

A Case for Copywork

Copywork is a simple method teaches an array of writing skills. Copywork is done by giving the student a quality passage of writing from great books, poetry, inspirational speeches and the Scripture so students learn from the quality written texts. Copywork is reproducing letters, words, sentences, and paragraphs for the purpose of improving handwriting, grammar, spelling, and writing skills. While copying passages might seem mundane, even rudimentary, the benefits of this historic learning method abound. Copywork can help students with memorization of passages they are studying for recitation as well.

Through tracing, emerging writers learn to space letters and arrange them to make meaningful words and sentences. Students can move beyond tracing by simply copying one letter at a time, which allows students to master the mechanics of forming letters and improving penmanship. Once students can print wonderful letters they can study individual words and write them from memory. Copywork introduces students to capitalization, punctuation, correct spelling and vocabulary in context. Students should concentrate on the words in the passage, write them from memory, and self-correct their spelling. As students grow in their skills of observation they grow not only in their penmanship but in their grammar and spelling.

Lessons should be short enough so students can attain high quality, neat and beautiful handwriting whether they write one letter or one paragraph. The beauty of copywork is that the practice is short, incredibly effective in improving mechanics, and encouraging as students are exposed to excellent literature and writing. If students are struggling to produce neat work then it is best to shorten the amount they should copy. Gently encourage progress with an emphasis on quality not quantity.

Whether students are tracing, copying or using these as a memorization tool, there are many skills students can learn from this simple method.

Tips:

- *Don't print this entire packet. Only use what will be useful to your students.
- *If a students is new to copywork they might find the lined pages make it easer for them to concentrate on the mechanics of forming the words. Using these preprinted pages is simply a guide.
- *Copying directly into a notebook is encouraged. Experienced students should be able to copy the passage directly into a notebook.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art thou my best thought, by day or by night; waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my great Father; thine own may I be, thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Phil. 3:7

SLANE 10 10 10 10 Irish hymn, c. 8th century Trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905 Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912 Traditional Irish melody Arr. by Donald P. Hustad, 1973 Unison Be Thou Vi 0 Lord heart; my sion, of my Wis - dom, my Word; 2. Be Thou my and Thou true 3. Rich Ι man's praise, heed not, nor ty - es emp 4. High King of heav - en, my vic won, to ry all else me, Thou Naught save artwith Thou with ev er Thee and me, Lord; Thou - her - i - tance, mine now and al in ways; May bright heav'n's Sun! Ι reach heav - en's joys, 0 Thou day my best thought, by night. orby Thy Thou great Fa my ther, Ι true son; Thou and Thou heart, on ly, first in my Heart of my own heart, what - ev er be fall, Wak - ing sleep - ing, Thy light. or pres - ence my Thou in me dwell - ing, and with Thee one. High King of heav - en, Thou my Treas - ure art. Vi - sion, Still all. be my 0 Rul - er of A - men. Words used by permission of Chatto and Windus Ltd. HOPE AND ASPIRATION