



The **2012**
Practical Homeschooling[®]
Reader Awards[™]

What's the best homeschool curriculum, in 45 separate categories? Read & see . . .

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ABOUT THE 2012 PRACTICAL HOMESCHOOLING READER AWARDS

Thousands of homeschoolers voted.

They ranked the products with which they were familiar from 1 to 10.

The products with the highest satisfaction ratings won.

So *this is not a popularity ranking*. Sometimes the most “popular” products are the most heavily advertised, not those that their users actually like the best.

Our annual Reader Awards are as close as you can get to *personal curriculum recommendations* from thousands of experienced homeschoolers.

Things to keep in mind:

1. Just being nominated for the Practical Homeschooling Reader Awards is an honor, let alone taking First Place, Second Place, Third Place, or Honorable Mention.
2. These are *all* products with high satisfaction ratings. Thus, you should pick the one that fits your family best, which is not necessarily always the First Place winner.
3. The actual magazine article also included interviews with some of the winners. We left those out to make this report shorter.

It took us hundreds of man-hours (actually, mostly woman-hours) to create this copyrighted report, which we are offering online exclusively to those who have signed up for our email list. **Please encourage your friends to subscribe**, rather than giving it to them.

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We rely on your integrity to protect our copyright, and to enable us to keep publishing these helpful items. :)



The 2012 Practical Homeschooling Reader Awards

It's time once again to discover which products your fellow homeschoolers have chosen as the very best. But first, let's thank those of you who cast the thousands of votes—whether online or using our printed ballot—which made this all possible.

And congratulations to Wendy Feddes, Sara Klasing, Jennifer Barnard, Lauri Harrison, Lori Kilfian, Jean VanderPlaats, Abbey Lehman, Merit Kirkpatrick, Gigi Tillett, and Melissa Hawk, who won our ballot drawing. Each received a tote full of Janice VanCleave science books.

About the Reader Awards: they are so significant, because readers rated all the products with which they were personally familiar from one to ten on the basis of their personal experiences. So you'll be learning which products have the highest user satisfaction ratings, not just which products happen to have the most users.

As in previous years, we thought you'd enjoy a peek "behind the scenes" at some of the award-winning companies. Enjoy!

And now . . . the winners of the 2012 Practical Homeschooling Reader Awards, by category:

Grade Level Curriculum

KINDERGARTEN/READINESS/ PRESCHOOL

First Place Veritas Press Kindergarten Curriculum

Second Place TIE! Ruth Beechick Books (Mott Media), Five in a Row & Before Five in a Row (Rainbow Resource Center)

Third Place Get Ready, Get Set, Go for the Code (EPS division of School Specialty, Inc.)

Honorable Mention Little Hearts for His Glory (Heart of Dakota Publishing), My Father's World Kindergarten, Rod & Staff Kindergarten, Sonlight Kinder-

garten (Sonlight Curriculum, Ltd.)

ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM

First Place Veritas Press Elementary Curriculum

Second Place Five in a Row & Beyond Five in a Row (Rainbow Resource Center)

Third Place TIE! "Little Hearts" series, Sonlight Curriculum

Honorable Mention My Father's World, Rod & Staff curriculum, Tapestry of Grace (Lampstand Press)

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

First Place TIE! Hearts for Him Through Time series (Heart of Dakota Publishing), Veritas Press Curriculum

Second Place Sonlight Curriculum

Third Place TIE! Tapestry of Grace (Lampstand Press), Starting Points curriculum (Cornerstone Curriculum Project)

Honorable Mention Christian Light Education, KONOS Curriculum, My Father's World Middle School Curriculum, Rod & Staff Curriculum

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

First Place Veritas Press Curriculum
Second Place Tapestry of Grace (Lampstand Press)

Third Place Sonlight Curriculum

Honorable Mention KONOS History of the World, My Father's World High School Curriculum, Robinson Curriculum (Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine), Seton Books High School Curriculum (Seton Educational Media)

UNIT STUDIES

First Place Heroes of History series (YWAM Publishing)

Second Place TIE! Christian Heroes Then and Now (YWAM Publishing), Family Study Handbook series (Simply Charlotte Mason)

Third Place Beautiful Feet Unit Studies (Beautiful Feet Books)

Honorable Mention Unit Studies by

Amanda Bennett, Jennifer Stewart Unit Studies (Steward Ship Publishing), KONOS Character Curriculum (KONOS, Inc.)

LAPBOOK STUDIES

First Place TIE! A Journey Through Learning lapbooks, Hands of a Child lapbooks

SONG-BASED CURRICULUM

First Place SongSchool Greek & Latin (Classical Academic Press)

Second Place Audio Memory song kits (Audio Memory Publishing)

Third Place Lyrical Life Science/Earth Science (Lyrical Learning)

Bible

BIBLE CURRICULUM

First Place TIE! Bible Study Fellowship, What We Believe series (Apologia Educational Ministries)

Second Place TIE! AWANA Clubs International, Discover 4 Yourself Inductive Bible Studies (Harvest House Publishers), Doorposts materials

Third Place TIE! Balancing the Sword, Christian Studies curriculum (Memoria Press)

Honorable Mention BJU Bible Truths series (BJU Press), Encyclopedia of Bible Truths (ACSI), Explorer's Bible Study

Language Arts

GRAMMAR / LANGUAGE ARTS

First Place TIE! Analytical Grammar, Building Christian English series (Rod & Staff Publishers, Inc.)

Second Place TIE! English from the Roots Up (Literacy Unlimited), First Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind (Peace Hill Press), Winston Grammar (Precious Memories Ed'1 Resources)

Third Place TIE! Daily GRAMS (Easy Grammar Systems), Easy Grammar (Easy Grammar Systems), Language Lessons series (Queen Home-

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school Supplies), Shurley English (Shurley Instructional Materials)

Honorable Mention Editor in Chief (Critical Thinking Company), Growing With Grammar (JacKris Publishing)

HANDWRITING

First Place TIE! Classically Cursive (Veritas Press), Cursive First (Lithbeth Educational Services)

Second Place TIE! Delightful Handwriting (Simply Charlotte Mason), Handwriting Without Tears, Pictures In Cursive (Queen Homeschool Supplies)

Third Place A Reason for Writing (A Beginning Advantage)

Honorable Mention Getty-Dubay Portland Italic (Getty-Dubay Productions), Draw•Write•Now (Barker Creek Publishing)

LITERATURE

First Place TIE! Jim Weiss storytelling CDs (Greathall Productions), Teaching the Classics (Center for Literary Education)

Second Place TIE! Beautiful Feet Books, Five in a Row series (Rainbow Resource Center), Sonlight Curriculum

Third Place TIE! Drawn Into the Heart of Reading (Heart of Dakota Publishing), Progeny Press book studies

Honorable Mention Perspectives of Life/Perspectives of Truth (Christian Light Education), Robinson Curriculum (Oregon Institute of Science & Medicine), Total Language Plus book studies

LOGIC

First Place Christian Logic series (Trivium Pursuit)

Second Place Building Thinking Skills series (Critical Thinking Company)

Third Place TIE! Introductory/Intermediate Logic series (Canon Press), Traditional Logic/Formal Logic (Memoria Press)

Honorable Mention Discovery of Deduction (Classical Academic Press)

PHONICS PROGRAM

First Place Spell to Write and Read (Back Home Industries)

Second Place TIE! Explode the Code (EPS division of School Specialty, Inc.), Phonics Museum (Veritas Press), The Three R's by Ruth Beechick (Mott Media)

Third Place TIE! Alpha-Phonics (Storehouse Press), Logic of English (Pedia Learning)

Honorable Mention Phonics Pathways (Jossey-Bass division of Wiley), Sing, Spell, Read & Write (Pearson Learning)

PRIMERS & READERS

First Place Pathway Readers (Pathway Publishers)

Second Place Sonlight Readers

Third Place TIE! Doctor Seuss books (Random House), Rod & Staff readers (Rod & Staff Publishers, Inc.)

Honorable Mention Bob Books (Scholastic, Inc.), Christian Liberty Academy readers, McGuffey Readers (Mott Media)

PUBLIC SPEAKING

First Place Art of Argument series (Classical Academic Press)

Second Place Beginning Public Speaking (Communicators Advantage Project)

SPELLING

First Place All About Spelling (All About Learning Press)

Second Place Spelling Wisdom (Simply Charlotte Mason)

Third Place TIE! Phonetic Zoo (Institute for Excellence in Writing), Spell to Write and Read (Back Home Industries)

Honorable Mention Rod & Staff spelling curriculum, Soaring with Spelling and Vocabulary (JacKris Publishing)

VOCABULARY

First Place Vocabulary Cartoons (New Monic Books)

Second Place TIE! English from the Roots Up (Literacy Unlimited), Vocabulary from Classical Roots (EPS division of School Specialty, Inc.), Word Roots (Critical Thinking Company)

Third Place Wordly Wise (EPS division of School Specialty, Inc.)

Honorable Mention Latin Road to English Grammar (Schola Publications), Rummy Roots (Eternal Hearts)

WRITING / COMPOSITION

First Place Andrew Pudewa Writing Seminars (Institute for Excellence in Writing)

Second Place One Year Adventure Novel (Clear Water Press)

Third Place WriteShop curriculum (Writeshop.com)

Honorable Mention Wordsmith (Common Sense Press), Writing with Ease (Peace Hill Press)

Languages

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

First Place TIE! La Clase Divertida (The Fun Class), Rosetta Stone

Second Place Pimsleur Language courses

Third Place TIE! Speedy Spanish (Bechtel Books), TELL ME MORE series (Auralog)

Honorable Mention The Learnables (International Linguistics)

GREEK

First Place Greek for Children (Classical Academic Press)

Second Place TIE! Elementary Greek curriculum (Open Texture), English from the Roots Up (Literacy Unlimited)

Third Place Hey Andrew! Teach Me Some Greek (Greek 'N' Stuff)

Honorable Mention A Greek Hupogrammon (Trivium Pursuit), Rummy Roots (Eternal Hearts)

LATIN

First Place Visual Latin

Second Place First Form Latin (Memoria Press)

Third Place TIE! Latin for Children (Classical Academic Press), Lively Latin (LivelyLatin.com)

Honorable Mention Henle's Latin (Memoria Press), Prima Latina & Latina Christiana (Memoria Press)

Math

ELEMENTARY MATH

First Place Math-U-See Elementary Math

Second Place Life of Fred: Fractions & Decimals and Percents (Polka Dot Publishing)

Third Place TIE! Mathematical Reasoning (Critical Thinking Company), Right Start Math (Activities for Learning)

Honorable Mention Key to . . . Series (Key Curriculum Press), Singapore Math (SingaporeMath.com)

GEOMETRY

First Place Math-U-See Geometry

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Second Place TIE! Life of Fred Geometry course (Polka Dot Publishing), Teaching Textbooks Geometry

Third Place Jacob's Geometry (W.H. Freeman & Co.)

Honorable Mention Chalk Dust Geometry course

ALGEBRA

First Place Hands-On Equations (Borenson & Associates)

Second Place Life of Fred Algebra courses (Polka Dot Publishing)

Third Place TIE! Chalk Dust Algebra courses, Jacob's Algebra (W.H. Freeman & Co.), Math-U-See Algebra

Honorable Mention Teaching Textbooks Algebra courses

TRIGONOMETRY/PRECALCULUS

First Place Life of Fred Trigonometry course (Polka Dot Publishing)

Second Place Math-U-See Pre-Calculus

Third Place TIE! Chalk Dust Trigonometry & Precalculus courses, Saxon Advanced Mathematics course (Saxon Homeschool division of Harcourt)

Honorable Mention DIVE Into Math Advanced Math (Digital Interactive Video Education)

MATH DRILL

First Place TIE! Flashmaster, Math-U-See drill sheets

Second Place TIE! Calculadder (The Providence Project), Saxon Math drill sheets (Saxon Homeschool division of Harcourt)

Third Place TIE! Audio Memory math song series (Audio Memory Publishing), Math Wrap-Ups (Learning Wrap-Ups)

Social Studies

GEOGRAPHY

First Place TIE! Beautiful Feet Geography units (Beautiful Feet Books), Geography Songs (Audio Memory Publishing)

Second Place TIE! My Father's World geography, Trail Guide series (Geography Matters), Visualize World Geography (Tender Heart Press)

Third Place A Child's Geography (Knowledge Quest)

Honorable Mention Galloping the Globe (Geography Matters), The Ulti-

mate Geography & Timeline Guide (GeoCreations)

GOVERNMENT

First Place The "Uncle Eric" series (Bluestocking Press)

Second Place TIE! Constitutional Law course (HSLDA), TeenPact courses

Third Place Exploring Government (Notgrass Company)

Honorable Mention BJU Heritage Studies courses (BJU Press), Land of Fair Play (Christian Liberty Press)

HISTORY

First Place Veritas Curriculum (Veritas Press)

Second Place TIE! Exploring America (Notgrass Company), Stories of America/Stories of the Nations (Simply Charlotte Mason)

Third Place TIE! Beautiful Feet Books, Drive Through History (Cold-Water Media), Sonlight Curriculum

Honorable Mention Heritage Classical Curriculum (Heritage-History.com), Mystery of History (Bright Ideas Press), TruthQuest History

Science

WORLDVIEW CURRICULUM

First Place Worldview Academy courses

Second Place Understanding the Times (Summit Ministries)

Third Place Starting Points/Worldviews of the Western World (Cornerstone Curriculum)

Honorable Mention Christian Worldview series (Worldview Weekend)

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE

First Place TIE! Exploring Creation series (Apologia Educational Ministries), Young Explorer series (Apologia Educational Ministries)

Second Place 106 Days of Creation Studies (Simply Charlotte Mason)

Third Place God's Design series (Answers in Genesis)

Honorable Mention Janice VanCleave books (Wiley), Usborne science books (EDC Publishing)

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

First Place Exploring Creation series

(Apologia Educational Ministries)

Second Place Wonders of Creation series (Master Books)

Third Place Rainbow Science (Beginnings Publishing House)

Honorable Mention Considering God's Creation (Eagle's Wings Educational Materials), Real Science-4-Kids (Gravitas Publications)

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE

First Place Apologia High School courses (Apologia Educational Ministries)

Second Place Biology 101: Biology According to the Days of Creation (Westfield Studios)

Third Place Noeo Science Level 3 (Noeo Science)

Honorable Mention BJU Press high school science courses, Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum courses

SCIENCE KITS AND SUPPLIES

First Place Home Science Tools

Second Place TIE! Insect Lore Kits, Nature's Workshop Plus!

Third Place Timberdoodle

COMPUTER SCIENCE

First Place Computer Science Pure & Simple (Motherboard Books)

Second Place KidCoder/TeenCoder series (Homeschool Programming)

Third Place Computer Basics (Christian Light Education)

CREATION SCIENCE

First Place Apologia science courses

Second Place TIE! Answers in Genesis books & DVDs, Master Books

Third Place Institute for Creation Research

Honorable Mention Considering God's Creation (Eagle's Wings Educational Materials)

HEALTH

First Place Total Health series (ACSI)

Second Place Health in Christian Perspective series (A Beka Book)

Third Place Health for Homeschool (BJU Press)

Honorable Mention Horizons Health (Alpha Omega Publications)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

First Place Fitness 4 Homeschool (Family Time Fitness)

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Second Place Home School Family Fitness (Home School Family Fitness Institute)

Third Place Horizons Physical Education (Alpha Omega Publications)

Fine Arts

ART APPRECIATION

First Place Picture Study Portfolios (Simply Charlotte Mason)

Second Place Harmony Fine Arts at Home

Third Place Discovering Great Artists series (Bright Ring Publishing)

Honorable Mention Child-Sized Masterpieces (Parent Child Press), Come Look with Me series (Charlesbridge), God and the History of Art (How Great Thou Art), Meet the Masters (Meetthemasters.com), Usborne art appreciation books (EDC Publishing)

ART CURRICULUM

First Place ARTistic Pursuits

Second Place Bruce McIntyre's Drawing Textbook (Audio-Visual Drawing Program)

Third Place TIE! Atelier Art curriculum (Arts Attack), Draw•Write•Now

(Barker Creek Publishing), Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain (Penguin Group)

Honorable Mention Barry Stebbing's art courses (How Great Thou Art), How to Teach Art to Children (Evan-Moor Educational Publishers), Walter Foster "How to Draw" books (Walter Foster Publishing division of Quarto, Inc.)

MUSIC APPRECIATION

First Place Harmony Fine Arts at Home

Second Place Great Musicians series (Zeezok Publishing)

Third Place TIE! Alfred's Great Composers (Alfred Publishing), Music for Little Mozarts (Alfred Publishing)

MUSIC CURRICULUM

First Place Harmony Fine Arts at Home

Second Place TIE! Alfred's Piano System (Alfred Publishing), Suzuki curriculum (Alfred Publishing)

Third Place TIE! Kindermusik (Kindermusik International, Inc.), Music Ace Deluxe (Harmonic Vision)

Honorable Mention Bastien Piano Series (Neil Kjos Music Company),

Simply Music piano courses

Life Skills

DOMESTIC SCIENCE

First Place Laying Down the Rails (Simply Charlotte Mason)

Second Place Homestead Blessings DVD series (Franklin Springs Family Media)

Third Place TIE! Don Aslett books (Marsh Creek Press), Stitches & Pins/Buckles & Bobbins beginning sewing books (Bunkhouse Books)

Honorable Mention Home Economics 1 & 2 (Christian Light Education), Home Economics for Homeschoolers (Pearables)

DRIVER EDUCATION

First Place Driver Ed in a Box

Second Place National Driver Training

PERSONAL FINANCE

First Place Dave Ramsey for Kids (The Lampo Group)

Second Place Math-U-See Stewardship course

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