

# West Brooke Curriculum

Grade 4 Manual

Teaching Textbooks 4 Schedule

SAMPLE

By Jennifer Westbrook

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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 17 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.

The last 3 weeks are scheduled for Test Preparation. You can use these 3 weeks for this or for catching up on subjects you have fallen behind in, or you can just do a unit study of your choice. These are open weeks for the discretion of the teacher.

### **Bible**

I have included a Bible program that has worked for us for a long time. If you already have something that works for you--stick to it! What I have scheduled is just to help out those who would like help. This is to cover studying for our weekly night meeting with OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY--MEETING WORKBOOK, and the magazines (Watchtower and Awake). Preparing for the Watchtower lesson will have to be done on the weekends.

This is the way we did it: in the morning at breakfast we read and discussed the text. As far as studying for the meetings, at 4<sup>th</sup> grade we did most this together (take two days to prepare for the weekly night meeting, the day before your meeting and the day of). This year focus on training your student to study for the meetings with the goal of doing it on their own. On days when the magazines are scheduled, sometimes they read/listen to articles on their own separately; and sometimes they pick out two articles that they both haven't done yet (or me) and we listen to them together.

Note: After Bible discussions we did PE for 30 minutes.

## Math

*Teaching Textbooks 4* Math program is a spiral method of teaching. That means the student will learn something new each lesson, he will practice with 4 to 5 problems, and then the rest of the lesson will be review of previously taught skills. This is a computer-based program that teaches and grades for you. As the parent you can make a student repeat a lesson if necessary. Students are also able to have a problem solved for them if they are unable and they are allowed to try again with a problem they missed.

This Grade 4 manual schedules Teaching Textbooks 4 math for you so that you can finish in one school year. West Brooke Curriculum does not stock this product, so you will need to purchase this directly from [www.teachingtextbooks.com](http://www.teachingtextbooks.com). You can purchase either the online subscription (3.0) or the textbook and CD Rom set (2.0).

### 3.0 online subscription features:

The 3.0 is a per student online subscription that lasts for a full year (12 months). It works on ALL desktops and laptops, and it will even work on tablets and smartphones via the free Puffin browser.

Parents are allowed 3 months' pause time on each subscription (to allow for things such as extended holidays, vacations, illnesses, etc.).

Parents no longer need to worry about losing grade data. All grades are stored permanently on our servers and can be accessed anytime from anywhere (even after a subscription has ended).

Students have access to an eBook.

## Language Arts

**Spelling:** 2018 edition schedules Spelling Workout level D. Spelling Workout is a traditional workbook style spelling program.

Other Spelling ideas:

If you prefer not to use Spelling Workout here are some other ideas:

Sequential Spelling

[www.spelling-words-well.com](http://www.spelling-words-well.com)

[www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

*Natural Speller* by Kathryn Stout

**Reading:** A major part of our Language Arts is reading! Read as many titles from the list provided in this introduction as you can this year.

A list is provided to pick from. Choose at least nine books for the year, although it would be better if the student read more. It would be nice to schedule them all, but I know that some do not like to read, and I hope we fix that. Others have learning disabilities. Consequently, not everyone can handle reading a lot of books. All books suggested have been read either by all of us, or at least the kids. I will recommend books that my kids really enjoyed, and I hope that yours will too. 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, developing 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! Two great adventures are scheduled this year to Read-Aloud to your children: *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Swiss Family Robinson*.

Two literature studies are scheduled this year, these two books your student will read himself; and he will do study guides that will teach vocabulary and reading comprehension. *The Cricket in Times Square* and *Homer Price*.

*The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden tells the story of Chester, Tucker, and Harry. Tucker is a city mouse who lives in the Times Square Subway Station and spends his days scrounging for food around New York with his friend Harry the cat. Then, one day, Tucker meets a country cricket from Connecticut named Chester at the Bellini's newsstand. Together, Harry and Tucker show Chester around New York City and discover his amazing musical ability. With his unique talent, Chester is able to delight the people of New York and help the Bellini family business before returning to his home in the country. *The Cricket in Times Square Set* provides students and educators with all the resources they need to effectively study this classic story of unlikely friendship by George Selden.

*Homer Price* by Robert McCloskey tells the story of a boy living in Centerburg, Ohio. Along with a cast of unforgettable characters, Homer gets caught in some outrageous situations that include comic books, unstoppable doughnut machines, a better mouse trap, and even robbery! *The Homer Price Set* provides students and educators with all the resources they need to effectively study this classic novel about small-town America by Robert McCloskey.

**Grammar** will be gently studied using West Brooke Curriculum *Language Arts Handbook 4*. This workbook uses a gentle Charlotte Mason style approach to grammar and other Language Arts aspects.

**Writing** will be a variety. We will do some copy work. This is where the student copies good quality literature so that eventually he learns to write correctly. I will leave it up to the discretion of the Home Teacher how much the student is to copy since each student's abilities vary. We will also write on varying subjects. There will be reports, stories, letters, the two above mentioned literature guides, etc. Also, you will see some links next to the book list of some free study guides. Feel free to substitute some writing assignments with ones from these guides to go along with the book the student is currently reading. I have scheduled writing on most days, which are not expected to be long drawn out assignments. As the Teacher, it is up to your discretion if you would rather do just a couple for the week and spend more time polishing up these writings. You can certainly change writing assignments as you see fit.

Resource for Book Reports: <http://kids.usa.gov/articles/book-report/index.shtml>

**Additional Language Arts Books:**

D'Nealian Handwriting grade 4 (cursive-optional)

*Landry News* by Andrew Clements

**Science**

WBC Level 4 Science Guide

Science Fusion Level 4 Student Worktext & Inquiry Flipchart (or Homeschool Kit with online content)

DK Robot Universe

Usborne Geography Encyclopedia

## History /Geography

*DK Children's Illustrated History Atlas*- students get a brief look at history through timelines, maps, and excerpts.

*WBC World Geography Name This Country 4<sup>th</sup> Grade* by Susan Adams & Jennifer Westbrook {NOTE: this workbook is intended to teach students to learn to do some research, which is a vital skill throughout life. However, this is not intended to be long and drawn out. Have the student work diligently for 30 minutes looking for answers; if he can not find them then he can refer to the answer key in the back of the workbook}

*Usborne Geography Encyclopedia with Complete World Atlas*

It would be beneficial to have an Atlas of the World to refer to for more detailed map studies; such as *National Geographic Student World Atlas or a Globe*.

Additional printable maps can be found at <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>

**State Studies** In 4<sup>th</sup> grade students learn about their state; find a workbook to use, books from the library, your encyclopedia, or free resources online to do this. Scheduled the last 4 weeks of school- plenty of time to hunt around for what you want to use. There are probably enough free resources to not need to purchase anything. Your library will usually have a lot of books on your state. Use a state road map, print out a blank state map and have your student label main land features, major cities, landmarks/parks. You can require a state report. Do some research on your county. Do a county map. Lots of field trips! State Parks often have an array of brochures on your state. Use a search engine to find: “*your state* study guide 4<sup>th</sup> grade” online. Here are some sources I found:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/homeschooling-geography-4132477> (go to the bottom for other states)

Other resources:

If you want a workbook you could try: *My First Book About (your state)*

If you really just want to purchase curriculum (it might take all year to cover though):

<https://splashpublications.com/product-category/statehistoryprograms/>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/states/us-states-hub/>

<https://www.50states.com/>

<https://www.teachersfirst.com/share/states/>

<http://elementalblogging.com/us-state-study-homeschoolers-revisited/>

*Five-State Rummy* card game by School Zone (optional)

*States and Capitals* flash cards by School Zone (optional)

**ART**- DK My Art Book- optional

## 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.

The schedule for West Brooke Curriculum is basically four 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 this service day: they will be more socially rounded, learning public speaking, and better accomplished at using their Bibles. It is especially good if they work with a variety of friends to round out their education. In the afternoons after service, they can work on art, music, reading, working ahead or catching up in math, taking a math test, or another subject they need to work on. They could also take an elective class on this day. 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 round. Although this may not be doable for some families, 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 regional convention, etc. Field trips, camping trips, or vacations can then come at any time 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, remembering you have 12 months to get through it all.



**Reading- Choose at least 9 novels for the year however more would be better.**

**Parents: This is a good year to choose a few good books to read aloud to your student(s)**

*James Herriot's Dog Stories: Warm and Wonderful Stories About the Animals Herriot Loves Best [A living book/ Nature]*

*James Herriot's Cat Stories [A living book/ Nature]*

*James Herriot's Animal Stories [A living book/ Nature]*

*James Herriot's Treasury for Children [A living book/ Nature- all of his books for children collected in one beautiful volume]*

*Robinson Crusoe* (find an abridged version, we used Calvert's version- very good)

*Call it Courage* by Armstrong Sperry

*Homesick My Own Story* by Jean Fritz (Newberry Award, haven't read this one, but sounds interesting)

*Stuart Little* by White

*Trumpet of the Swan* White

*Childhood of Famous Americans* (series) HF

*The Adventures of Young Buffalo Bill* E. Cody Kimmel (series) HF

*From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler* by EL Konigsburg

*Star in the Storm* by Harlow

*The Borrowers* Norton

*The Cricket in Times Square* Selden

*Chester Cricket's New Home* Selden

*Beethoven Lives upstairs* Nicole

*And more.....*

**List of Abbreviations used in this manual:**

RA- Read Aloud suggestion- by the Home Teacher to the student

WT- *Watchtower magazine*

TT4- Teaching Textbooks 4

p.- page

pp.- pages

\*see note page

mtg= meeting

HF- Historical Fiction

SS- Social Studies

Purchase of this manual gives you the right to use for your immediate family to print or copy for personal use for all of your children. You may NOT share this manual outside of the original purchaser's immediate family either in print or electronically.

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Internet Links: internet links are provided to various websites outside of West Brooke Curriculum. Parents please check these first before allowing children to do so. If a link is broken, use an internet search engine to find something similar.

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Week 1	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:
Bible	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasures from God's Word <input type="checkbox"/> Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Living as Christians <input type="checkbox"/> suggestion from jw.org: Family Worship Project > Acting Courageously			
Math TT4	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Spelling Workout	Lesson 1: Pre-test Words in Action Spelling Practice pt. 1	Spelling Practice pt. 2	Spelling & Writing	Test
Language Arts Handbook	Week 1 Capital letters		Capitalization- Names of Places	
Writing	Look up descendant in your dictionary; write definition and use in a sentence	Copy the scripture from today's text	Choose 4 geographic terms to write the definitions to today	The Beginning of People
<i>Children's Illustrated History Atlas</i>	How to use this book pp. 4-5	Study map pp. 6-7 {ignore "Cave men"}		
Social Studies {see notes}	First Man and Woman	Flood	Drama: <i>Jehovah's Judgment Against Law-Defying People</i>	Tower of Ba'bel
World Geography Name This Country workbook	Study Geographic Terms in workbook & <i>Usborne Geography Encyclopedia</i>	→	→	Label Continents and Oceans and color world map.
<i>Usborne Geography Encyclopedia</i>	World Maps pg 258-263 study this			
<i>My Art Book</i>	My art studio pp. 4-5 Glossary p. 78	Animal magic	Cave painting	Caveman painting
Reading Selection				

## Notes for Week 1

**Saying for the week:** Beauty is only skin deep.

**Poetry:** *Random House Book of Poetry for Children* by Prelutsky is a good poetry book for this grade. Or find some poetry books from your library to read some out of from time to time throughout the year.

**Reading-** suggestion: *Stuart Little*

you may read your choice from the book list in the introduction to this manual or other book of your choice. Endeavor to read at least 30 minutes per day. In this section of the schedule write down the title and author of the book you are reading for your portfolio records. (same directions for each week)

Sometimes I will make a suggestion, it is up to you if you follow that suggestion.

\*Teachers- 4<sup>th</sup> grade is a good year for RA (read –alouds) choose a couple for the year that you can read to all of your students. By the way, these can even be books for older children and the younger students will still get much out of it.

**Library Book Basket:** For elementary grades I kept a basket of library books on science topics, geography, readers available for the kids to choose what they want to read about. This is a good year for this as well. This year studying cultures your library will no doubt have a lot of books on different countries, folk tales, cooking & craft books from around the world that you can check out. Choose some of the titles from the reading list too. Look ahead at which countries you will need for the next 2-3 weeks and go to the library only that often.

**Inflatable Globe:** we use an inflatable globe to play geography games. Toss the ball back and forth and name the country your thumb lands on. ABC Geography- each time you catch the ball you name a country from the next letter of the alphabet. You can call out a country and see who can find the capital the fastest (if not on the globe with a World Atlas)

**Bible:** Help your students prepare for the weekly night meeting. Suggestion: split it up into 2 to 3 sections of study. What we did: Our meeting is on Tuesday night. On Monday nights we listen to the Bible reading together at dinner time and discuss Treasures from God's Word. On Tuesday Mornings we finished up meeting prep with Apply yourself to the Field Ministry and Living as Christians.

### **Day 1**

**Social Studies-** Our story, as people all begins at the beginning with our creation. Today read about this from *My Book of Bible Stories Story 3* or *Lessons you Can Learn from the Bible Story 2 & 3* read the scriptures at the end of the story as well. So everyone on earth today are descendants of Adam and Eve.

### **Day 2**

**Social Studies-** Next we are all descendants of Noah and his family read stories 9 & 10 from *My book of Bible Stories* and the cited scriptures. Or *Lessons you Can Learn from the Bible Story 5 & 6*

### **Day 3**

**Social Studies-** listen to the Drama *Jehovah's Judgment Against Law-Defying People*

### **Day 4**

**Social Studies-** Now we will find out how we got different languages and cultures is because of what happened at the tower of Babel. Read story 12 from *My Book of Bible Stories* and the Cited scriptures. Or *Lessons you Can Learn from the Bible Story 7*

### **Writing-** The Beginning of People

Write a page in your journal outlining how "People" got here and where we descended from. You may illustrate this if you like. Remember to use capital letters correctly.

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