

LITERATURE FOUNDATION

The Definition of Good Literature



PART 1 of 2

Introduction

Good literature is defined as words of truth & beauty that tell about life.

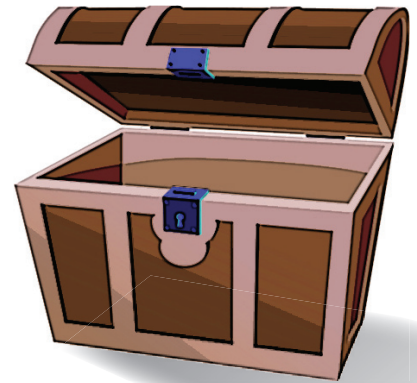


"Read good books, and extract from them wisdom and understanding as much as you possibly can, aided by the Spirit of God." -Brigham Young

Resources & Preparation

Colored copies of the resources may be found on the included CD.

1. Treasure Hunt –
 - Copy on card stock and hide somewhere in your house a colored copy of the literature title page, the definition of truth, and the definition of opinion along with clues to direct your student to each hidden card.
 - Spray bottle filled with water
 - Treasure chest or box with the books that you are going to read in this literature course
2. Truth and Opinion Fish Game –
 - Copy and cut out the fish.
 - Tape the truth or opinion questions on the back of each fish.
 - Place a paper clip on each fish.
 - Make a fishing pole out of a piece of dowel and string.
 - Attach a magnet to the end of the string.
3. Copy a black and white literature title page for your student's notebook.





Lesson

Objective: Through researching, reasoning, relating, and recording, the student will understand what good literature is.

Activity 1 – To begin the study of literature, your student can go on a treasure hunt to help him/her understand exactly why it is important to read good literature. The first clue directs the student to the definition of literature. **Ask:** Why do you think it is important to learn truths about life? *(To aid us in knowing how to live righteously.)*



The second clue directs the student to the definition of truth. Illustrate the definition by showing your student a spray bottle filled with water. **Ask the question:** If I spray this water on my hand will my hand get wet? *(You are right. No matter how many times I spray my hand with water it will always get wet is a truth.)*

The third clue directs the student to the definition of opinion. **Ask:** If I told you that pink is my favorite color, so it is everyone's favorite color, would that be true? *(Opinions are not necessarily true for everyone.)*

The last clue should direct the student to a treasure chest or box filled with all of the literature selections that you will be reading this year. Show each one to your student and tell him/her that as you read these together you will look for the truths that are contained in them.

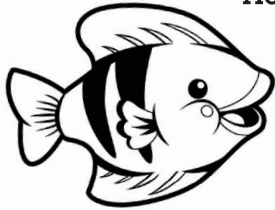
Discuss that truths can be found even in make-believe stories. For instance in the fairytale of Cinderella, we can see that Cinderella was a kind and good person, whereas her stepmother and stepsisters were cruel and mean. **So you can ask yourself:** How would Heavenly Father want me to be?

Let's read a scripture that tells us what Heavenly Father wants us to know about truth. **Read:** "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." -John 8:32



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- JOHN 8:32

In this scripture, our Heavenly Father is telling us that if our mind is filled with truth then we are free to choose the right. If we choose the right, then we will stay on the path that will lead us back to him. But if our mind is cluttered with other people's opinions which may not necessarily be true then we may become confused in choosing the right.



Activity 2 – Now you can play the Truth or Opinion Fish Game with your student to help him/her understand the difference between a truth and an opinion. As the student catches a fish, read what is written on the back and have the student tell you whether it is a truth or an opinion.

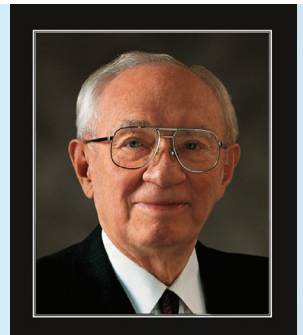


Discuss and reason the following principles:

1. Good literature tells about life in a true and beautiful way.
2. Heavenly Father uses literature to teach eternal truths.
3. Truths help us see clearly the path that leads us back to Heavenly Father.

Ask: Do you think it would be better to read books that were filled with truths or opinions?

"If we could follow a slogan that says, 'Turn off the TV and open a good book' we would do something of substance in strengthening another generation." -Gordon B. Hinckley



Student relating: Have your student share a truth that he/she has learned from reading a book that would make him/her a better person.

Student recording: Have your student color the literature title page with the definition of literature on it and place it in his/her literature notebook.