
West Brooke Curriculum

Grade 1



By Jennifer Westbrook

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Grade 1 Manual

by

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SAMPLE

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Welcome to West Brooke Curriculum

I felt like there was a need for a curriculum written for children of Jehovah's Witnesses using some of our excellent materials that Jehovah has provided. I have homeschooled my children for 13 years and have used a variety of curriculums. I always tell myself that we should use what we already have available to a greater degree, but let's face it, that takes a lot of planning. So in trying to attempt this I thought it would work best if daily/weekly instructions were written out ahead of time; because in my experience when I have a manual/guide I feel better, and feel less stress, the year is laid out I can get the books I need and not have to scrounge up a lesson. I hope this will be a help to other parents out there who are having a tough time putting it all together.

Math

· MCP (Modern Curriculum Press) Mathematics Level A, 2005 (mastery method- focus on one thing, not a lot of review) (this one will take 5 days a week)

Spelling

Phonics spelling- for this grade level just stick to words from Phonics workbook and sight words below. Spelling begins in Unit 2, choose 5-8 words from the spelling worksheets to work with throughout the week. Option: Spelling Workout Level A, work with one lesson per week

Language Arts

A major part of our Language Arts is reading! A list is provided to pick from, read as many of the titles as the student can. Narration is a Charlotte Mason method of reading comprehension. Basically just get your kids to tell you what is going on in the story, their version of it. This goes for ones they are reading on their own as well as ones you are reading out loud.

Reading aloud to your kids is a great way to bond with them. I suggest that you choose a couple of books to read aloud to them for the year. We have a great time when we do this, it develops reading comprehension better than any workbook ever dreamed of, it increases reading ability, vocabulary, and future writing abilities. This is especially important if you have students with any learning disabilities or are reluctant readers. Even Dads will enjoy this when you read out loud this is great for trips, and who knows maybe Dad will enjoy helping with this part of homeschooling. It can be a family event!

Writing this year will mainly be copywork. This is a Charlotte Mason method. Young students have not mastered handwriting, spelling, grammar, etc. and copying passages that are already correct helps them to learn proper form, punctuation, etc. without the stress of getting all of it correct.

For Grammar in Kindergarten and First grade I only recommend a gentle approach. You can orally review what nouns, verbs, and adjectives are. You can take a page from one of their readers and have them pick out the nouns, verbs, or adjectives, etc. Most of us parents went to public school and are used to drill, drill, drill and lots of busy work. This is not necessary. We want to instill a love of learning. This year concentrate on helping your child to read, read a lot to them to form comprehension; there will plenty of time later for formal grammar studies. Included are some Grammar exercises. The 2017 edition of this manual uses First Language Lessons Level 1 to implement gentle oral grammar.

Learn more about Charlotte Mason methods here:

<http://simplycharlottesmason.com/basics/what-is-the-charlotte-mason-method/>

Schedule

Here are some suggestions for scheduling:

The grid schedule works from the top down, if using this for more than one child make a copy of just the grid schedule for your portfolio; put the date of the day at the top and work in order down the page, only on some occasions you will see the need to do the Science lesson before the writing lesson because they are connected.

The schedule for West Brooke Curriculum is basically 4 days per week with one school day set aside for the ministry. This schedule has worked well for us for a long time and keeps the student as well as the teacher from burning out. Our service day is set on a Wednesday, which gives a nice mid-week break, however it can be

any day of the week that works for you. The students will still be learning on these days, they will be more socially rounded, they will be learning public speaking, and will be better accomplished at using their Bibles. In the afternoons after service they can work on art, music, PE and reading. Or you could just use it as a make-up day, if you got behind. But generally, I do not schedule any school on this day, they still practice their music on this day, do reading, and other hands- on projects they are personally working on.

Yearly schedule: unless you are in a state with strict attendance rules you should be able to be more flexible with your schedule. Here in Florida we have to turn in an evaluation once per year. This gives us an entire 12 months to complete assignments or even to move ahead into the next grade. We school year around, this may not be doable for some families, but it works for us. This gives us more opportunities to take breaks in the spring and fall, have a lighter schedule when we auxiliary pioneer, take the week off for the Circuit Overseer's visit, and the District convention, etc. Field trips, camping trips, RBC, or vacations can then come at anytime without fear of falling behind. The public school schedule tends to put one under extra stress to accomplish a certain amount within a certain time frame. If you are in it for the long haul, being more flexible will help you to stick to it.

Another option for those who can't quite get through a day's work in a day: Follow the schedule in order (going down the grid) checking off each assignment as you complete it. On the following day start where you left off and continue on into the next day as far as you can get. Continue in this method until you get through the school year; remember you have 12 months to get through it all.

Using the Manual

This manual is a guide only- you are in control, hopefully it gives you lots of ideas and resources, feel free to adjust this for your family.

Booklist for 1st Grade

Textbooks

What your 1st Grader Needs to Know by ED Hirsch Jr. Revised Edition; 1998 or newer
Math MCP Level A

Spelling- Words chosen from Phonics Lessons - best option for this grade

Sight Words + Sight Words-Nouns + 1st Grade list from Spell-Words well

Option: Spelling Workout Level A, work with one lesson per week

MCP Plaid Phonics Level A workbook (copyright 2003)

First Start Reading Book E

First Language Lessons Level 1 by Jessie Wise

My First Grade Copywork Book by West Brooke Curriculum

Draw Write Now Book 7 Animals of the World Part 1 by M. Hablitzel

Draw Write Now Workbook (optional, to draw and write with your Draw Write Now books)

D'Nealian Handwriting Grade 1

First Encyclopedia of the Human Body Usborne

Children's Picture Atlas by Usborne

What's Under the Sea by Usborne- *while supplies last

An Usborne Flap Book See Inside Energy

Scholastic Success with Maps (does require a small purchase)

<https://shop.scholastic.com/shop/en/teacherstore/product/Scholastic-Success-With-Maps-Grade-1>

OR

Scholastic: Map Skills For Today Grade 1 workbook

Children Activities from www.jw.org

My Book of Bible Stories or Lessons you can Learn from the Bible

Library books from the children's department use what is available at your library; I will give some title suggestions but it is best to just use what your library has.

Usborne Beginners Readers:

Usborne Beginners: Your Body

Usborne Beginners: Monkeys

Usborne Beginners: Reptiles

Usborne Beginners: Bears

Usborne Beginners: Sun, Moon, and Stars

Supplement to Reading: First Start Reading Program Book E

Literature supplement:

StoryTime Treasures Guide (Second Edition)

StoryTime Treasures Teacher Guide (Second Edition) *NOTE: also schedules Classical Phonics & Memoria's
Phonics Flashcards which you may wish to add to your cart.

Little Bear

Frog and Toad are Friends

Caps for Sale

Make Way for Ducklings

More StoryTime Treasures guide (Second Edition)

More StoryTime Teacher Guide (Second Edition) *see NOTE above

Billy and Blaze

Blaze and the Forest Fire

Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie

Stone Soup

The Little House

Miss Rumphius

The Story about Ping

Reading List for 1st Grade

RA= a good read aloud by parent; choose several to read this year

RA *Mouse and the Motorcycle* Beverly Cleary (series)

RA *Mary Poppins* Travers, P.L

RA *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children* Collected by Jack Prelutsky

RA *Aesop's Fables*

RA *Doctor Doolittle* Hugh Lofting

RA *Little House* books Wilder (any in series) *Farmer Boy*

RA *The Wind in the Willows* Kenneth Grahame

RA: E.B. Whites: *Stuart Little*

RA: Englebert the Elephant by Tom Paxton

RA *Into the Woods: John James Audubon Lives His Dream* by Robert Burleigh

And more.....

Some brief, optional science picture book suggestions:

Find Out about Money by Kathy Barabas

Tree to Paper by Wendy Davis

From Sand to Glass by Gerry Ellis

How a Crayon is Made by Oz Charles

And more.....

At the library you should be able to pick up stacks of leveled readers such as:

Any *I Can Read Book* at your child's level

Scholastic Leveled Readers

Step into Reading

My First Readers

My First I Can Read

Frog and Toad Lobel (series)

Mouse Tales Lobel (series)

If you give a Mouse a cookie Numeroff

Little Critter Mercer Mayer (series)

And more.....

Charlotte Mason Style Books

The Aesop for Children, by Milo Winter

Beautiful Stories from Shakespeare by Edith Nesbit

Just So Stories, by Rudyard Kipling

Parables from Nature, by Margaret Gatty, selections. A modern English paraphrase is available

Charlotte's Web, by E.B. White

And more.....

Abbreviations:

RA: read aloud (by parent)

1st Grader: What your 1st Grader Need to Know book

g- *Awake!* magazine

First Ency. Of H.B.- First Encyclopedia of the Human Body by Usborne

Parents: Before beginning this manual read:

the introductory pages to section 1: Language and Literature pp. 1-27 at the beginning of *What Your First Grader Needs To Know* by E.D. Hirsch, Jr.

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Internet sites: there are internet site links within this manual for your use. West Brooke Curriculum is not affiliated with any of them. West Brooke Curriculum is not responsible for the contents or changes to these links. Parents please check the links before allowing children to use them.

Week 1	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:
Bible	<i>*My Book of Bible Stories</i> story 1	<i>My Book of Bible Stories</i> story 2	Our Reasons for Joy Activity	Listen to a magazine article
<i>MCP Phonics</i>	Unit Opener: Poem & Pg 7-10	Pg 11-12	Pg 13-14	Pg 15-16
<i>First Start Reading Program</i>	Some of you started this in Kindergarten and hopefully have completed Book D before Grade 1, if needed review Book D and do Book E this year. These lessons are more advanced than MCP Phonics A and will not line up. First Start should really help your child learn to read fluently and MCP Phonics will be a great basic review. As time permits review as much of Book D lessons/stories if you have Book D. This week complete the Phonics Review in notes below.			
PE (about 20 each day, fill in what you do here)				
Math	Chapter 1 Lesson 1-5			
Spelling	Work with sight words			
First Language Lessons	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	
Parent Read Aloud	<i>MCP Phonics RA Poem</i>		<i>1st Grader: Poems: Little Sally Walker & If Wishes were horses</i>	<i>1st Grader: the Boy who cried wolf</i>
Student Reading (list books here)				
D'Nealian Handwriting	Complete all of unit 1 together this week			
Writing	<i>Draw Write Now</i> choose one to draw and write.	<i>My First Grade Copywork book: an apple a day keeps the doctor away</i>	<i>My First Grade Copywork book: capital letters</i>	Draw a Dinosaur and write 1 to 2 sentences to go with your picture
Social Studies	Dinosaurs <i>1st Grader: Extinct But Still Popular: Dinosaurs (or The Most Famous Extinct Animals; science section of 1st Grader)</i>	→	→	→
Science: The Human Body	<i>1st Grader: Nervous System</i>	<i>First Ency. Of H.B. Inside your body</i>		<i>First Ency. Of H.B. Your Brain & Nerves</i>

Week 1

Saying of the Week: An Apple a day keeps the Doctor away.

Bible: Discuss with student how the creative day can be thousands of years long. Some creative days may have overlapped other creative days. Dinosaurs lived long before Jehovah made man, thus they must have lived during the creative days. (see Awake! Reference below on dinosaurs) For more information on Creative days: The Bible's Viewpoint Did Each Creative Day Always Finish What It Started? g91 6/8 pg12-15

Go to www.jw.org to listen to a current magazine article.

*or Lessons *You Can Learn From the Bible* section 1

Our Reasons for Joy Activity on jw.org >Become Jehovah's Friend; see also activity: Jehovah Designed Wonderful Things

Reading: Parents pick books to read aloud to your children from the RA list at the beginning of this manual or other books you find at your library. Read something aloud every day. Children should be reading daily, see the list at the beginning of this manual as well as science and social studies books throughout. Use your library well! Suggestion: pick up 3 to 4 weeks worth of books. You can usually renew the books by phone or internet. This way you will only have to go to the library once a month. With your library card and your child's you can check out 40 to 50 books depending on the limit.

Spelling: work with sight words & Dolch words

Option: Spelling Workout level A, one lesson per week

Writing: to supplement writing you can include lapbooking or notebooking to the science and/or history. Don't expect a whole lot from first graders. Maybe 2 to 3 sentences about a topic, or a list. Allow them to do lots of drawing and you can use old Awake! and Watchtower magazines for them to cut out pictures to glue on lapbooks or notebooking pages.

Lapbooking: find free lapbook resources: <http://www.homeschoolshare.com/>

Notebooking pages: <http://notebookingpages.com/free-resource-center/>

We have used notebooking pages on and off throughout the years. It is a great way to reinforce comprehension of science and history. A lot of the pages give the student a place to draw/label and a section to write about what they learned. It makes for a nice looking portfolio. Many can be found for free online. What is notebooking? Read this tutorial: <http://notebookingpages.com/notebooking/>

Dinosaurs: Discuss and read about Dinosaurs (2 weeks)

2/8/90 Awake! has articles on Dinosaurs, too advanced for little ones but maybe can share a point or two from these articles with them. (good unit to do a lapbook or notebooking)

When Giants Roamed Europe 5/09 Awake! pg 15-17

Library books

Dinosaur Time by Peggy Parish

My visit to the Dinosaurs and *Digging Up Dinosaurs* by Alik

The Magic School Bus *in the Time of the Dinosaurs*, by Joanna Cole

Look for some How-to-Draw books on dinosaurs

Science: The Human Body: Body Systems, Germs, Diseases, and Preventing Illness

Introduce the “Nervous System” by reading from *What your First Grader Needs to Know*

Cover “Inside your body” to “Your Brain and Nerves” from *First Encyclopedia of Human Body*

Library books

The Nervous System (Human Body Systems), by Helen Frost

Me and My Amazing Body, by Joan Sweeney

How Bodies Work (I Know That!), by Claire Llewellyn

PHONICS REVIEW

Day 1

1. Review all letter sounds with flashcards or alphabet wall chart.
2. Recite short vowel sounds together and individually.
3. Have students give the short vowels and their sounds. Show *Phonics Flashcards* #27, 28, 29, 30, 31.- (by Memoria Press if you have purchased these). Write them on the board with a breve mark. ăăĩĩũũ
4. Write on the board: **cap**, **bit**, **not**, **us**. Have student read each word. With a different color, add a “magic e” to each. Remind students that the magic e changes the sound of the short vowel to the long vowel. Read the new words. (cape, bite, note, use).
5. Cover the e with your hand, and read the short vowel word. Reveal the e again and read the long vowel word. Repeat with each. Show *Phonics Flashcards* #32, 33, 34, 35, 36.

Day 2

Sample only

Week 2	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:
Bible	Reaching Out in Love Become Jehovah's Friend Activity	Listen to a magazine article	Picture activity: Jehovah makes humans in his image	Teach Your Children: God Can Feel Hurt
<i>MCP Phonics</i>	Pg 17-18	Pg 19-20	Pg 21-22	Pg 23-24
<i>First Start Reading Program</i>	Book E lesson 1	→	Assessment 1	Practice
PE				
Math	Chapter 1 Lessons 6-10			
Spelling	Work with sight words			
First Language Lessons	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lesson 6	
Parent Read Aloud	<i>1st Grader:</i> Poems: Queen of Hearts; Three Wise men; Solomon Grundy	RA (choose a Read-Aloud from the list when no book or story is assigned)	<i>1st Grader:</i> The Fox and the Grapes	
Student Reading (list books here)				
D'Nealian Handwriting	pp. 32- 33	Pg. 34		Pg. 35
Writing	<i>My First Grade Copywork book:</i> lowercase letters	<i>My First Grade Copywork book:</i> Every Breathing thing let it praise Jah	<i>Draw Write Now</i> choose one to draw and write.	Dinosaur story
Social Studies	Dinosaurs	→	→	→
Science: The Human Body	<i>First Ency. Of H.B. Seeing</i>		<i>First Ency. Of H.B. Taste and Smell</i>	

Week 2

Bible: Go to www.jw.org to download the picture activity, listen to a magazine article, and find the Teach your Children reader.

Writing:

You may wish to write a story; you will find a page for this in *My First Grade Copywork book*

My Dinosaur

What if you owned a dinosaur for a pet? What kind of dinosaur would you have? What is his/her name? What kinds of things do you like to do together?

Dinosaurs: (see week 1)

Science: The Human Body:

Cover “Seeing” and “Taste and Smell” from *First Encyclopedia of Human Body*

It would be good to do some notebooking or lapbooking: drawing and labeling of the eye, or tongue. Or make a picture collage of the senses using cut outs from old magazines. (we will cover hearing later)

Tongue:

http://www.education.com/science-fair/article/biology_tasty/

The Eye of an Eagle 12/22/02 Awake! pg 24

Tongue Care 1/22/00 Awake! pg 29

Library books

Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert

Arthur's Eyes: An Arthur Adventure by Marc Brown

And more.....

Sample only