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Understanding Your Own Teaching Style

Mary James, Smoothing the Way, Booth 827

Comprehensive Teacher Training Course



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Smoothing the Way ZOOM Classes

Sign up at our booth for info on dates and topics. First Up:

Top 10 Homeschooling Myths,

June 12 at 4:00 p.m., or June 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Which Way Do I Go? Choosing Curriculum,

June 16 at 7:30 pm, or June 17 at 2:00 p.m.



Teaching Methodologies

- Traditional Textbook
- Unit Studies
- Living Book (Charlotte Mason)
- Classical Education
- Unschooling

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Mary James: Understanding Your Own Teaching Styles

June 02, 2:30 – 3:00 PM
Waterway 2-3

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Session Chat

Description

Teaching Styles Quiz - <https://www.riddle.com/embed/showcase/261408>

Speakers

Mary James
Founder
Smoothing the Way

Sessions You May Like

Jun 2, 12:00 PM

Traditional Textbook – Characteristics

- instructor-driven
- text-based
- reading material followed by questions
- provides teacher editions, lesson plans

Traditional Textbook – Advantages

- less planning on teacher's part
- easy to chart scores
- contains built-in tests

Traditional Textbook – Considerations

- less freedom
- less depth
- student often becomes bored
- student who does not fit the curriculum will feel inferior
- student simply masters tests rather than material

Unit Studies – Characteristics

- most subjects are covered by studying one topic
- study material usually comes from reading books
- usually includes hands-on activities
- focuses on discovery learning



Title: The Story About Ping
 Author: Marjorie Flack
 Illustrator: Kurt Weise
 Copyright: 1933
 Category: Classic
 Summary: A duck learns there are worse than things taking consequences for one's mistakes.

Social Studies: Relationships - Discernment

Ping learns on pp.16-18 that everything that looks good (like the rice cake trap) isn't necessarily good. Discernment is an important life skill that comes with maturity. You can discuss with your student examples of things which may look better than they really are. Discussions might include offers of candy from strangers, smoking cigarettes, or diving into unfamiliar ponds or streams.

Ping runs away because he doesn't want to take his punishment. He discovers that the loneliness, fear and danger he encounters are far worse than any punishment he might receive. In the end, Ping learns that family relationships and a sense of community are a vital part of life. Everyone is tempted to avoid the consequences of his mistakes. Consider sharing an example from your own life of trying to run away from consequences or punishment.

Social Studies: Geography - China

The Story About Ping takes place along the banks of China's Yangtze river. (YANG- see) Longer than any other river in the world except the Nile and the Amazon, the Yangtze is nearly four thousand miles long. Discuss with your student how long four thousand miles is by comparing it with a familiar distance. You might say, "Grandpa's house is four hundred miles away and so the Yangtze is like driving to grandfather's house ten times." You can also compare it with how far your student went on vacation last summer, etc.

The Yangtze is so wide in places that you can stand on one bank and not see the other shore. Ask if the student has ever been to one of the Great Lakes or to the ocean. From these

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Have your older student sketch some balanced compositions. Have him try pictures which are balanced diagonally, horizontally and vertically. Your student can even cut magazine pictures and place them in pleasing balanced compositions if he does not yet enjoy a lot of drawing. Encourage your student to look beyond content and think about composition whenever looking at an illustration. While good content makes an interesting picture, good composition makes for a pleasing picture.

Math: Counting Skills

Have your student count Ping's family including: mother, father, two sisters, three brothers, eleven aunts, seven uncles and forty-two cousins. Don't forget to include Ping! To make the counting more fun, have the student draw a picture illustrating all of Ping's family surrounding Ping. Some students might prefer tracing a duck "template" on yellow construction paper and cutting out Ping's family and gluing them on a hand-painted Yangtze River. For your very young student, you might use blocks, coins or clothes pins to account for each member of Ping's family. Arrange and rearrange the items as you count them together. Some children might enjoy counting *all* of the ducks or all of the boats in the book as well.

Science: Animal Kingdom

In *The Story About Ping* your student will be introduced to the animal kingdom by learning about ducks. What is Ping trying to catch when he misses the call on p. 6? Ducks search beneath the water's surface for insects, plants, small fish and snails. They look funny with their tails up. Many ducks also enjoy eating bread crumbs. Discuss how Ping's love of rice cake crumbs on p. 15 nearly gets him in trouble.

Ask your student if he or she has ever fed the ducks. Consider going to a nearby lake or park to feed the ducks bread crumbs and watch them dabble (poke about in the water) as they forage for food. The more time you spend observing, the more you'll learn about ducks! For more information about ducks, get *The Little Duck*, by Judy Dunn.

Science: Buoyancy

The illustrations on pp. 16 and 17 show a boy swimming with a barrel attached to his back. Ask your student why the boy is wearing a barrel.

Both the wood and the air inside the barrel help the boy float, much like a life-preserver helps a water skier. The barrel works on the same principle of buoyancy as a fishing bobber, inflatable pool toys, etc., since both air and wood are lighter and less dense than water.

Try finding which things float in a pan of water: a cork, penny, fishing bobber, pencil, tennis ball, golf ball, etc.

Science: Health and Safety

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Unit Studies – Advantages

- allows depth of study and greater understanding of topic
- children retain what they have learned
- useful for teaching multiple grade levels
- helps a resistant learner regain a love of learning

Unit Studies – Considerations

- more planning required of teacher
- harder to track accomplishments
- more uncertainty about covering all subjects

Living Books – Characteristics

- **study material comes from “real” books, rather than textbooks**
- **various subjects are integrated into reading, but not necessarily as purposefully as in unit studies**

Living Books – Advantages

- **students are reading books by someone who is passionate about a subject**
- **learning is low-key because it comes as a natural process of simply reading a good book**
- **allows exploration of a subject**

Living Books – Considerations

- not all subjects are covered at all times
- very difficult to track work because very little is written
- hard to follow a traditional scope and sequence

Classical Approach – Characteristics

- **teaches the trivium**
 - grammar stage (ages birth to 11)
 - dialectic stage (ages 11-14)
 - rhetoric stage (ages 14-16)
- **rigorous academics**
- **strong reading program**

LATIN	LOGIC	WRITING	GRAMMAR
TEACHING FROM REST	EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES	PRESCHOOL	FRENCH
SPANISH	GREEK	BIBLE	REASONING & READING

Classical Approach – Advantages

- follows stages of mental development
- develops independent learners
- teaches thinking skills

Classical Approach – Considerations

- **very little prepared curriculum available**
- **overemphasis on ancient disciplines and classics**

Unschooling – Characteristics

- **assumes children have an innate desire to learn**
- **follows child's natural curiosity**
- **less structured approach**

Unschooling – Advantages

- requires little planning
- children are less likely to suffer from burnout
- creates self-learners

Unschooling – Considerations

- **harder to assess level of learning**
- **neglects some subjects or areas of learning**
- **children may not accomplish as much as parent anticipates**

Eclectic Homeschooling

- combines one or more teaching methodologies
- example:
 - traditional curriculum for math or grammar
 - living book approach for history
 - unschooling approach for science

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