons. Pastor Mike Curtis used these materials to mentor his own son and other young men in the church. These manuals cover tough issues that fathers and sons need to talk about and live out in their lives.

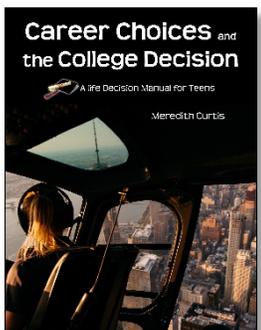
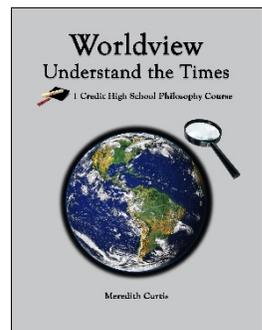
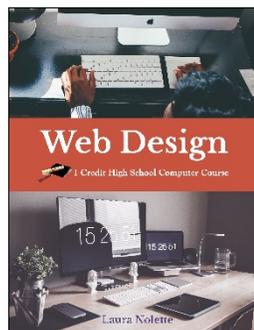
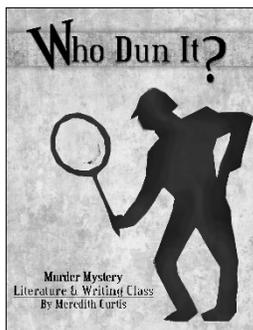
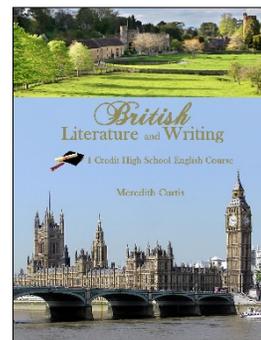
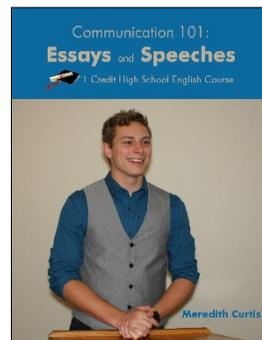
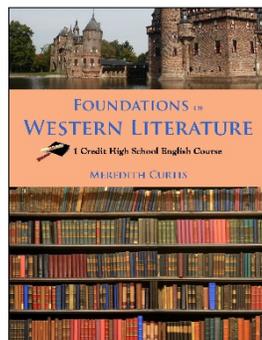
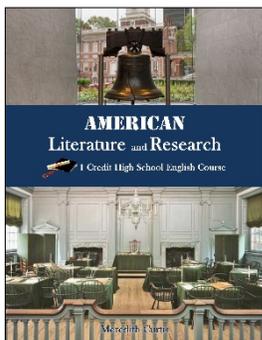
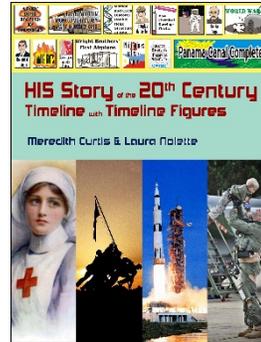
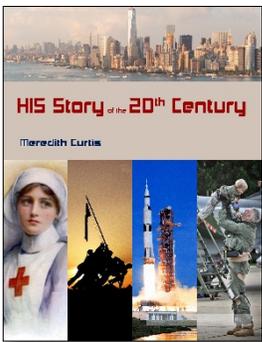
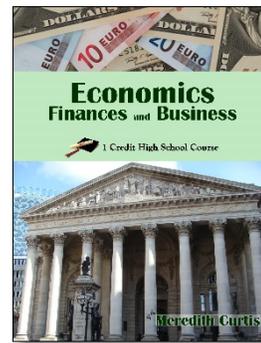
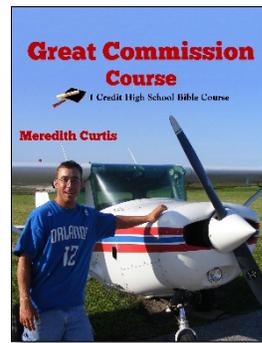
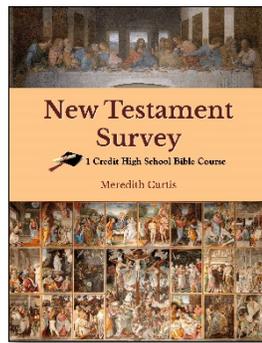
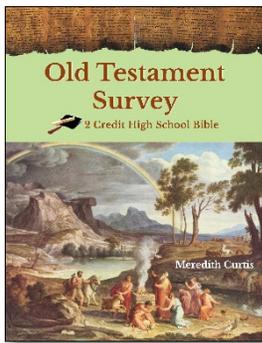


Real Men Classes

Do you want to prepare your sons to become godly husbands, fathers, church leaders, and pillars in their communities? These one-credit high school life skills classes build character and prepare young men for the future. Using living books, Scripture, and practical assignments, young men will learn to become the man God has called them to be.



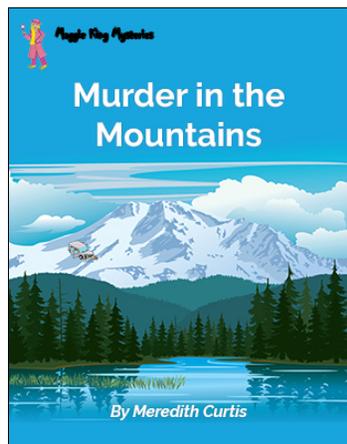
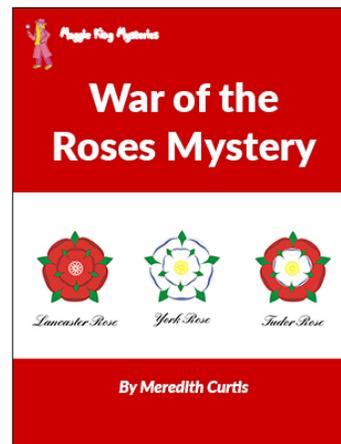
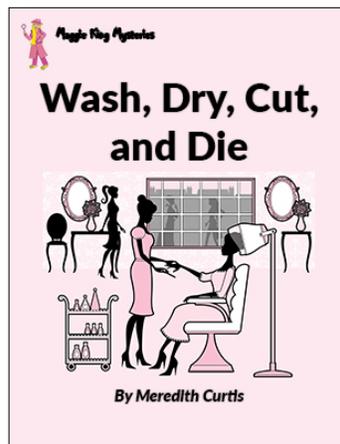
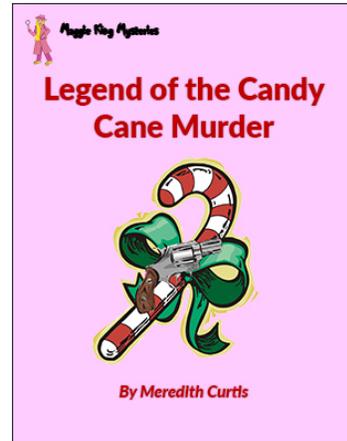
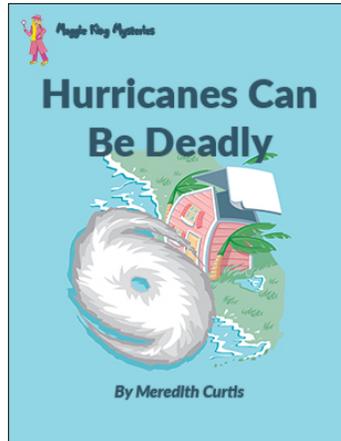
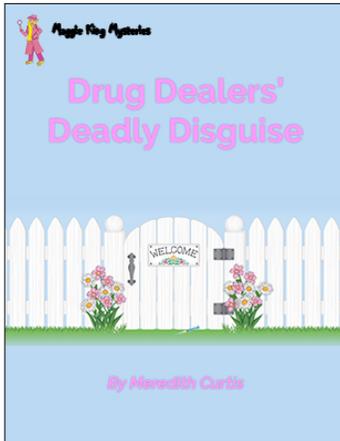
High School Classes



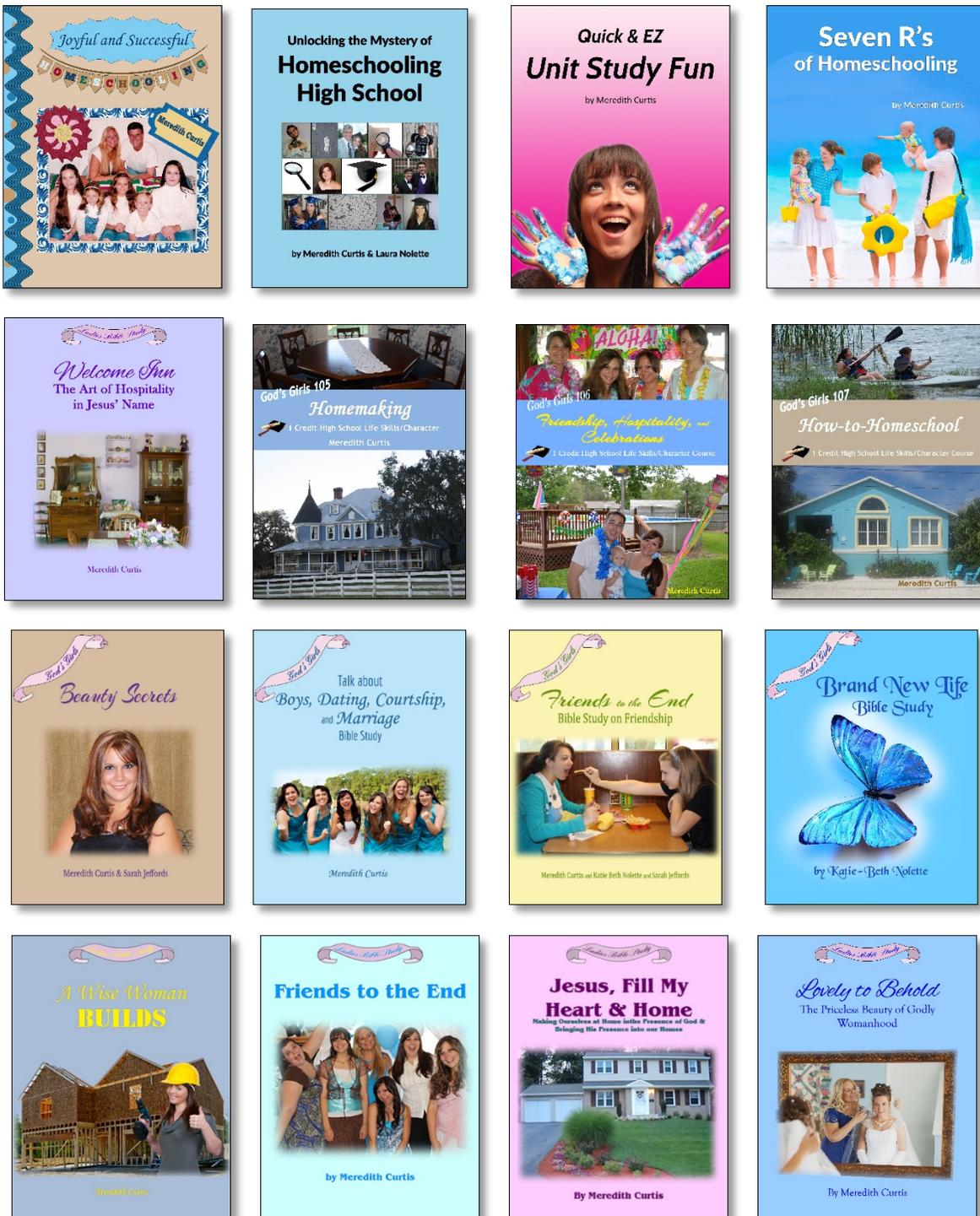


Maggie King Mysteries

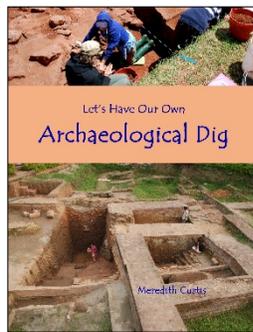
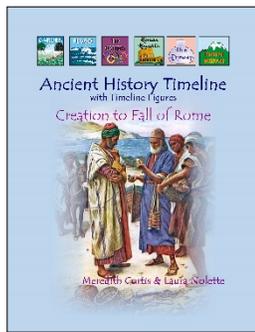
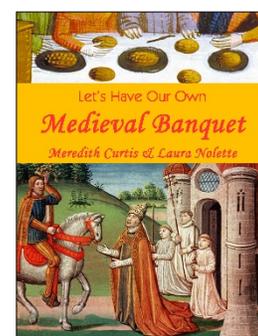
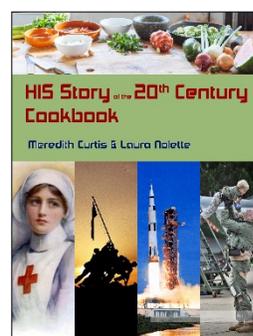
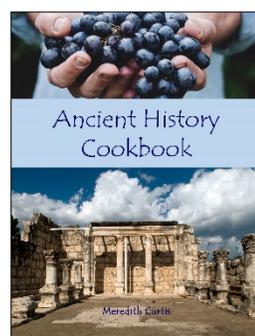
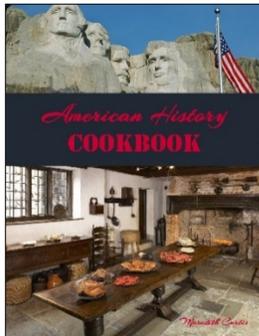
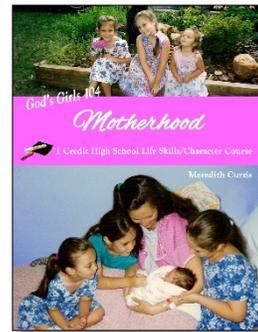
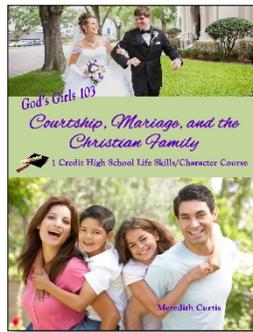
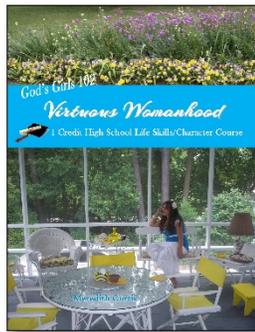
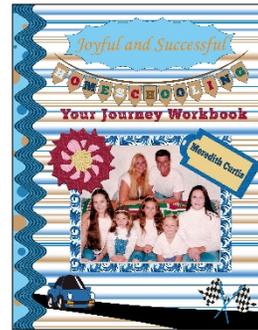
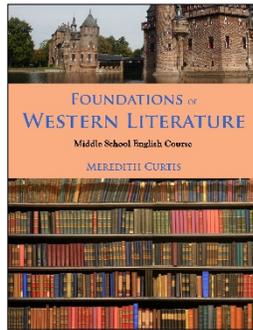
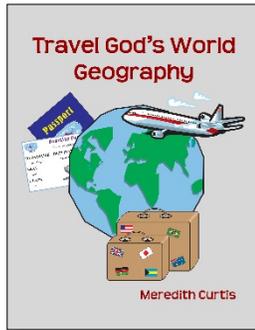
If you like cozy mysteries, you will love this series! Meet Maggie King, a pastor's wife and homeschool mom who keeps stumbling across dead bodies. With her sidekicks, Sophia and Mary-Kate and her curious children, Maggie is on one adventure after another.



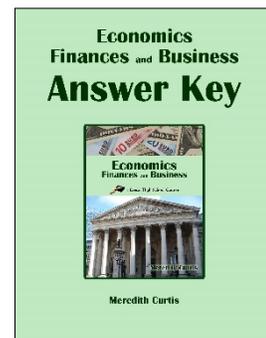
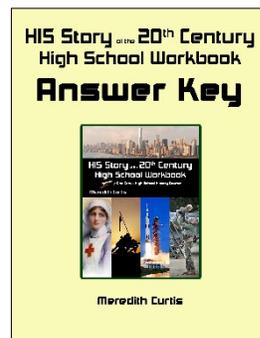
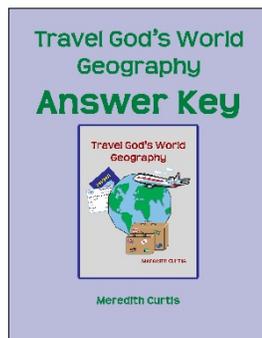
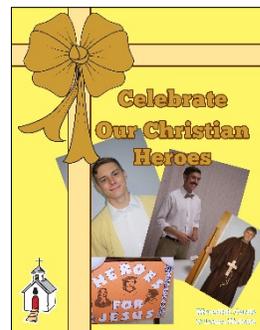
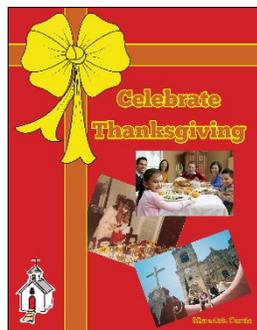
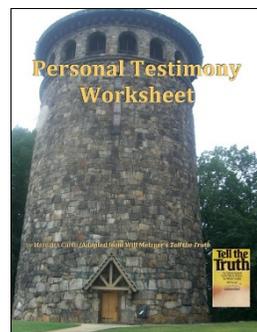
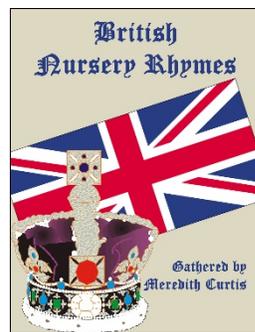
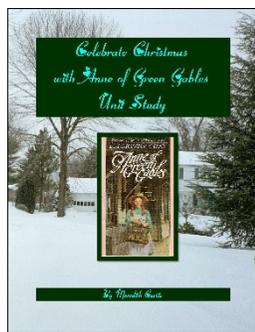
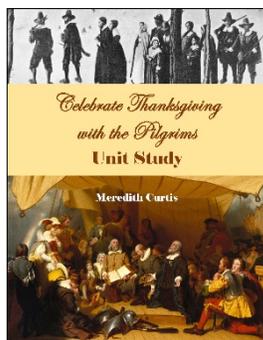
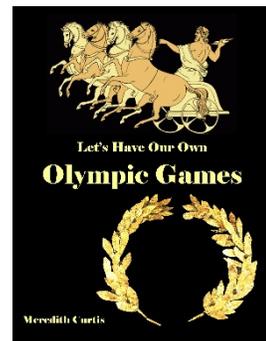
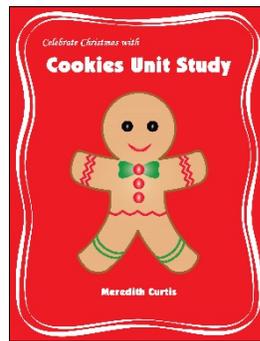
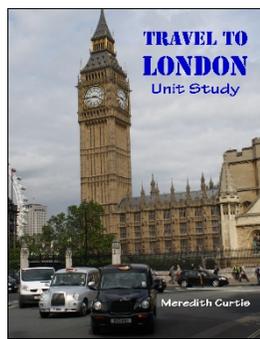
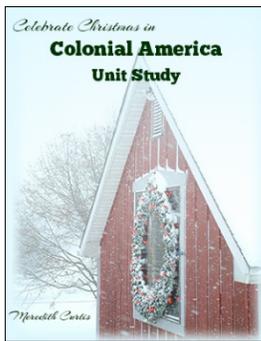
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About the Author



Meredith Curtis, a pastor's wife and homeschooling mom of five children, leads worship, mentors ladies, and, sometimes, even cooks dinner. Her passion is to equip people to love Jesus, raise godly children, and change the world around them with the power of the Gospel. "Lives are changed in the context of relationships," Meredith often says, as well as, "Be a world changer! Raise world changers!" She enjoys speaking to small and large groups.

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Meredith is the author of several books.

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Meredith is the author of several cozy mysteries: The Maggie King Mysteries series.

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Meredith is the author of several Bible studies.

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Meredith is the author of several high school classes.

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