TWELFTH GRADE

2021-2022 EDITION

TIMBERDOODLE'S CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

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WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Congratulations on choosing to homeschool this year! Whether this is your first year or your tenth, we're confident you'll find that there is very little that compares to the thrill of learning at your own pace

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

Preparing for your first school day is very easy. Peruse this guide, look over the typical schedule, browse the introductions in your books, and you will be ready to go.

We Are Here to Help

We would love to assist you if questions come up, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns. Whether you contact us by phone, email, or live online chat, you will get a real person who is eager to serve you and your family.

You Will Love This!

This year you will learn more than you hoped while having a blast. Ready? Have an absolutely amazing year!

Schedule Customizer

Your 2021-2022 Twelfth-Grade Curriculum Kit includes access to our Schedule Customizer, where you can not only adjust the school weeks but also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want on your schedule. To get started, just click the link in your access email or visit the scheduling website:
www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com

For more information on activating your scheduler, see the access code affixed to the back of this handbook.

Get Support

Are you looking for a place to hang out online with like-minded homeschoolers? Do you wonder how someone else handled a particular science kit? Or do you wish you could encourage someone who is just getting started this year? Join one or more of our online groups.

Timberdoodlers of all ages:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/Timberdoodle/

https://mewe.com/join/
timberdoodleshomeschoolcommunity

Timberdoodlers with high-school students:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/
HighSchoolTimberdoodle/

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Meet Your
Handbook
WELCOME

DEAR PARENT

Congratulations, and welcome to the high-school years! Whether this is your first year of homeschooling or you've come this far through many years of teaching, you've now reached a milestone. Not only will your student continue planning for college, apprenticeship, or the specific vocation he has in mind, but you will also help him become a truly independent learner.

Your New Role

Think of your role this year as less of a teacher (step-by-step directions and oversight) and more of a career counselor/tutor. You are there to help him stay on track and to give direction or assistance when he gets stuck, but the primary responsibility falls to him. There are many ways to get to that point, but the following steps worked for our family.

1. An Annual Planning Meeting

At the beginning of the school year, Mom sat down with each student to iron out expectations, motivations, subjects, etc. We would discuss our goals, what subjects were mandatory, and which ones we wanted to add to our plan. The final step was to determine a completion date and calculate how many weeks we had to complete the work. If you plan for a typical school year, then 36 weeks is what you'll want to base your weekly checklist on. (We suggest that you also take some time at this meeting to work through the High School Planner and set out long-term goals.)

2. Expectations

Before you end this meeting, make sure you and your student are both on the same page and understand that everything on the weekly checklist must be done or X will happen, as agreed. In our family, Friday night was family night, and anyone whose list wasn't done simply couldn't participate until he finished. While that was perfect for us, it won't necessarily work for every family. Find something that works for both of you, and put it in writing, if needed. It is worth the effort to keep the peace later!

3. Custom Checklists

Now that you both know what will be covered this year and over what period of time, it is a simple matter to map out how many pages should be done each week. You'll see some samples checklists beginning on page 22, and you'll find it easy to make it exactly what you need (including any additional titles or subjects) using your online scheduler.

4. Coaching

Within a few weeks, your student should be able to complete his checklist independently and on time. However, if you've never had such a hands-off approach to homeschooling, it is reasonable to spend some time coaching his budding independence with reminders and even direct oversight of some subjects. Just don't lose sight of the goal!

5. Balance

Of course, it is perfectly wonderful if you have some subjects that you would rather do as a family or that you yourself would like to learn alongside your student! At the same time, though, don't hesitate to turn over the teacher's books and answer keys, equipping your student to be truly self-taught. Not only is that a useful life skill, but it is particularly necessary for your college-bound student, who will need to be able to master his studies independently in the years ahead. In that light, you'll find the rest of this guide is written directly to your student to give him all the information he needs to get started.

DEAR STUDENT

Welcome to eleventh-grade! If you've been using Timberdoodle's curriculum kits, you'll already be familiar with how these courses are laid out. If this is your first year, there are a few things you'll want to know.

Simple Is Better

We really believe that, so this guide is as simple as we could make it.

This Kit Is Complete-ish

Timberdoodle's high-school curriculum kits are designed to give you a solid foundation and cover the basics. You will definitely want to add courses that dovetail with your field of interest. For instance, if you're bound for medical school, you will want to learn Latin and add a rigorous anatomy course. Of course, if you're headed to apprentice on a New Zealand ranch, you may better use your time on riding lessons and backcountry emergency medicine! Take a serious look at where you want to be in the next few years and make sure that this year's studies put you on track for that plan.

1. The Planning

First up are all the details on planning your year, including your annual planner and sample weekly checklists, the absolute backbones of Timberdoodle's curriculum kits. More on those in a moment. We'll also explain the reading challenge in this section, so you'll understand what it is and why it's helpful.

2. Item-by-Item Details

We include short bios of each item in your kit, ideal for refreshing your memory on why each is included or what you will be covering this year. This is where we've tucked in any tips or tricks on specific courses.

3. Articles and Resources

In this section, you'll find our favorite articles and tidbits gathered during our more-than-35 years of homeschool experience.

4. Reading Challenge Ideas

Finally, we'll conclude with specific book ideas for your reading challenge.

All the Details Included

This Timberdoodle curriculum kit is available in three different standard levels: Basic, Complete, or Elite. This allows your family to choose the assortment best suited to your interest level, your family's schedule, and the budget. In this guide, you'll find an overview and any tips for each of the items included in the Elite Curriculum Kit. If your family purchased a Basic or Complete kit, or if you customized your kit, you chose not to receive every item. You'll only need to familiarize yourself with the ones that were included in your kit.

PHOTO: THE CUMMINS FAMILY OF CUMMINSLIFE.BLOGSPOT.COM

Don't Panic—It's Not Too Much Stuff!

We know you. OK, maybe not you personally, but we have yet to meet a homeschooler who doesn't have other irons in the fire. From running an entrepreneurial startup to swimming lessons or volunteer opportunities, your weeks are not dull.

A daily schedule could overwhelm you, but having a weekly checklist is the perfect blend of enough structure to finish in a timely fashion and enough freedom that your adventures won't make for stressful catch-up days.

We'll go in-depth on schedules momentarily, but know now that most of the items in your kit feature engaging lessons, not all of them should be done every day, and your checklist is going to make this incredibly manageable. Really!

Meet Your
Online
Scheduler

MEET YOUR ONLINE SCHEDULER

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PLANNER

Use the Customizer

On the following pages, you'll find sample weekly checklists for Basic, Complete, and Elite kits. Before you photocopy 36 of them, though, take a moment to check out the custom online schedule builder that came free with your kit. You can easily adjust the weeks and tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want. Plus, you'll be able to print your weekly checklists directly from the schedule builder!
www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com

Activate Your Account

You'll need to activate your account for the online schedule builder to get started. Head over to www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com and create a login, and then click the "Redeem" button at the top of the page to input your activation code and start scheduling!

Your activation code is affixed to the back of this handbook for your convenience.

What's Your Dream Schedule?

Now that you're ready, you'll want to know two things:

1. How Many Weeks Will You Do School?

A standard school year is 36 weeks plus breaks. Some families prefer to expedite and complete the entire year in fewer weeks—a great option to get this year's school done before a special travel opportunity or extra credit class, for instance. Or perhaps your family, like ours, prefers to school year-round and keep that brain sharp.

2. What Breaks Do You Want?

Thanksgiving, Christmas, winter break, spring break…you could also add weeks off for travel, visiting grandparents, or…

Typically you'll be adding full-week breaks, so unless you're traveling to Disneyland® for your birthday, you don't need to add that to the calendar. For single-day breaks, you can easily shuffle the work to earlier or later in the same week and stay on schedule.

PHOTO: THE ELIE FAMILY OF CALIFORNIA

Choose Your Items

Now just pop that data into the online scheduler and scroll down to see the items you might have in your kit. Unchecking the boxes for any items you don't have removes them from your list. You'll also see "Alternative Items" listed under each subject. This usually includes all of our most popular customizations for this grade so that you can simply check a box and switch the scheduler to an advanced level of math, for instance.

Add Custom Courses

Your course list is limited only by your imagination. Perhaps your friend created a custom curriculum you want to include, your family band practices weekly, or you need to include ballet since that's P.E. this year. At the very bottom of the page you'll find a place to add as many courses as you'd like. Just walk through the prompts on-screen to get it all set up.

Tweak It to Perfection

On the next screen, you'll have some fun options to make your schedule and checklist work for you.

1. Large-Font Edition

Want a large-font option? Just check the box. If you don't like how it looks, you can always come back and uncheck it.

2. Show Dates

Check this box if it's helpful for you to see at a glance that week 17 is January 11–15. Some people find this helpful, while others prefer to move breaks around on the fly, making the dates irrelevant.

YOUR ANNUAL PLANNER

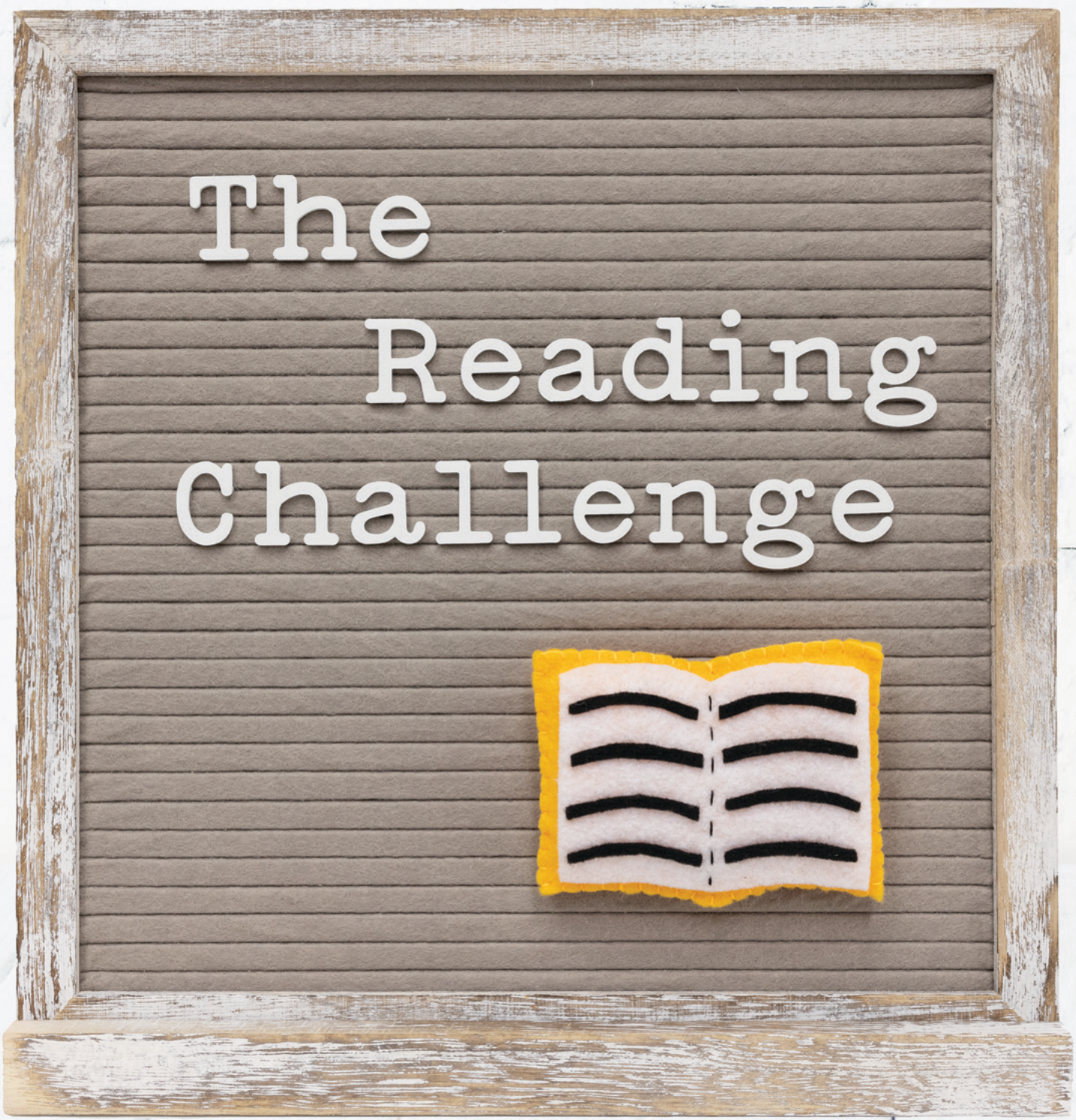
	CURRICULUM	LESSONS OR PAGES	= PER WEEK
Language Arts	Easy Grammar Ultimate 12	180 lessons	5 lessons
	Wordsmith Craftsman	36 weeks	1 week's work
	Implications of Literature: Trailblazer	1,013 pages	28-30 pages
	The Reading Challenge	18-72 books	1/2 to 2 books
Math	Math-U-See	30 lessons	1 lesson
	World of Dots: Ocean	24 puzzles	1 puzzle
Thinking Skills	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	
History & Social Studies	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Science	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	
STEM	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Art	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Etc.	[illegible]	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	

See your handbook for the complete chart.

WEEKLY CHECKLIST ELITE

Language Arts	Easy Grammar Ultimate 12	5 lessons
	Wordsmith Craftsman	1 week's work
	Implications of Literature: Trailblazer	28-30 pages
	The Reading Challenge	1/2 to 2 books
Math	Math-U-See	1 lesson
	World of Dots: Ocean	1 puzzle
Thinking Skills	[illegible]	[illegible]
History & Social Studies	[illegible]	[illegible]
Science	[illegible]	[illegible]
STEM	[illegible]	[illegible]
Art	[illegible]	[illegible]
Etc.	[illegible]	[illegible]

See your handbook for the complete chart.


The
Reading
Challenge

THE READING CHALLENGE

WITH A HISTORY AND LITERATURE FOCUS (7TH–12TH GRADE)

The Reading Challenge will get you reading a broader variety of books this year while covering essential history and literature topics.

How It Works

You'll find four versions of this year's reading challenge, ranging from 1 book every two weeks to three books a week. Choose a reading goal early in the year and set your pace accordingly, keeping in mind what is realistic for you. Here are the options:

The Light Reader plan has 18 books, which sets a pace of 1 book every two weeks. This includes 1 loop through each major category. The majority of you can and should do at least this much.

The Avid Reader plan adds another 18 books, which increases the pace to 1 book per week. If you choose this option you'll be completing two loops through the main topics this year. This is doable for most students.

The Committed Reader plan adds 18 more books, bringing the total to 54, or 1.5 books every school week. This faster pace is manageable for most students and is suitable for enthusiastic readers with time in their schedules. This will take you through the main loop 3 times, offering you a chance to try several options in each.

The Obsessed Reader plan adds a final 18 books, bringing the total to 72, or 2 books every school week. We highly recommend this challenge, which completes the loop 4 times. However, it may be too intense for those of you with already-packed schedules!

PHOTO: THE H. FAMILY OF CALIFORNIA

Getting Started

Begin with the Light plan, which includes suggestions for 18 books. Choose those books and read them in any order, logging each one as you complete it. Next, advance to the Avid plan, choosing another 18 books to read in any order. Then it's time to move to the Committed plan with 18 more books, again reading them in any order. The Obsessed plan adds the final 18 books to your challenge.

When possible, choose a different subcategory than you did the first time. (for example, if you're currently choosing a Life Skills book, and you chose one on survival last time, try one on etiquette, child care, or cooking on your second loop.) We've offered suggestions for each loop in case you are drawing a blank, but feel free to choose any book under that main subheading.

Here's the pace for a 36-week schedule:

- **Light Reader: One book every two weeks.**
- **Avid Reader: One book per week.**
- **Committed Reader: One and a half books every week.**
- **Obsessed Reader: Two books every week.**

But I Don't Have Any Idea Which Books to Choose!

We have your back! At the end of this handbook you'll find hundreds of book titles you'll love reading this year, along with all of our best tips and tricks.

If you want more ideas, we highly recommend your local librarian, the Read-Aloud Revival podcast, and the Timberdoodle Facebook groups as excellent starting points. It's also a wonderful idea to peek at the additional reading ideas in your history or science textbooks – particularly if you were fascinated by a recent topic or figure.

Will This Be Expensive?

It doesn't need to be. You can read library books and e-books, buy used, borrow from friends, and scour your family bookshelves. Don't forget that many libraries have free e-books and audiobooks. It doesn't get much more convenient than that!

New This Year

If you've used the Timberdoodle reading challenge before, you'll notice a new feature this year. Rather than

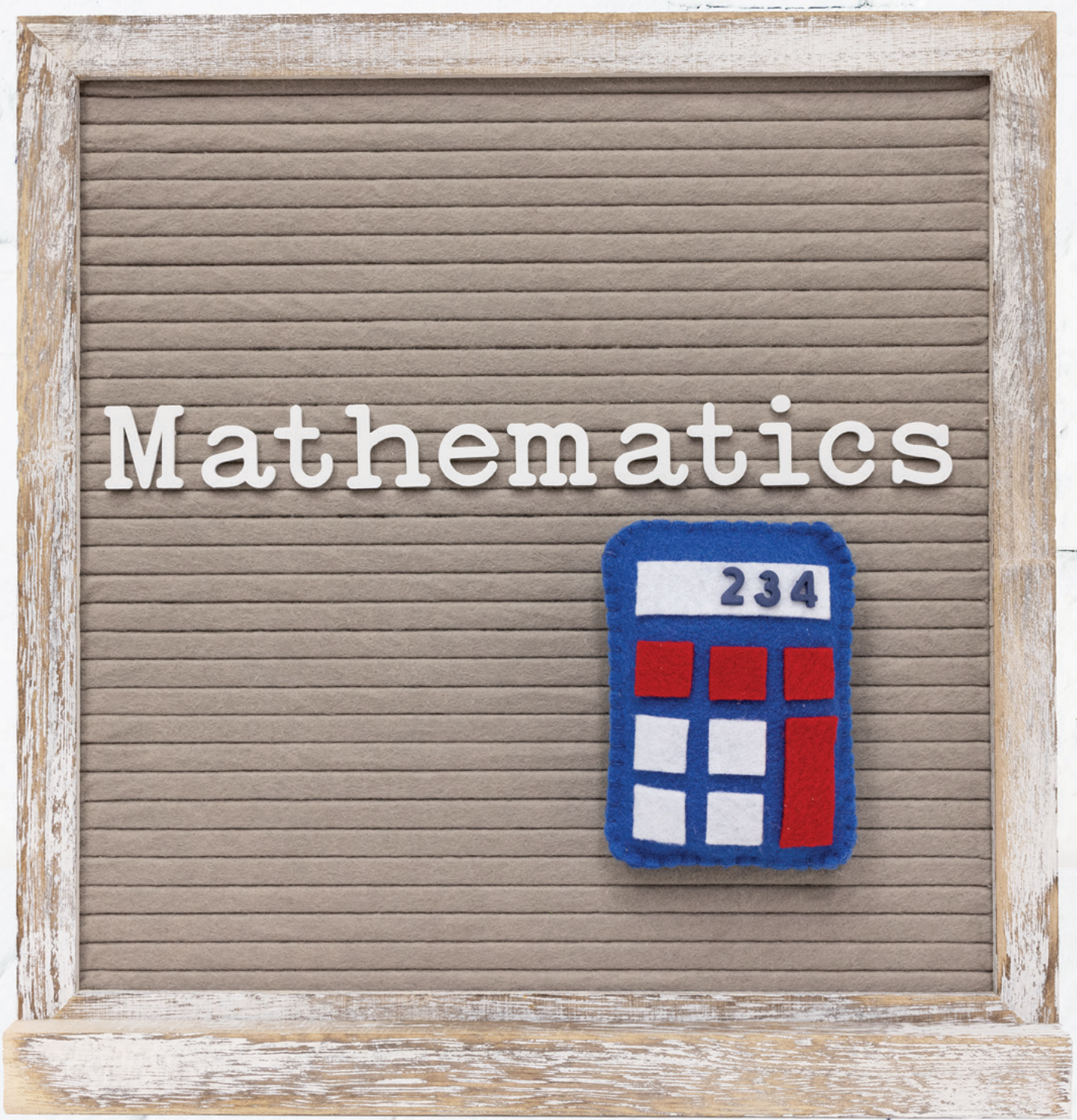
PHOTO: THE MELENDEZ FAMILY OF HONDURAS

independent topics, your reading challenge now loops through 18 themed topics up to 4 times. Each loop will add breadth to your reading and includes a new subcategory to explore if no ideas present themselves.

Reading Solo and Together

At this grade level, you will read most of these books independently. However, we highly recommend keeping a read-aloud or audiobook time for the whole family too, if logistics allow.

Let's read! Pick your plan, choose some books, and get started!


Mathematics
234

MATHEMATICS

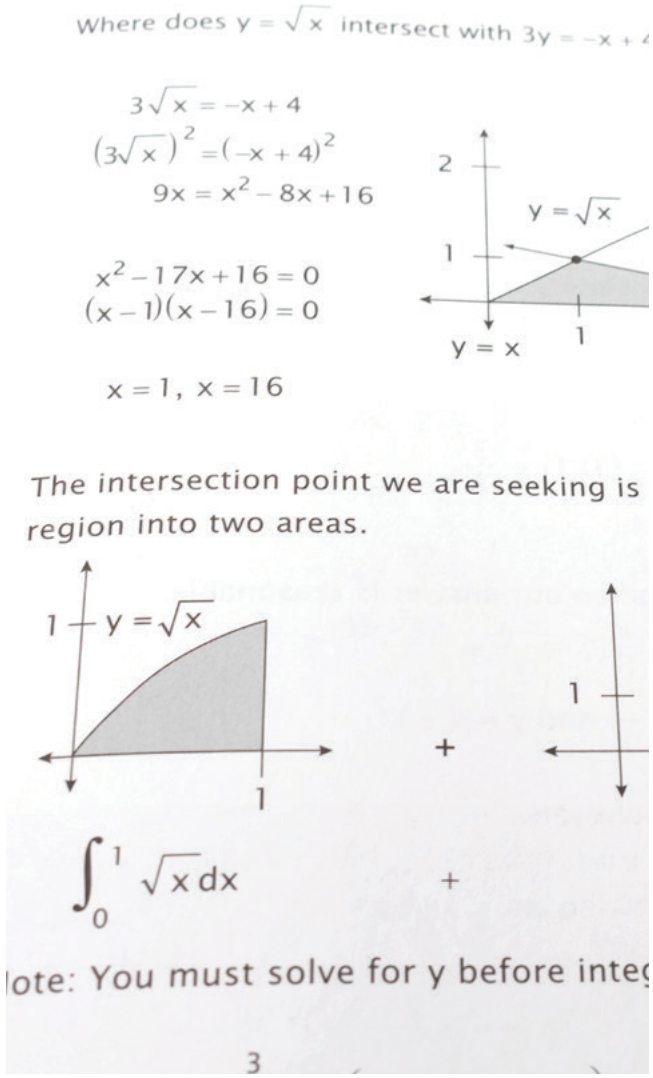
A FUNDAMENTAL SKILL

Like reading, mathematics is a skill best taught methodically.

One *Math-U-See* lesson is designed to consist of several parts:

- A video lesson
- Worksheets teaching this lesson's concept
- Worksheets which are entirely review work
- A final worksheet, containing an optional application and enrichment section. While it is considered "honors" material, we suggest you do this if you can tackle it without too much stress!

This means that many families do the video lesson, and 2-4 worksheets a week. Don't overwhelm yourself with loads of work, but do complete enough to master the material. As with the rest of homeschooling, play around with the assignments (with your teacher's blessing) until you find the perfect fit for you.



MATH-U-SEE

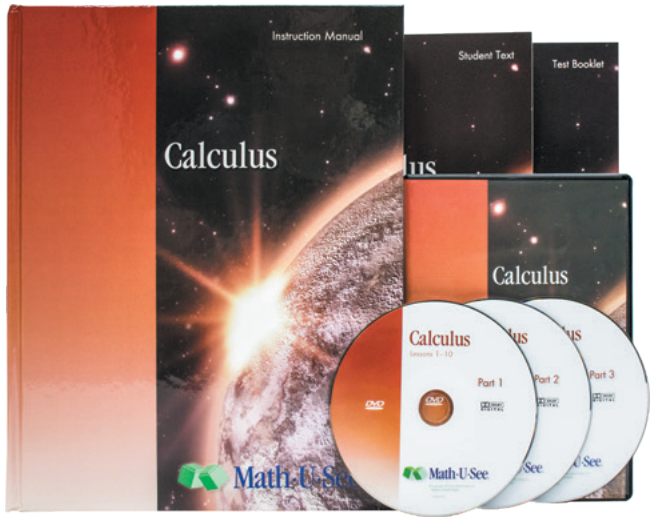
BASIC // COMPLETE // ELITE

With simple, uncluttered pages, *Math-U-See* is mastery-oriented, clear, to the point, and effective. In *Math-U-See*, new ideas are introduced step by step in a logical order, while concepts that have been mastered are reviewed periodically.

Math-U-See is laid out with step-by-step procedures for introducing, practicing, mastering, and reviewing concepts.

Math-U-See's teacher guide and supplemental DVD will teach more than just how to solve a math problem. They will also show why the problem is solved in this manner and when to apply the concept. On the DVDs, each lesson is demonstrated with kind-hearted enthusiasm. DVDs can be played on a DVD player or computer; however, Windows 10 users will need to download a separate video player.

You will want to decide as you start the year whether you will be completing the optional "Application and Enrichment" section of each lesson—sometimes considered the honors portion.



Scheduling

You have 30 lessons to complete, so we suggest planning on 1 lesson per week, including the DVD, the textbook/workbook portions, and any relevant tests.

However, as Mr. Demme points out, some lessons will take longer than others to achieve mastery. If you are stuck on a lesson, take an extra week to relearn and practice. Just don't do that more than 6 times this year!

As mentioned on the previous page, you should also work out with your teacher exactly which pages you'll be completing and what accuracy level you'll maintain. It could be as simple as "If I miss more than one problem, I'll do another page."

WORLD OF DOTS

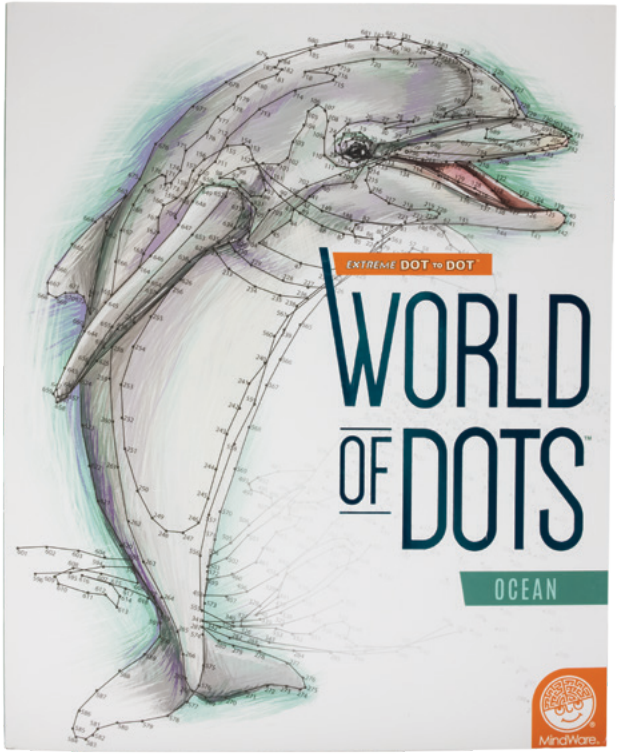
~~BASIC~~ // ~~COMPLETE~~ // ELITE

Dot-to-dots can simultaneously exercise and relax your brain. As you work to complete each dot-to-dot, both your left brain and right brain are engaged while you practice mapping and concentration skills.

Extreme Dot-to-Dot World of Dots: Ocean features 24 designs of ocean animals, from playful dolphins to majestic sea turtles. At the back of the book you will find an answer key with details on each creature. Puzzles range from 300 to over 1,800 dots, with some puzzles even covering a two-page spread.

Scheduling

With 24 puzzles to complete, doing 1 each week will have you finishing early this year. Each pairs beautifully with your favorite podcast or current audiobook.



Book Suggestions

THE LIGHT READER

THE CHALLENGE	THE BOOK YOU CHOSE	DATE COMPLETED
1.1 A Book Set in a Different Place on the Globe *North or South America*		
1.2 A Biography *World leader*		
1.3 A novel *Classic Novel*		
1.4 A book about Literature/Language Arts *Poetry or Shakespeare*		
1.5 Bible *A Book of the Bible*		
1.6 A Book about Culture *Christian Living*		
1.7 A book about Life Skills *Survival*		
1.8 A book about Life Experiences *Current Issues*		
1.9 History *Ancient Civilizations*		
1.10 A book about a Famous War *The American or French Revolution*		
1.11 A book about Social Studies *Archaeology*		
1.12 A book about Science *Astronomy*		
1.13 A STEM-Related Book *General Science or Ecology*		
1.14 A Book about Health *Human Anatomy or Human Development*		
1.15 A book about Nature *Animals or Birds*		
1.16 A book about the Arts *Fiction about Art or Music*		
1.17 Just for Fun *A Graphic Novel*		
1.18 You Choose *A Book with a Beautiful Cover*		

1,274 BOOK SUGGESTIONS for 7th- to 12th-grade

So you love the idea of the reading challenge, but you'd like some specific book titles to get you started? You've come to the right place!

Customize This!

You'll find ideas here for each challenge, but don't forget that you're not bound to our list. When you're asked to read "a book set in a different place on the globe", for example, we'd suggest perusing the ideas that follow. But once you do that, don't hesitate to use that as a jumping off spot rather than a final destination.

Perhaps the list will remind you that you have always wanted to read more about Japan, where your cousin lives. Or maybe you'll recall the name of an international explorer that captivated you as a young child and you've always meant to go back and explore his life from a more mature perspective.

There are literally hundreds of book options available to you which are not on this list, some of which may be even better for your family. Use these pages as starter ideas and not as your final list.

Will I See the Same Books Over and Over?

No, not on this list! However, this particular reading challenge is geared for grades 7-12, so you will see this exact list in all those grades.

Many books could easily fit into more than one category, but we only put each in one place on your list for your convenience. (Books that are part of a series are the one exception, as you may find an individual title in one spot and the whole series referenced elsewhere.) So if you're finding that you want to read more than one book from a particular challenge, the odds are good that skimming the list will give you another challenge to list it under. For instance, *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* by Alfred Lansing, listed under challenge 1 (a book about a different part of the globe), would also fit really well under challenge 2 (a biography), challenge 9 (a book about history), and perhaps even challenge 11 (social studies). Shuffle things as you like!

A Variety of Reading Levels

These books are selected more for interest than for reading level. Reading is way more important than reading at a specific level, so don't worry if some titles seem a bit easy. Since this challenge is geared for 7th-12th grade, you'll likely encounter some particularly challenging books added for the 12th-graders. If they are too challenging for you this year, skip to something easier. You're looking to expand your reading, not make it a drudgery.

Notes about Our Book Ideas

If you've been finding your own books for long (or if you've simply perused your local public library), you've probably noticed that families have very different standards for their reading materials. The books you'll find listed here are ones that members of our team have read, have added to their "I want to read this" list, or have had recommended to them.

Even among our team there is a wide range in what titles our families would find acceptable. Some of us find fantasy objectionable but will gladly read a scarier adventure story than other families would be comfortable with. Others of us consider those fantasy titles to be an interesting addition and worthy of much discussion.

In the younger grades, some of us skip evolutionary titles, others include them liberally and discuss them. It is the same with isolated language issues, characters that don't have the best attitudes, clothing choices, and more.

We've opted to include titles with abandon, knowing that you and your teacher will be able to flip through them at the library (or in these COVID days, once your stack of holds has arrived) to determine if they are a good fit for you/your family.

This is not a "Timberdoodle would sell these books if we could" list. We can't vouch for each of the titles, and we certainly can't know which ones are a good fit for your particular family. We even include titles with things we don't like, knowing that what is a "burn the book" moment for one family is a discussion starter for others - and if ever there was a time for deep discussion around many topics, this is that time!

Mostly we're providing this list to give you some ideas, just in case you're drawing a blank in thinking of books for a particular topic. Use these ideas as the jumping-off point for which they are intended, and, as always, we highly recommend discussing your choices with your teacher.

This list spans 7th-12th grade, so you will find books here best suited for graduating highschoolers and books written to new teens. Again, let your family's standards and expectations be your guide here - you have tons of great options so feel free to skip any that are not quite so useful this year!

A BOOK SET IN A DIFFERENT PLACE ON THE GLOBE

CHALLENGE 1 ON EACH LOOP

Africa

A Girl Named Disaster by Nancy Farmer
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
Blood Ransom by Lisa Harris*
Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer by Janet and Geoff Benge*
DK Eyewitness: Africa
Favorite African Folktales by Nelson Mandela
Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes by Pamela S. Turner
Journey to Jo'Burg by Beverly Naidoo
Listening for Lions by Gloria Whelan
Mansa Musa: The Lion of Mali by Khephra Burns
Nzinga: Warrior Queen of Matamba, Angola, Africa, 1595 by Patricia McKissack (Royal Diaries)
Saba: Under the Hyena's Foot by Jane Kurtz
The Baboon King by Anton Quintana
The Queen of Katwe: One Girl's Triumphant Path to Becoming a Chess Champion by Tim Crothers
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

Antarctica

DK Eyewitness: Arctic and Antarctic
Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage by Alfred Lansing
Ernest Shackleton: Going South by Janet and Geoff Benge*
Storming the Black Ice by Don Brown*
Swimming to Antarctica by Lynne Cox
We Were There with Byrd at the South Pole by Charles S. Strong

Asia

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park
Dead Reckoning by Ronie Kendig*
DK Eyewitness: China
DK Eyewitness: India
Dragon's Gate by Laurence Yep
Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea by Sungju Lee
Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime by Janet and Geoff Benge*
Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan
Lost Horizon by James Hilton
Moon over Tokyo by Siri L. Mitchell*
Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom by Katherine Paterson
Spring Pearl: The Last Flower by Laurence Yep
The Man Who Changed China: The Story of Sun Yat-sen by Pearl S. Buck
The Samurai by Shusaku Endo
The Worst-Case Scenario Ultimate Adventure: Everest by Bill Doyle and David Borgenicht
Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze by Elizabeth Foreman Lewis

Australia

A Girl's Guide to the Outback by Jessica Kate*
Adventures of a Young Sailor series by Paul Dowswell
Ash Road by Ivan Southall
Hot Rock Dreaming by Martin Roth*
Jamberoo Road by Eleanor Spence
John Flynn: Into the Never, Never by Janet and Geoff Benge*
Love and Other Mistakes by Jessica Kate*
Queensland Chronicles trilogy by Bonnie Leon*
Sydney Cove trilogy by Bonnie Leon*
The Switherby Pilgrims by Eleanor Spence
To a Distant Land by Julianne Jones*
Tomorrow, When the War Began by John Marsden

*These titles have a Christian/religious perspective

SCIENCE

CHALLENGE 12 ON EACH LOOP

Astronomy

Apollo 13 by James Lovell
DK Big Ideas: The Astronomy Book
DK Smithsonian: Space!
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Biology

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Biology for Dummies by Rene Fester Kratz
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The Cartoon Guide to Biology by Larry Gonick and Dave Wessner

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The Cartoon Guide to Chemistry by Larry Gonick and Craig Criddle

Physics

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