



GENERATION HOMESCHOOL



E-Mail: generationhomeschool@gmail.com

Web: generationhomeschool.weebly.com

Dear Reader,

Welcome back to the new school year! If you homeschool anything like we do, you might have taken a “break”, but you never stopped learning! Summer is a great time to explore, unwind, and refresh! While we didn’t take any extended trips, we did find time to take some day trips. We visited Memphis, TN, Little Rock, AR, and *hopefully* we can get a picnic in this weekend before classes start back Monday.

Over the summer, we cleaned up the classroom, stored away our previous years’ work, and set new goals for the coming year. We’ve also planned our lessons for the entire year, by day number as opposed to day/date, because sometimes, lessons need to be missed for a day.

In other news, we are planning a huge change coming in June of 2019! We are moving to Florida! Stay tuned to the website for more details on how I plan a move five states away and on a tight budget!

Grab a cup of coffee and sit a spell!

JayVonda



Inside this Issue...

Updates	Pg. 1
Homeschool News	Pg. 2
Unit Study: The Giver	Pg. 3
Parenting Ninja	Pg. 4
The Milk Jug	Pg. 5
Subscriber Freebies	Pg. 6-12

Want to share?

If you have something to share, please email us and include in the subject: Newsletter Add-In

*Subscriber Freebies
at the End!*



Homeschool News

Homeschooling... for free?

Homeschool families are familiar with the nearly constant “doesn’t homeschooling cost so much more than simply sending your kids to school?” For some, it sure might – especially if they have chosen to purchase curricula created by the numerous publishing companies currently on the market. However, homeschooling doesn’t have to cost a penny.

When we first began homeschooling, I created our very own curricula – literally pored over hundreds of websites, collecting materials, creating lessons and assignments, and hoping that I was covering all that I needed to for the kids to have a well-rounded education. After more than 18 months, I decided I needed help, but was not financially able to afford the pricy curricula available. That’s when I realized just how easy-peasy it could be to homeschool, with Easy Peasy All-In-One Homeschool.

[Easy Peasy All-In-One Homeschool](#) is a free curricula and lesson plan in one and available online for free. You do NOT have to register, you do not have pay, and you have a wonderful support team should you have any questions about any of the assignments, links, and materials. Because it is not an online school, but rather, a curriculum, you can use it as a full curriculum, or use what parts you’d like as a supplement to the curriculum you currently use. And it covers Kindergarten all the way through twelfth grade. You couldn’t ask for more!

If you’ve wanted to homeschool, but felt you simply could not afford it, I highly encourage you to check out Mrs. Lee Giles’ website today!

How we do it...

I continue to make much of our curriculum, but primarily for the elective courses and unit studies. We use From Adam to Us History (5th – 8th) because of the inclusion of biblical timelines and their relation to historical events. We utilize Glencoe Science, Saxon Math, BJU Pre-Algebra, Glencoe Literature, Glencoe Civics, and Houghton Mifflin Spelling. To supplement on days that are full of appointments, and during the summer months, we use Easy Peasy All-In-One Homeschool. It provides the assignments, materials, and other time-consuming aspects of homeschooling without the work!

I’ve created a video of how our day is set up – you can watch it by clicking here.

Links and Free Resources

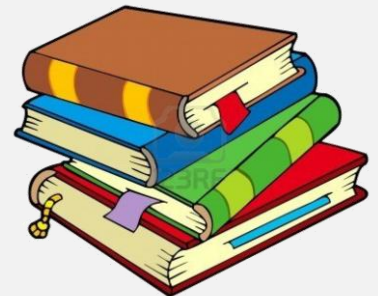
Be sure to check out [Generation Homeschool](#) for the newest freebies for kids and parents!

Encouraging Quotes

“The best teachers will tell you where to look, but not what to see”

“A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others”

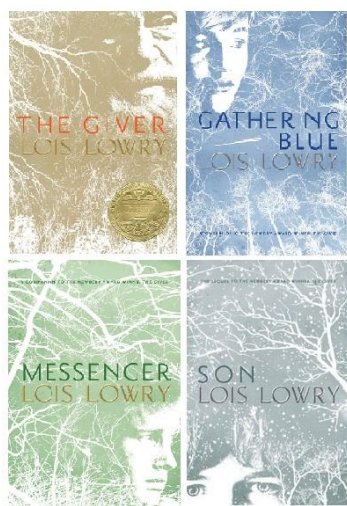
“It shouldn’t matter how slowly a child learns, as long as we are encouraging them not to stop”



Literature Unit Study: The Giver Series

Many homeschool families have taken a liking to unit studies – and rightly so – as many students have gone forward seeking out careers in the very field in which they studied as a family many years before. One of my all-time favorite unit studies was a literature study over *The Giver* series. I fell in love with this story during my own years in public school and again in college. But I believe, it took being in college to truly grasp the concept and the morals found within the story.

Our kids started out with the notion that this book, with some old man on the cover, was going to be boring, and as a read-aloud, would drone on and on, never having any excitement. It wasn't their "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" (no offense, I enjoy those, books, too)! However, they were nicely surprised. From the first chapter, they were caught on more than one occasion fully engrossed in the words I spoke from Lowry's writing.



The premise, if you will, includes a young boy, Jonas, who lives in a particular--and peculiar--community. About to be twelve, he soon finds out what will be his role and I must stop there. I cannot say any more about it, for I will surely ruin it for you! But know that books two and three, *Gathering Blue*, and *Messenger*, respectively, will leave you wanting even more. Rest assured, the fourth installment, *Son*, sums it up nicely! Lowry is a genius! To set up this lovely unit study, I began with determining how many days I wanted to take to read each book. They are relatively in length, but suitable for strong readers in 6th grade. It took us approximately 6 weeks to read the first two, and about 4 weeks to read the final two.

Afterward, I selected key words I wanted the kids to know as we read each book and created worksheets to go along with them. Chapter quizzes were essential, since I was doing most of the reading aloud, I wanted to ensure they were actively listening. The fun began when I looked inside of the trilogy sleeve and found a map of each community in the stories. This gave me an idea that truly made the stories come "alive".

We utilized Minecraft ® and replicated the communities using creative mode, not based off the map, but based off the reading. This allowed me to see what the kids were seeing as I read and gave them an opportunity to "get lost" in Jonas' world.

What I loved about the entire idea – when they were finished with their chores, they wanted to play Minecraft, but not to survive—no—they wanted to continue working on their communities. Yes, they were fully engrossed in the story and could hardly wait for read-aloud time the following day. Finally, after each story was complete, they worked to create a cereal box cover activity and designed a bookmark with their favorite part of each book.

When we finished the books, we utilized our "Snack and Chat" kit that I made as part of our reading course, to discuss the book. Think of it as a book club within a class. This helped to reinforce critical thinking skills and to allow them the opportunity to critique the story, the writing, and to voice their opinion about the stories. I asked questions such as, "What was the problem in the story?",

"This gave me an idea that truly made the stories come alive!"

"What were the characters like in the story?", and "did this story remind you of another story, a movie, or something in real life?"

We finished by incorporating some social studies in the unit by asking each other what would be the benefits to livings in a community like Jonas, as well as some downfalls?

Visit our [Teachers Pay Teachers](#) store if you would like to purchase the chapter quizzes, essays, and final exam for *The Giver*.

PARENTING NINJA

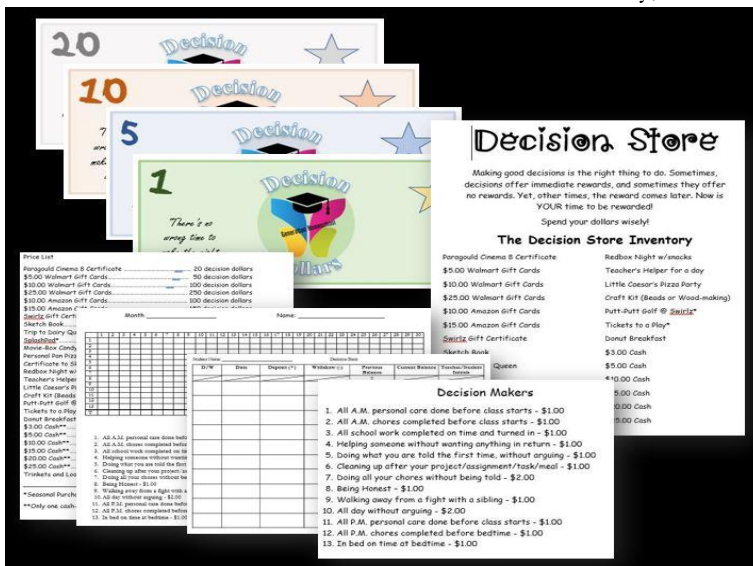
Behavior Incentive Programs (BIP) have a two-fold benefit for parents and a great way for children to earn their good graces once again. Before you start with “it’s bribery, my kids will learn to behave”, you are partly right. They will learn to behave, but it is not bribery. One way our family has moved away from the fighting, bickering, and not doing their chores is with the Decision Dollar Incentives Program.

The goal of the Decision Dollar is to encourage good decision-making skills. When they don’t argue, walk away from an argument, do their chores, and other tasks they tend to “forget”, they earn decision bucks. Then, once a month, I pull out the decision dollar “store” filled with all sorts of rewards they can buy. From their favorite movie-box candy to gift cards for Wal-Mart and Amazon, they are free to spend as they choose with the dollars they have earned.

Where the “lesson” comes in is the two-fold for parents:

1. The repetition of making good choices creates a strong foundation for when they are older, and
2. If they make a bad decision, they lose a decision dollar from their stash (They cannot go in the negative – there are other punishments to be utilized when this happens, such as no tech devices, grounding, etc.)

I’ve created our own decision dollars and inventory, as well as a “bank” for



those eager to get the big-ticket items (in which we calculate their earnings at the end of each month and write them down, keeping a running total... the

same as balancing a checkbook (see, we are always making a lesson out of life). They can save their dollars until the end of the school year but cannot carry them into the next school year.

When you're getting
HOT

1. The kids are screaming
2. The house is a mess
3. You forgot to set out dinner
4. The washer quit
5. The kids are fighting
6. Your printer quit working

Keep a
Cool Head

1. Make being calm your number one goal
2. Don't make your child's behavior about you
3. Always decide how you will behave as a parent, no matter how your child chooses to behave
4. Turn your focus on yourself
5. Put your “thinking self” in the driver's seat and put your emotions in the passenger seat
6. Take time for yourself

Read more at
empoweringparents.com

THE MEAT JUNE

AUTUMN BEEF STEW

Ingredients

- 1/4 c. cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. cracked black pepper
- 2 lbs. boneless beef chunks in 1 1/2 inch cubes
- 2 strips bacon cut crosswise in 1/4 inch strips
- Canola oil
- 2 med onions cut in 1/2 inch wedges
- 4 cloves garlic peeled & smashed
- 2 tbsp. tomato paste
- 5 c reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 2 c less-sodium beef broth
- 1 1/2 cups dry red wine
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 tsp. smoked paprika
- 1 lb. potatoes cut in 2-inch chunks
- 1 lb. butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut in 1-inch chunks
- 4 carrots cut in 1-inch chunks
- 2 stalks celery sliced 1/2 inch thick
- 1/4 c. chopped Italian Parsley

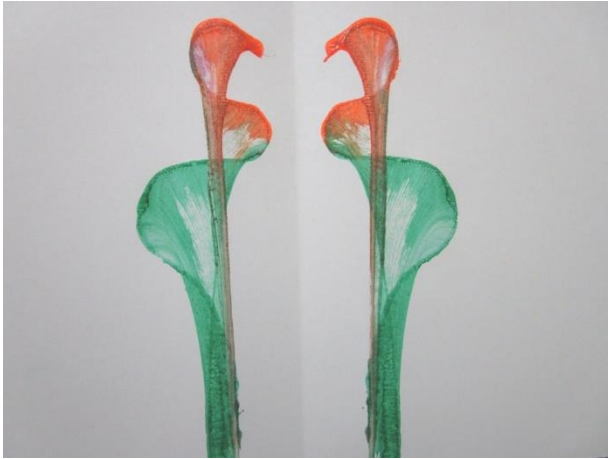


Figure 1 courtesy midwestliving.com

What to Do:

1. In a large plastic bag, combine flour, salt and pepper. Add beef; shake to coat evenly. In a Dutch oven or large heavy pot, cook and stir bacon over medium-high heat until crisp. Transfer to paper towels with a slotted spoon. Add enough oil to bacon drippings to equal 2 tablespoons. Add half the beef to pot, shaking off any excess flour. Cook, stirring occasionally, until browned. Remove beef with a slotted spoon. Repeat with remaining beef.
2. If pot is dry, add 1 tablespoon of oil. Add onions; cook and stir for about 4 minutes or until starting to brown. Stir in garlic; cook for 1 minute. Stir in tomato paste. Return beef, bacon and any remaining flour to pot. Stir to combine. Add chicken and beef broth, wine, bay leaves, thyme and paprika. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 1 1/2 hours or until meat is tender, stirring occasionally.
3. Add potatoes, squash, carrots and celery. Return to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, for 15 minutes. Remove lid and simmer about 15 minutes more or until vegetables are tender and liquid is desired consistency. Remove bay leaves. Stir in parsley.

Elegant Pulled-String Painting



Materials

- ζ Smock or old clothes (it gets messy)
- ζ White construction paper
- ζ String (twine or yarn) cut in 1 ½ foot pieces
- ζ Covered area/table
- ζ Heavy book to equalize pressure
- ζ Colored paints

Directions

1. Lay out the construction paper and fold it in half
2. Next, use your fingers or dip the string into the paint to coat it. If you are using more than one color, be sure to get the string coated well with each color (in sections)
3. Leave about four to five inches unpainted (this is your pulling end)
4. Open the folded construction paper and gently swirl the string onto the paper in loops and bends
5. Leave the unpainted portion of the string out
6. Fold the paper gently over the top of the string
7. Place a heavy book over the paper
8. Place one hand on the book while you pull the string with the other hand
9. Once you've pulled the string out, remove the book and open the paper to see your creation
10. Allow the project to dry overnight

Make it home décor!

- Purchase two white painting canvases.
- Place your paint covered string on one canvas.
- Place the second canvas face down on the string.
- Repeat steps 7-10 above.

Hang your finished home décor wall art in your favorite room!









Life Cycle of a Cicada



Instructions:

- 1) Colour in the pictures.
- 2) Cut out the pictures.
- 3) Paste the pictures in the correct order on the Life Cycle chart.
- 4) Label each stage.



COPYRIGHT STUDYLADDER

Life Cycle of a Cicada

